WEIDNER PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND REAL ESTATE PROGRAM AT UAA

IMPACT

A COLLECTION OF LIVES CHANGED
A COLLECTION OF LIVES CHANGED

Mr. Weidner,

Since the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program officially launched in fall 2013, your gifts have been put to work, positively impacting the lives of students and the real estate community in Alaska and beyond.

- Nearly 950 students have completed the Introduction to Real Estate Management course, gaining a new perspective and awareness for the industry;
- Over $390,000 of financial aid has been awarded to WPM+RE students for academic success and travel opportunities to experience industry conferences around the nation;
- 78 students have graduated from the program and are making meaningful contributions to their organizations and communities through Alaska, the "Lower 48," Canada, and Sweden.
- 120 students are currently declared in the program – a historical high and indicator of the program’s growth and continued success moving forward.

I wanted to put together a collection of stories that have been written over this period of time, highlighting student successes and opportunities presented as a result of your generosity. You will also find some statements of appreciation that alumni felt compelled to share. I hope that you enjoy reading these stories and know that your support has impacted a number of lives for the better.

THANK YOU!
Terry (TJ) Fields
Robert Erickson is a senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program at UAA. He says he was initially interested in the program because it provided a focus for him to advance in his business career.

"I saw it as a great opportunity to learn about property management and real estate to then potentially invest in property," says Erickson. "I thought the business degree was somewhat generalized and that the Property Management and Real Estate concentration really gave me more of a focus and exposure to a specific career field."

Outside of class, Robert is actively involved with the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club. As President, he says he has many plans for the upcoming school year such as hosting lectures, providing property tours in the Anchorage area, and facilitating networking opportunities between professionals and students in the area.

"We're really changing up the whole structure of our meetings this year," Erickson says. "We're hoping to get a lot more students involved in the club and our activities."

This past summer, Robert worked as an Intern at Alpine Apartments owned by Weidner Apartment Homes in Anchorage. The internship then led to a job offer from Alpine.

"After the 10-week internship, I was hired on as a Leasing Consultant. I worked hard and was transferred to a 138-unit community where I am currently filling in as the acting manager," Robert explains.

In addition to his internship, Robert was awarded one of four travel scholarships to attend the 2015 National Apartment Association Education Conference and Exposition this summer, which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I learned a lot of best practices at the conference, including the value of proper preventive maintenance for your real estate assets. Simple inspections can save a lot of money on your utility expenses and raise your net operating income."

In addition to his work, school, family, club officer duties, and scholarship travels, Robert is a small business owner, who is putting the theory he learns in property management classes to great use.

"I own and lease out a single-family home and a four-plex apartment building. I've been renovating the units and am happy to report that they are now 100% occupied. The business is successful, and it makes me proud to know that I am actively developing both income and wealth for my family," Erickson says.

"This program has an incredible advisory board, and I know that there are a number of exciting opportunities to grow my career in Anchorage."

As for the future, Erickson is excited about where his career could go. He plans to graduate this May and put his degree to work, continuing to cultivate his property management skills.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at fieldy@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Amanda Doughty, like many Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) students, was seeking a career and a leg-up in the workforce. Having taken a 10-year break from post-secondary education to work in the healthcare industry, she made her way back to academia to pursue a degree in Property Management and Real Estate.

"I had always had an interest in real estate, and the program provided me with a perfect opportunity to not only learn about something I was really interested in, but also to change careers," Doughty says.

After being in the program for a semester, Amanda recognized an opportunity to connect with industry professionals in the community. She and a couple of other students began the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club, a group that works to provide education and activities that build connections between students and potential industry-employers in Alaska.

"Through the program and club, I’ve been able to cultivate many meaningful relationships that have helped me gain internships and strong connections to my community," Doughty says.

This summer, Amanda began an internship with an Anchorage-based commercial real estate company, Cange and Chambers.

"I really get to put what I’ve learned in the classroom to the test in my internship," Doughty says. "I’ve been able to assist the company with their management software system (YARDI), prepare proposals for management services, and learn the ins-and-outs of the buildings they manage and how they can best enhance value and investment performance."

Doughty has been a recipient of multiple monetary scholarships and travel awards offered by the Property Management and Real Estate Program. She has been able to travel all across the country to industry conferences in Denver, CO and Orlando, FL.

"I was able to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) Leadership Conference last fall, where I got to meet with professionals from my region as well as the national Board of Directors of IREM. The summer before, I was able to attend the National Apartment Association’s (NAA) Education Conference in Denver, where I was able to have lunch with Dean Weidner, founder and president of Weidner Apartment Homes. I have had some incredible experiences networking with national leaders in the industry."

Amanda is on-track to graduate this December. She plans to work in commercial real estate management and possibly invest in some of her own residential properties down the line.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfalde@uas.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Kimberly Burke, senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), initially came to UAA to study International Relations. Through taking a variety of courses, she quickly developed an interest in business, and then decided to major in both Marketing and Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate at the College of Business and Public Policy.

This past summer, Kimberly started a property management internship at Pfeffer Development, a company in Anchorage noted for the development of the Dena’ina Center and the new First National Bank & Imaging Associates Building located across from UAA. Working hard assisting the property manager of the company, Kimberly soon received an offer to work full-time.

“I’ve been working full-time while going to school full-time this semester. It’s been a really rewarding experience, as I’m really getting to apply the concepts I’m learning in the classroom to my job every day,” Kimberly says.

As a past Vice President of UAA’s Property Management and Real Estate Club, Kimberly values helping students learn more about property management and real estate. Recently, Kimberly spearheaded a club event, bringing a guest speaker to UAA to present on marketing, real estate, and her path and successes in the Alaskan business community.

Last April at the WPMRE networking event, REAL Connections, Kimberly learned that she had received a travel award to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Fall Leadership Conference, held in Salt Lake City, UT this October. Never having been to Salt Lake City, or an IREM conference before, Kimberly was more than excited to attend. She knew this opportunity would allow her to learn about property management best practices while also having opportunities to meet with professionals from her region.

“The environment at the conference was so inviting that I found myself having lunch with industry professionals daily, asking them for advice and expertise on what it’s like working in the industry. Everyone was really willing to talk to students and share expertise,” Kimberly tells. “I attended some really beneficial lectures on leadership that have inspired me to be a better leader and reach my personal and professional goals in the future.”

Kimberly is graduating from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program this spring, and is planning to pair her passion for community development and property management knowledge to become successful in the Anchorage business community.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tilefeld@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for creating the WPM+RE program. It's given me the tools to step into an array of employment opportunities beyond property management and real estate alone. I appreciate the solid foundation this program has given me for building my future.

Billie Burke
Administrative Assistant
RIM Architects
Curtis McKillop is a junior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), but when he’s not in the classroom, you can find him speeding down mountains as a student athlete on the UAA Ski Team. Balancing demands can be difficult, but Curtis says, "The program allows me to have a good balance between being a student and an athlete, as I’m able to travel all across the country to ski competitions as well as still be able to excel in my schoolwork."

As many students in the program do, Curtis pursued a property management internship this past summer. As the program’s first international intern, Curtis worked outside of the United States in his hometown, Calgary, Alberta at a large commercial property management firm.

"I was specifically working with the leasing team, which consisted of three leasing managers, two marketing managers, two financial analysts, and three lease documentation workers. The internship exposed me to a multitude of different tasks within the team and the roles each member plays," Curtis tells.

Throughout the summer, Curtis had the opportunity to do lease reviews, identify potentially risky lease clauses, sit in on portfolio meetings, and assist with marketing efforts to ensure tenant satisfaction and retention.

“I had a great time during my internship, being able to see a real estate market different from that of Anchorage and working on research projects that the property management and leasing team relied on. It was also great to receive upper-division credit at the same time." Curtis says.

During the fall semester, Curtis spoke at a UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club intern panel event, providing advice and insights on his internship experiences. In addition to networking and internship opportunities, the WPMRE program also strives to provide students with real-world training in the classroom. In BA 302 Maintenance in Property Management, Curtis was able to visit several properties in Anchorage and see the course material being put into practice.

“My class and I were able to learn about residential and commercial property management from professionals at their properties. I especially enjoyed touring the facilities at Providence Hospital — a really interesting property to manage," Curtis tells.

McKillop will be graduating in the spring of 2017, but in the meantime plans to do another property management internship this summer.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfiffeld@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Ski captain chasing academic and athletic awards

Written By: Joey Besl

Curtis McKillop is prepared for strong competition this winter. As an alpine skier for the Seawolves, he races in the RMISA—the country's top conference, home to 18 of the past 20 national champions. In the classroom, Curtis is up against every other Seawolf athlete, a group that collectively set a GPA record last year. His goals, therefore, are both academic and athletic. When he graduates this spring, he would love to have his name on the national championship just as much as he would love to claim the Dresser Cup—the top academic honor for UAA athletes. "I'm setting my eyes on both," he said.

Team Alberta
Like most members of the ski team, Curtis has spent his life on the slopes. He started skiing as a toddler around his hometown of Calgary; by the time he finished high school, he was racing competitively on Alberta's provincial team. But even as increased competitions took him farther from home—to races in Chile, Austria and beyond—he never lost sight of his schoolwork. He credits much of his current success at UAA to the teachers who helped him in Calgary, and the ongoing support from his parents.

Curtis graduated from the National Sports School, a winter athlete's dream just a few blocks from Calgary's city center. Top-tier teen athletes fill the school's hallways—ski jumpers, speed skaters, hockey stars and even lugers—all on a quest for international success. "The foundation of the school was to move to the next level," Curtis explained. Teachers worked with students to complete their work, even as those students traveled frequently for international events. The curriculum was scheduled, but flexible; students could work ahead if needed, and have direct access to teachers to catch up when they returned. It was a great environment for a top-tier athlete like Curtis. "I really care about my grades, I always have," he noted. "I was always the one trying to continually excel [in class]."

That drive helped him transition to college, but only after taking two years off exclusively to ski. "It was amazing," he said of the opportunity to race for Team Alberta. "I traveled the world, which was an incredible experience, but after my second year I realized I really wanted to attend school full time."

So he started looking beyond Canada for college, hoping to attend an NCAA ski program. Curtis connected with UAA's head coach, Sparky Anderson, who convinced him Anchorage was the right place for his next step. A ski scholarship made the decision even easier, and he's thankful for both his coach's encouragement and his program's support.

Academic goals...
After two years away, Curtis quickly fell back into his academic routine. He says the skills he learned in high school-like establishing one-on-one connections with teachers—translated perfectly into the university." Curtis schedules his life around both academics and athletics, with ample time to travel between campus and Alyeska. All his classes are in the afternoon, allowing for morning trips to Girdwood, and all his homework is finished the night before. "If you're diligent and determined to get it done, you'll get it done," he said of his academic/athletic balance.

"He's an extremely well-organized individual," said Sparky Anderson, who named Curtis captain this year. "He is a leader on the team and he's someone who's consistently developed and gotten better every year. He takes his academics and athletics both very seriously." His professors agree—"I cannot say enough good things about Curtis' ability to manage his academic and team responsibilities," said Terry Fields, who has had Curtis in real-estate management classes five times. "[He] is an excellent example of a student-athlete, able to step between both worlds and remain focused where necessary."

Now a senior, Curtis is chasing the Dresser Cup—awarded to a graduating athlete at UAA with the highest GPA. The last three recipients—one skier, two gymnasts—all had, at minimum, a 3.99. "I don't know who that's going to be [this year], but I'm definitely setting myself up well for it," he said. It's been a busy four years. Curtis will graduate in May with a degree in management and marketing, and a concentration in real estate and property management. The past two summers, he interned back in Calgary for course credit. This fall, he earned a scholarship to attend a weeklong real estate conference in San Diego. He's clearly well traveled, but that's just his academic itinerary. Things really pick up this semester during ski season.

... and athletic ambitions
Heading into his senior season, Curtis has a solid track record in place. He's a consistent top-20 finisher in both slalom and giant slalom, as well as a frequent academic honoree (last year, he made the National Collegiate All-Academic Ski Team). He's reached nationals twice already; this year would make it three in a row. "I want to do the best that I absolutely can for myself and for the team," he said of the upcoming season. "But at the end of the day, regardless of what happens, I'll be happy with however it turns out."

Curtis' season started Jan. 7 in Big Sky, Mont., and (hopefully) ends at nationals in March. "It goes really fast," he said. "I'm going to try to enjoy it." That shouldn't be hard. He seems to make the most of every opportunity, whether it's a conference, an internship or the chance to take beginners' dog mushing at UAA just for fun. He's also made lifelong connections with his "second family"—the teammates he travels, trains and even lives with—and the feeling, it seems, is mutual.

"He's someone who has influence over the rest of the group, someone everyone else respects," Sparky said of his team captain. "I've come to really appreciate him as a person and all he brings to the team."
For Ellen VanGorder, the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), was the right thing at exactly the right time. Ellen is twenty-four and a first-generation college student. After coming to UAA in 2009, Ellen took many classes and looked for a major that fit her interests.

"I started college as a Criminal Justice major, then changed it to Psychology, and finally decided to get a degree in Business Management. However, I wanted to be more specialized, so when I heard about the Property Management and Real Estate Program, I knew that it would be the perfect fit, specialized but also a combination of all of my interests," VanGorder says.

Growing up with family involved in contracting and having a strong interest in interior design, Ellen was around houses her whole life. The property management and real estate concentration fit all of her interests and gave her a clear foundation for a future career.

"What I like most about the program is that I am able to graduate with a well-rounded business degree, but I will also leave with a specialization that opens the door to a variety of jobs for me in the future," Ellen tells.

Every year, the WPMRE program hosts a networking event called, "REAL Connections," where students are able to meet and interview with industry professionals.

"Through the 'REAL Connections' event, I was able to meet the WPMRE program's advisory board members and present my interests. At the event's awards luncheon, I sat at a table with a member who ended up offering me an internship opportunity and becoming my new employer," Ellen says.

Ellen was able to secure an internship with HDR, a multi-faceted organization, where she worked all summer and continues to work today. Real estate has many unique specializations and disciplines, but Ellen felt more comfortable stepping into this role because of her educational background.

"One of the most valuable classes I've taken in college was BA 306 Real Estate Principles. The class focused on the fundamentals and language of real estate and helped me better grasp the different terminology and tools used throughout the industry. With other classes, you learn a lot, but with this one, you can also leave with the education required to sit for an Alaska real estate license. This easily saved me from spending hundreds of dollars on additional pre-license education."

Ellen is on track to graduate this spring and is excited to continue working in the real estate industry.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfiedler@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Ellen VanGorder, a 2016 graduate of the Weidner program, turned her internship into a career in Seattle.

To explain the value of UAA’s property management program, let’s turn to simple economics. The supply of graduates is low (UAA is among a handful of American universities to offer a property management program). The demand for graduates is high (recent growth in the industry motivates companies to hire managers with a full slate of skills). Add that to the vast industry connections at UAA and the deep pool of academic and travel awards, and you have a quadruple threat of career opportunities for UAA students.

The end result? “Every student has left the program with a career opportunity, most secured early in their senior year,” explained Terry Fields, Weidner professor for UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program.

UAA’s property management and real estate concentration—part of the management degree—is funded by a $4 million donation from Weidner Apartment Homes, the largest private residential landlord in Alaska (Bloomberg estimates the company manages about 12 percent of Anchorage rentals).

The relatively new program primes students for careers across the property spectrum, and produced its first graduates last May. While other universities focus on real estate development, UAA emphasizes real estate management, or the oversight of Income-producing properties like apartment communities, retail centers, warehouses and office buildings.

In recent decades, the property management industry has consolidated from many small operators to large, even publicly traded investment organizations. “Historically, it’s been a mom-and-pop industry,” Terry noted. “Over the last 25 years it’s really started to mature professionally and financially. When managers are responsible for assets worth $5 to $100 million, the focus on educated professionals with a bachelor’s degree in the field becomes really desirable.”

“For the students, at the end of the day, they end up with a strong B.B.A. management degree either way,” he continued. “This track just opens up a lot of opportunities and provides greater depth for those with an interest in this area.”

UAA’s concentration offers eight industry-specific classes in the College of Business and Public Policy. Students who major in management—a top 10 program in enrollment at UAA, with 72 graduates in 2016—can focus on property management and real estate en route to their degree. The property track covers topics like leasing, investment and real estate law. One 300-level course, real estate principles, doubles as pre-licensing, meaning students can sit for their Alaska real estate license after completing the course.

Licensing is just one part, though. Weidner students also gain experience in the field; up to six internship credits count toward the degree, which turns summer breaks into career opportunities. Students who intern in Anchorage often continue working for their company through the academic year (of his 2015 summer interns, Terry noted, “all of them were offered full-time positions afterwards.”)

More recently, advisory board connections have provided travel opportunities as well. Trinity Property Consultants, a member of the program’s advisory board, actively looks to UAA for new hires (“there are only a handful of schools to recruit from,” Terry noted). This spring break, Trinity is sponsoring local transportation, lodging and meals for 10 students to tour properties and attend networking events for three days in Seattle.

The young program is producing its first graduates, many who turned summer internships into career opportunities after college. Robert Erickson graduated in December 2016, after interning with Weidner Apartment

2016 Property Management grad Robert Erickson is now manager of the 387-unit Alpine Apartments community in Anchorage. Today, he’s managing the 387-unit Alpine Apartments community, the largest Weidner asset in Anchorage. “I didn’t think I was a really qualified person to succeed in this industry,” he said.

Another 2016 graduate, Ellen VanGorder, is now in Seattle with HDR, an international engineering firm, where she assists with purchasing properties for large infrastructure projects. She met her employer at REAL Connections, an annual speed-interviewing event arranged by the Weidner program.

“He hired me as an intern with no previous industry experience,” she said. “Engaging in events and opportunities the program offered really made it all happen for me.”

That experience is not uncommon thanks to the program’s advisory board. Each year, UAA students get the chance to pitch themselves—a kind of “verbal résumé”—in Terry’s words—before the board, a mix of real estate managers, brokers and finance gurus. That pitch is followed by an afternoon of one-on-one speed interviews.

“Speed interviews are a fantastic opportunity to get a chance to speak with potential employers looking to hire talent for their companies,” said student Arina Filippenko, who interviewed with six companies, received job offers from four, and interned last summer with Alaska Housing Finance Corp. (she has also received scholarships and traveled to three conferences through UAA’s Weidner program). Thanks in part to internship credits, Arina plans to graduate this May after just three years in college.

“The UAA program is one of the best at UAA,” she said. “I feel like I learn more in my property management and real estate classes than in any other courses at the university. That—I think—coupled with the endless networking, learning and scholarship opportunities—not to mention the potential for second-year students to intern as part of the program—makes it unbeatable.

“Being in the program has opened up countless doors for me and other students,” she added. “I am thankful for Weidner Apartment Homes for the generous contributions to the university in allowing for this program to exist and bringing up some of the best budding property management professionals after graduation from UAA.”

GREEN & GOLD NEWS
March 2017 University of Alaska Anchorage
Michael Taylor is a senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE). As an owner of a rental property and a student in the former real estate emphasis of the BBA, Finance degree program, Michael was immediately drawn to this new program under the BBA, Management degree.

"I worked in construction for seven years, where I developed an interest in the real estate industry and project management," Michael says. "It was a natural progression to wanting to learn more about real estate from an ownership and management angle."

Like many students in the WPMRE program, Michael completed an internship for credit in 2014 with a local real estate brokerage, Wiley Brooks Company. After the internship he was hired into full-time employment, where he continues to progress with the company today.

"The internship exposed me to many facets of the real estate industry. My company handles a wide range of services, including commercial, residential, retail, and industrial sales and management. I learned a lot and very quickly," Michael remarks.

Michael primarily focused on special projects when he first started with the company, coordinating remolds and other capital improvements. Now that Michael has received his Alaska Real Estate License, he is able to do more for the brokerage.

With an interest in finance and entrepreneurship, Michael is able to use his skills in a fulfilling and flexible position. As a father of four kids, all under the age of seven, he sought to find a career that best fit a flexible schedule. Property management and real estate was just the answer.

"What I like most about my job, and real estate brokerage in general, is the fact that I get to write my own checks, set my own hours, and interact with business owners daily. I'm not sitting at a desk from nine-to-five; I have the opportunity to travel around town and work with real estate," Michael says.

A small-business owner himself, Michael highly enjoys the being able to sit down with new companies, reviewing their business plans, and helping them meet their real estate goals.

Michael plans to graduate from the WPMRE program next fall, and is looking forward to furthering his career in real estate brokerage and asset management services.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfiedler@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
A life-long Alaskan, Cheyenne Fausett always knew she wanted to attend UAA. After four years in retail, she decided it was time to study business and better understand the inner-workings of running an organization. Today, Cheyenne is just one year away from earning her BBA degree, ambitiously double majoring in Accounting and Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate.

While in high school, Cheyenne worked for a local real estate company in Girdwood, AK sparking her interest in the industry. Though Fausett did not work directly with the management of properties at that time, she was still able to learn about the business and the entrepreneurial spirit.

“My friend’s father owns his own company, and from a young age I was able to be exposed to many facets of the industry. I saw how successful the company was and instantly wanted to build something like that for myself,” Cheyenne remarks.

Last spring, at the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program’s annual event, REAL Connections, Cheyenne was named the first Weidner Scholar, receiving a renewable monetary award of $5,000.

Cheyenne recounts, “It was both an honor and a surprise to be selected as the recipient of the award. It just goes to show that taking the initiative and making a strong effort can really pay off. I highly recommend that all WPMRE students make that effort and apply for the many awards offered through this program.”

The WPMRE program has many unique opportunities available to students. From exciting travel awards to real-world courses, students like Cheyenne highly value the skills learned both inside the classroom and out in the community.

“I have really enjoyed the classes I have taken through the program so far. For example, in my Leasing in Property Management course, we were assigned to visit four properties in town and pretend to be prospective renters. The experience allowed us to evaluate their leasing performance, and it was interesting to see how everything we had learned in the classroom played out - or didn’t play out - in the real world,” Cheyenne says.

Though Cheyenne has not yet pursued an internship, she is anxious to start one in the fall. After graduation next spring, she plans to combine her degrees and interests into a career in the real estate and accounting sectors.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfieldl@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your generous support of the WPM+RE program. Because of your contributions, I was able to reach my goals and receive the best education in all of Alaska. Your generosity has made a huge difference in our community and has helped countless students enter into the real estate industry. Thank you so much for all of your support.
Arina Filipenko, junior, is a student in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program at CBPP. After moving from Russia, Arina has grown up and attended school in Alaska for most of her life. Nearing graduation from West High, Arina was unsure of her future path, and decided to attend the UAA-sponsored event “Preview Day,” where college-bound students learn about UAA’s programs and opportunities.

“I signed up for some mini-courses throughout the day at UAA, one of which was led by Terry Fields, the advisor for the WPMRE Program. Right away, I was interested in Mr. Fields’ presentation and knew I wanted to learn more. I applied for a scholarship offered to first-time freshman to get a waiver for the "BA A215 Introduction to Property Management” course and was selected” Arina says.

Upon completing the course, Arina quickly changed her major to Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. Wanting to be more involved in the campus community, Arina joined the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club, of which she is an officer and the President-Elect for 2016-2017.

“I wanted to pursue networking opportunities and learn more outside of the classroom, so the club was the perfect fit. We've been very successful with hosting guest speakers, panels, and networking events this school year,” Arina remarks.

In just two years at UAA, Arina has been a recipient of multiple awards offered through the WPMRE Program, including her recent recognition as a “Weidner Scholar,” the program’s highest monetary award. In addition to $7,750 in tuition assistance, Arina has received travel awards, paying her way to attend national industry conferences in Salt Lake City, UT; Las Vegas, NV; and San Francisco, CA.

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to have received the awards and been given such unique opportunities through the program. The connections I have made at conferences, the knowledge I've gained outside of the classroom, and the ability to afford going to school at UAA is all because of the program and what it provides to students,” Arina says.

With interests in finance and economics, Arina believes that the program allows her to learn and apply those skills.

Through connections made at program’s REAL Connections event, Arina plans to complete an internship this summer. In less than four years, Arina plans to graduate in 2017 and follow her enthusiasm for economics, public policy, law, and real estate, finding a position in the industry that allows her to combine all of her interests into a rewarding career.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
This June, four lucky UAA students had the opportunity to travel to San Francisco, California to attend the 2016 National Apartment Association Education Conference and Exposition. Funded by the UAA Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), the students received travel awards that covered all expenses, including airfare, lodging, registration, and per diem.

The NAA Education Conference is an annual event that brings together over 9,000 of the best and brightest in the real estate industry to share practices and promote excellence in residential property management. Each year the conference features keynote speakers, and this year participants heard from Michael Strahan, Chip and Joanna Gaines, and Netflix founder and former CEO, Marc Randolph, who discussed the "internet-of-things" and how simple innovations can bring massive results.

WPMRE students, Jacqueline Honeycutt, Andrew Warner, Chris Schneider, and Arina Filipenko attended this year’s conference. Each morning NAA hosted student-centered networking opportunities over breakfast, bringing together property management students and faculty from various programs across the country. Together they were able to discuss their respective programs and have a chance to meet and network with a number of experienced industry professionals as well.
The NAA Exposition boasts hundreds of vendors from around the country, offering the latest services and cutting-edge products and technologies for the industry. Each year, participants line up to see what extreme marketing strategies vendors are deploying to garner interest and drive companies to their booth. Routinely, companies offer giveaways for iPads, gift cards, and even vehicles, but this year, one company brought in Seinfeld’s “Soup Nazi” to greet participants and offer a picture-taking opportunity.

Arina Filippenko and WPMRE Program Director, Terry Fields, were also conference speakers, facilitating a panel discussion focused on how companies can best retain talented millennials. The national panel discussed similarities and differences among generations and illuminated how current companies have succeeded in accommodating the different generational cultures present among younger employees.

The WPMRE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the NAA Conference annually. As one of only a few programs in the nation offering a degree focused on property management, it is rewarding to continually see industry leaders from around the nation acknowledge its value and, more importantly, seek out its students for career and educational opportunities. Applications for 2017 WPMRE Awards will be available in December 2016 and will include travel awards for next year’s conference in Atlanta, GA.

As a UAA student, you can earn a BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. If you think the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program at CEPP might be right for you, email Terry Fields, Program Director, at tfIELDS@alaska.edu for information about program advising, additional education resources, and program awards and opportunities.
Adan Acuna, junior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program at CBPP, has seen first hand the benefits of this program, earning multiple monetary awards and having just completed an internship of a lifetime.

Adan is a born-and-raised Alaskan, growing up just a few short blocks from UAA. After hearing about the WPMRE program, Adan was immediately interested, having previously considered a career in real estate and real estate law.

"During a high school 'Preview Days' event, I signed up for a mini-course led by Terry Fields, the advisor for the WPMRE Program. Right away, I was interested in Mr. Fields' presentation and knew I wanted to learn more."

Adan's enthusiasm early in his academic career continues to pay off. This spring, Acuna received a $1,000 academic award from the program and received an internship offer for the summer from the WPMRE event "REAL Connections," at which students are invited to participate in interviews with employers looking to hire them for internship and career opportunities. Adan interviewed with Trinity Property Consultants and accepted an offer to work just outside Seattle, WA the same day.

"I was placed at a 575-unit apartment community in Burien, Washington. My first week, I completed training and worked alongside the maintenance team. This hands-on approach reinforces an understanding of management from the ground up, and when I say hands-on, I mean it; I was the one crawling under sinks checking for leaks and other maintenance issues," Acuna says.

Over the remainder of the internship, Adan worked in leasing and alongside the assistant manager, community manager, and asset manager learning how to effectively lead and manage a large community.

"Throughout my internship, I was able to put what I learned in class to the test. One of my favorite aspects of property management is leasing, and I hope I can spend more time in this area in the future, because I know I have a lot to learn," Adan says.

Adan is looking forward to taking more real estate management courses this year and plans to complete another internship next summer for upper-division credit. Adan loves that this program can provide opportunities both in Alaska and throughout the country and is excited about the possibilities moving forward.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uua.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Seth Venhaus, junior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program at CBPP, graduated from Chugiak High School in 2014 and began his academic career at UAA initially pursuing a BBA, Management degree. Weeks into taking BA A215 Introduction to Property Management, Seth was hooked and immediately added the Property Management and Real Estate concentration to his degree.

"I always had an interest in personal real estate investing, looking to buy a four-plex or rental property in the future. This program was a natural fit for me to gain this kind of information, and opened my eyes to all of the career opportunities, industry-wide, as well," Venhaus says.

At the WPMRE REAL Connections networking event last spring, Venhaus and other WPMRE students were able to interview with industry employers offering internship and career opportunities. Venhaus accepted an internship offer from Weidner Apartment Homes, completing a paid internship at Timber Ridge Apartments, a large residential property in Eagle River. While earning 3 credits toward his degree, Seth learned the responsibilities of a leasing professional, showing available units, negotiating lease agreements, and assisting current residents.

"One particular aspect I enjoyed about the internship, and what I like most about residential property management in general, is that it's not like any other customer service position. I like the idea of working with prospects and being able to help someone find a home; it's very fulfilling," Seth mentions.

After a summer of residential property management, Venhaus wanted to explore commercial management. He was recently hired as an intern at Lincoln Harris CSG, a WPMRE Advisory Board member and the property management company that oversees the facilities of Regional Hospital in Anchorage.

"I work with the property manager, directly responsible for the leasing and management of the medical office buildings supporting the main hospital. It is a unique position, and provides a variety of challenges and opportunities, daily, to ensure everything is running smoothly," Venhaus says.

As a recipient of academic awards from the WPMRE program, totaling $3,000 this year, Seth's cost of earning his degree has been significantly reduced. In the spring, Seth is traveling to India to be an assistant English teacher. He will return back to UAA in the fall, on track to graduate in the spring of 2018.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tlfeldt@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
This October, two deserving UAA students had the opportunity to travel to San Diego, California to attend the 2016 Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Fall Conference. Andrew Warner and Curtis McKillop, students in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), received awards from the program and IREM Foundation covering airfare, lodging, registration, and per diem.

The IREM Fall Conference featured over 800 national and international real estate professionals, including participants from Canada, Japan, and Brazil. Over the course of three days, Andrew and Curtis attended keynote presentations, student-centered networking opportunities, and education seminars discussing industry trends, new technologies, tenant retention, and financial management -- reinforcing their own experiences and classroom education.

IREM actively recruits and engages with students attending this conference, organizing special events, site tours, and networking opportunities to ensure students get the most out of their experience. This year, IREM hosted a speed networking event, attended by over 50 professionals, where students were able to interact and ask questions about the industry and advice for success. This powerful event provided a structured environment for students and professionals to connect and learn more about each other.
In addition to the support provided by IREM, representatives from Weidner Apartment Homes also reached out to welcome students to the conference, hosting a dinner and providing an opportunity for them to interact with each other. Curtis and Andrew were able to network with students from peer institutions and learn more about career opportunities provided by Weidner Apartment Homes, connecting with Marie Virgilio, VP of Recruiting, and Monica Williams, head of their Manager-in-Training Program.

The national conference is also a time for local IREM chapters to convene with their regional peers to discuss best practices for education, chapter engagement, and promoting industry designations. Alaska’s region includes chapters from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. This opportunity to build strong ties with regional professionals is just one more reason why students leave this conference feeling like they have made truly valuable connections across the industry.

This year, one of our regional peers was recognized as the Accredited Management Organization of the Year award recipient. Blanton Turner is a Seattle based real estate management and consulting firm, founded in part by Barry Blanton -- an active IREM member and the 2017-18 Vice President for our region.

This opportunity was part of over $38,000 in travel and academic awards distributed to WPMRE students in 2016. UAA students declared in a BBA, Management degree with a Property Management and Real Estate Concentration are eligible to apply for these annual awards. Applications for 2017 travel and academic awards will be available in December 2016. Next year’s conference will be in "The Windy City" of Chicago. For more information on the WPMRE Program or awards, email jfields@alaska.edu.
Andrew Warner, senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program at CBPP, traveled a long road before entering UAA. Graduating high school in Alaska, Andrew immediately went to work on the North Slope oil fields. To further his skills training, Andrew joined the Marine Corps, serving 5 years, before returning home to Alaska to further his education.

"The Marine Corps provided many opportunities to learn valuable skills, such as leadership. It also changed my mindset on education, treating my time in school like a job. I take it much more seriously, now," Andrew says.

After earning an Associate’s degree from Mat-Su College, Andrew continued on, pursuing a 4-year BBA degree at UAA. While taking “Introduction to Property Management,” Andrew quickly added the Property Management and Real Estate concentration to his degree plan and became involved with the WPMRE Program.

"I enjoyed the introduction class, because it not only taught me concepts applicable to my future career, but also introduced interesting legal concepts and history,” Andrew remarks.

Andrew has been the recipient of multiple awards from the WPMRE Program, including a $2,000 academic award and two travel awards.

“I was fortunate enough to attend the National Apartment Association’s Education Conference in San Francisco this past summer and the Institute of Real Estate Management’s Fall Leadership Conference in San Diego last month. Each conference has its strengths, and I particularly enjoyed the opportunities presented to meet with professionals that were so willing to offer advice and answer questions,” Andrew mentions.

Andrew is the current Vice President of the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club, where he is involved in helping students network with professionals and get real-world exposure to the real estate and property management industry.

“What I like the most about the program is the endless opportunities allotted to students. I couldn’t imagine a better program that allows me to reduce the cost of my education, travel the country, and network with so many professionals locally, regionally, and nationally,” Andrew says.

After completing the program this spring, Andrew plans to immediately pursue an MBA at UAA and begin his career in the real estate industry, with a current interest in focusing on commercial real estate appraisal.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tiffield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Jacqueline Honeycutt, senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program, moved to Alaska from Texas when she was a freshman in high school. Upon choosing UAA, she was excited to be able to put her interests to work in the classroom.

After taking BA215 Introduction to Property Management, Honeycutt was immediately hooked, adding the Property Management and Real Estate concentration to her Management and Marketing double major.

"I have really enjoyed all of the classes I've taken through the WPMRE Program. The introduction course was definitely my favorite, because it provided an opportunity to learn the broad scope of property management. However, I also am currently taking BA431, Real Estate Appraisal, and am really enjoying the material as the class progresses," says Jacqueline.

Jacqueline's work inside the classroom has been paying off as a recipient of not only monetary academic awards, but also two travel awards. Honeycutt was selected two years in a row to attend the National Apartment Association Education Conference and Exposition, first in Las Vegas in 2015 and then in San Francisco this past summer.

"Having the opportunity to travel through all-expense-paid trips is great, and my favorite part is the ability to make connections and relationships at conferences. It's one thing to learn concepts in the classroom, but it's completely different to be able to speak with professionals who have been in the industry for years and who are incredibly willing to help you succeed in your future career," Jacqueline says.

Though Jacqueline has not yet completed an internship, she participated in a job shadowing opportunity this past summer at a property management and real estate sales company in Eagle River, Alaska.

"I worked at Partners Real Estate over the summer, where I was exposed to both property management and real estate sales. The job shadowing allowed me to compare the two areas of real estate and better understand what careers in each would be like," Honeycutt mentions.

After finishing her coursework this Spring, Jacqueline plans to participate in an internship over the summer and complete the requirements needed to get her real estate salesperson's license in Alaska. From there, she looks forward to beginning her career in real estate brokerage or management.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield6@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Sawyer Rickman grew up in a “real estate household.” Sawyer’s parents owned a number of four-plexes in Soldotna, Alaska and his mom is a real estate licensee. Sawyer spent his youth along side his parents, painting and working in the real estate assets they owned. Once he heard about the new Property Management and Real Estate concentration offered under the BBA, Management degree, he knew he had to get on board. After only one semester of participating in the program, Sawyer received multiple academic awards, totaling $3,000 in tuition assistance.

“Being around real estate my entire life sparked my initial interest, and when I learned of the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), joining it felt completely natural,” Sawyer says. “I received two academic awards for this school year, one Weidner Award worth $1,000, and a WPMRE Award worth $2,000. The money has helped me tremendously with covering expenses for school this year,” Rickman mentions.

In addition to the awards, Rickman has earned 6 credits toward his degree through his participation in an internship. Through the networking opportunities provided by the WPMRE Program at its annual student event, REAL Connections, Sawyer was able to secure an internship last summer with Real Property Management, an Advisory Board company based out of Anchorage.

“My internship was a great experience and very hands-on. I learned a lot, and felt like my ideas were really valued when I presented them internally. I remained hired on after my internship and have been enjoying how flexible my employers are with my school schedule,” Sawyer tells of his internship experience.

Rickman has enjoyed the courses he has taken thus far through the program, and mentions that everything he learns in the classroom he is able to transfer directly into his daily work.

“I have loved all of the classes I’ve taken through the program. My favorite class has been BA 302, Maintenance in Property Management, which was the most applicable to my internship. From leasing matrices to preventive maintenance, I would walk away from every class thinking about how every aspect applied to my position in real estate management,” Sawyer recalls.

Sawyer will be graduating from UAA in the spring of 2018. Until then, he plans to continue working in residential property management, learning more about real estate management and investing.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tiffield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Abigail Fairbanks, like many students in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program at UAA, has been able to achieve success both in and out of the classroom. Working on a BBA, Management degree with a Property Management and Real Estate Concentration, Abigail owns and manages her own rental properties and is taking advantage of all of the unique opportunities offered by the WPMRE Program.

In spring 2015, Abigail was one of four UAA students selected at the annual WPMRE event, REAL Connections, to attend the National Apartment Association’s Education Conference and Exposition held in Las Vegas, NV. The travel award included full conference registration, airfare, lodging, and per diem expenses — along with invaluable networking opportunities, not only with industry executives, but also with students from universities across the nation.

"Two years after attending the conference, my most vivid memory is of the dedication professionals had to helping students. We were incredibly fortunate to not only meet students from other schools studying similar subjects, but also to experience networking opportunities with NAA members and a luncheon with Jack O’Connor, CFO of Weidner Apartment Homes. It was great hearing about how he started in the industry, inspiring me and my peers in our future career paths," Abigail recalls.

At REAL Connections, Fairbanks participated in a series of interviews for summer employment and was offered an internship working with Weidner Apartment Homes at The Highlands Luxury Residences, an upscale community in Anchorage.

"I loved every aspect of my internship, and it has helped me tremendously with managing and renting out my own real estate investments, setting a good standard to follow when conducting business," Fairbanks mentions.

Abigail developed an interest for real estate brokerage and started working as an assistant for a productive team at RE/MAX Dynamic Properties last March. Abigail is now licensed and working as the buyer’s agent on that team.

"I learned many skills in my property management leasing class and real estate courses that apply to my work now as I engage and show homes to prospective buyers. Working in real estate has been great, affording me a flexible schedule with school.

Abigail plans to graduate from UAA in spring 2018, becoming the first in her family to obtain a degree. In the meantime, she will be working to grow her knowledge of real estate as she continues her academic and professional careers.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tifield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Dreaming of a future career as a venture capitalist, Zach Klingbell, junior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE) wanted to learn what it takes to invest in and manage assets and knew real estate would be the perfect path. Upon entering UAA to study business, Klingbell learned about the Property Management and Real Estate concentration under the BBA, Management degree and joined after taking Introduction to Property Management.

Shortly after adding the concentration last spring, Zach participated in an annual networking event hosted by the WPMRE program called "REAL Connections." At the event, Zach met with WPMRE Advisory Board members -- active industry professionals looking for talent from this program. He participated in a series of interviews, securing a paid-internship for the summer.

"I received two internship offers from the interviews at REAL Connections and selected Real Property Management - Last Frontier (RPM), a growing residential property management company here in Anchorage. I wanted to work at a company that was looking to expand its operations and really learn what it was like to manage a business from an owner's perspective," Zach says.

From working with the maintenance team his first week on the job, to working the front desk in customer service, Zach's internship afforded him exposure to multiple facets of real estate, both as a student and later as a teacher to others.

"RPM hosts a free monthly lecture series called 'The Landlord's Almanac' open to anyone in the community. Over the summer, I and the leasing team were invited to present at one of the lectures in front of a room of about 50 real estate professionals in Anchorage," Zach recalls.

After Zach's internship period ended, he was offered full-time employment at Real Property Management on the Service Team. Klingbell notes that getting his AK Real Estate Salesperson's license has helped increase the amount of tasks he can participate in on behalf of his employers.

"Getting my real estate license opened up many opportunities for me. I am able to do much more at my job now acting as an agent between our company and the owners of different properties we manage," Zach mentions.

Zach is on track to graduate in spring 2018, and looks forward to continued employment in real estate management.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfeldt@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Over spring break, 10 students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program visited Seattle, WA, participating in the program’s first field trip opportunity. Initiated and sponsored by Trinity Property Consultants, the purpose of the visit was to expose students to the real estate management industry outside of Alaska, and introduce students to the culture and opportunities present in the industry. Over two and a half days, students experienced a whirlwind of networking opportunities and visited over five different investment properties owned advisory board members.

On Day One, students toured four properties owned by Trinity, learning all about their investment strategies and processes for repositioning assets adding value. After lunch, a panel of Trinity’s rising stars talked with students about their respective responsibilities, ranging from leasing professionals to regional managers. Students were able to engage with professionals and explore what careers in this industry can look like. The evening was capped off with a networking dinner along the Seattle waterfront, hosted by regional leaders and the national recruiter.

Day Two began with a site tour of a new-construction project in Woodinville, WA owned by Weidner Apartment Homes. Students then visited Weidner’s corporate office in Kirkland, where they were able to speak with recruiters and even spend time with Dean Weidner, the company’s President and Founder. Following lunch, the Washington Multi-family Housing Association hosted the students for a networking event with professionals from various segments of the industry, including REITs, commercial, subsidized, and student housing.

To end the second day, Trinity brought together regional employees and treated everyone to pizza and bowling. The casual environment allowed for organic team-building and communication. After exploring Pike’s Place Market on the final morning, students shared one last meal with Trinity representatives along the waterfront before flying home. Overall, it was a great experience, and hopefully just the beginning of an annual tradition.
From maritime school, to engineering, finally to property management and real estate — Chris Schneider has been on quite the journey with his education. Chris spent years working side jobs for his friends doing real estate maintenance and repairs, and was intrigued by the new CBPP concentration, Property Management and Real Estate, when he decided to change his path from engineering.

"After going to maritime school, I pursued other educational options, and decided to just keep going with my degrees. After realizing that engineering was not the path for me, finding the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE) was a perfect fit," Chris says.

Quickly after declaring the concentration, Chris went on to receive a travel award covering all airfare, lodging, and expenses for the National Apartment Association Education Conference and Exposition held in San Francisco this past summer. The conference brings together over 9,000 of the best and brightest in the residential property management industry, but never falters in creating an inclusive and educational environment for students.

"The education sessions offered at the conference were incredible. I learned so much, including technical aspects of property management, directly from professionals that have been working in the industry for years," Chris mentions.

This year, Chris received another travel award to attend the IREM Global Summit conference in Chicago this October, in addition to a $2,000 academic award.

As Treasurer for the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club (PMREC), Chris is able to take advantage of multiple networking opportunities and has participated in site tours and other experiential learning events.

"I have attended the annual speed-networking event with PMREC and the WPMRE Advisory Board members and even presented to the board at the annual REAL Connections event last April. In addition, I’ve participated in club events such as a First Friday Art and Building walk we did last year. We toured various buildings downtown led by a local property manager and WPMRE graduate and then went to see the various art shows happening that night," Schneider recalls.

Christopher will be graduating from UAA in the fall of 2019 with a BBA degree, double majoring in Accounting and Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. Before then, he plans to pursue an internship, and is confident that with the opportunities provided by the WPMRE Program, he will be able to secure one.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tiffeldt@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Dear Mr. Weidner,

I want to thank you for the direct financial assistance I received - I'll never forget the appreciation and camaraderie my fellow students and I felt when scholarships were awarded to us. Additionally, I want to extend my thanks to the entire Weidner team for all the work they put into student development and community service. I currently live near Weidner Headquarters and pass it each way on walks to Juanita Bay Park. Every time I see the Headquarters I am reminded of the numerous contributions the people working there make to the many communities they touch.
Hello Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your generous contributions to the University and WPM+RE students. Because of this program and your contributions, I found my career path and have been able to begin my career working in the real estate industry. This program truly benefits the community and provides numerous students a strong foundation for post-graduation. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement.

Megan (Barrett) Mills
Real Estate Manager and Commercial Associate
Colliers International
Megan Barrett decided on the Property Management and Real Estate concentration before ever taking a class at UAA. She always had an interest in this industry, and upon attending UAA’s Preview Day and hearing the Program Director talk about the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program’s opportunities, she declared at the onset of her collegiate career.

In just her first year with the WPMRE Program, Megan has already seen many of those opportunities come to life. Megan enrolled at UAA in the fall of 2017. That spring she was selected to participate in a field trip to Seattle hosted by WPMRE Advisory Board members, Trinity Property Consultants and Weidner Apartment Homes.

“This trip built great industry connections and provided insights about the industry and what markets outside of Anchorage are like,” stated Megan. “Not only did we participate in numerous property tours but we got to evaluate a property, learn about investment performances, and speak with Dean Weidner about the development of his company and the direction of the industry.”

WPMRE awards are announced each spring at the program’s annual networking event, REAL Connections. This spring, Megan was recognized with two awards: 1) a $2,000 academic award and 2) a travel award to attend the National Apartment Association’s Education Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. This event truly demonstrated the size of this industry and further inspired Megan’s enthusiasm for this career field. In the summer of 2017, Megan completed an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes at their largest asset in Anchorage -- Alpine Apartments.

“As a 387-unit property, Alpine was a great opportunity to gain experience and exposure to a variety of responsibilities. With so many units, colleagues, and prospects to work with, there was never a shortage of learning opportunities,” says Megan.

The internship went so well, Megan was offered a part-time position during school, continuing with the company as a Regional Leasing Consultant. She really enjoys this position, because she gets to move around the city as needed and experience the differences in how properties operate and perform.

It’s been a busy first year for Megan, who plans to graduate in spring 2020, if not earlier. In the meantime Megan will continue to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the WPMRE Program, continue acquiring industry experience, and continue to help the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club plan events and build awareness.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
This past June, three UAA students had the opportunity to travel to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the 2017 National Apartment Association (NAA) Education Conference and Exposition. Co-funded by NAA and the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program (WPMRE), these students received monetary travel awards covering airfare, lodging, registration, and per diem.

NAA has over 73,000 members representing more than 5.8 million apartment homes throughout the United States and Canada. Their annual Education Conference and Exposition brings together over 9,000 of the best and brightest to share practices and promote excellence in residential property management. The conference routinely features prominent keynote speakers, and this year participants heard from Michael Phelps, Robin Roberts, and Dawn Hudson, the Chief Marketing Officer for the NFL.

WPMRE students Megan Barrett, Janeive Palesano, and Chidi Iwuoha Jr. attended this year’s conference. Each day these students were presented with a number of education sessions on topics ranging from leasing, to Fair Housing, to leadership. In addition, they were able to attend the trade exposition, featuring over 450 vendors and suppliers for the industry. This conference can be an eye-opener for students, demonstrating not only the tremendous size of the industry, but the wealth of opportunities available and professionals willing to help.
Following the conference, Janeve Palesano shared a summary of her experience, highlighting some of her favorite sessions and takeaways.

The theme was “Apartmentalize”... To learn. To get focused. To get inspired. To get going.” And that’s exactly what I got from attending. Some of my favorite sessions were The Apartment All-Stars Leasing Spectacular, Body Language Confidential, and Advanced Turnaround Strategies: Cures for Underperforming Properties.

The Apartment All-Stars were Toni Blake, Lisa Trosien, Bill Nye, and Jackie Ramstedt, and they gave an early morning session on leasing techniques. For my internship this summer with Weidner Apartment Homes, leasing was an essential part of my position, and I was excited to hear ways to improve in this area. The session provided great strategies for competing in any market, and the team had an amazing energy that got me motivated to get back on-site to try out their tips.

It was wonderful to be surrounded by thousands of people interested in the same things and there to further their learning. There is an energy that motivates you. It gives me a sense of ease knowing that if any questions or issues pop up during my road to success, there are a lot of people and resources available to help guide me along the way. The NAA conference was amazing and I am so glad I had this opportunity. It truly furthered my understanding of the classes I have taken and my internship experience.

The WPMRE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the NAA Conference annually. Applications for 2018 WPMRE Awards will be available in December 2017, and will include travel awards for next year’s conference in San Diego, CA. If you think the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program at CBPP might be right for you, email Terry Fields, Program Director, at tfIELDS@alaska.edu for information about program advising, additional education resources, and program awards and opportunities.
Janeive Palesano had some experience in the real estate management industry prior to attending UAA, working on a maintenance and landscaping team in Hawaii and through her mother, who managed an apartment community. Janeive earned her associate degree in accounting from UAA, where she discovered the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) program and decided to continue her educational pursuits.

Since joining the WPMRE program, Janeive has experienced a number of opportunities. In March 2017, Janeive was selected to participate in the WPMRE program’s first national field trip to Seattle, WA. There, she was able to network with Trinity Property Consultants and Weidner Apartment Homes, participating in site tours, reviewing property strategies, and evening meeting Dean Weidner.

During the program’s annual awards luncheon and networking event, REAL Connections, Janeive was awarded the $5,000 Weidner Scholar award and a travel award to attend the National Apartment Association’s Education Conference and Exposition in Atlanta, GA in June 2017.

“It was wonderful to be surrounded by thousands of people interested in the same things and there to further their learning. There is an energy that motivates you,” says Janeive.

Janeive was also able to secure a paid summer internship with Weidner Apartment Homes, earning six credits toward her degree. During her experience, Janeive was able to work at two locations, gaining exposure to different property classes, markets, and management dynamics.

Continuing Janeive’s successful year, she was selected by the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) for their national “Student of the Year” recognition. Janeive was flown to Chicago, IL to participate in the IREM Global Summit earlier this month and receive her award. This annual conference provides students with a number of networking opportunities, education sessions, and even a site tour of local buildings.

“My favorite part was a panel discussion with industry leaders, which was very informative and allowed me to ask questions about careers in the industry. I also enjoyed getting to interview a Certified Property Manager (CPM) one-on-one and build another great relationship and industry contact,” says Janeive.

Janeive is on track to graduate from the program in fall of 2018. She has yet to decide if she will continue her journey in Alaska or take an opportunity in another state. For now, she is just excited for what will come next and the availability of options.
Dear Mr. Weidner,

Thank you so much for your continuous support of the Property Management and Real Estate Program at the University of Anchorage Alaska. I truly appreciate your commitment to education and expanding students' knowledge in real estate. With your help, I was the first in my family to graduate college. Your contribution makes a great difference in the community. Thank you for all that you do!
Rose Ann Arcilla discovered the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) program in 2015 while taking BA 215 Introduction to Property Management. Rose enjoyed how relatable this course was, influencing her decision to enroll in the program.

“As a renter, the concepts and material made sense. It was easy for me to apply management and financial topics to this field. I also have close family that own and manage apartments, so I was also comfortable with seeing real estate from an investment mindset,” says Rose.

Since enrolling, Rose has taken advantage of both scholarship and networking opportunities made available through the program, including a $1,000 award Rose received at the program’s REAL Connections event in March 2017.

Rose is always looking for ways to get involved outside of the classroom to further her education and professional development. The local Institute of Real Estate Management chapter invites WPMRE students to attend their monthly luncheons, and Rose has taken them up on several occasions. Rose also volunteered for the International Right of Way Association’s conference held this past summer in Anchorage.

On-campus, Rose has been involved with the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club (PMREC), first as a club member, then the Public Relations chair, and this fall, Rose has served as the club’s President. Rose’s favorite part about her journey through this program is all of the numerous connections she has been able to make with both professionals and students.

“The WPMRE program really offers a number of opportunities for students to engage with the industry and each other. I’m really excited to see the development of the Weidner Center for Real Estate Management. It provides a great place to learn, hold club meetings, and host events like guest speakers and speed-networking,” says Rose.

Rose completed the Real Estate Principles course last spring, fulfilling the pre-license education requirements for Alaska. Graduating this fall, Rose plans to follow up on that education, taking the real estate exam and earning her license for the next step in her journey.

Rose is excited to graduate from the program this fall. After graduation, Rose may stay in Anchorage or return home to Kodiak depending on which real estate opportunity she decides to pursue.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfeld66@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Arty Fonov has been working in the property management and real estate field for years in the family business. Arty’s family owns a self-storage business in Wasilla that Arty has been involved with for almost five years now. While pursuing his BBA, Management degree Arty enrolled in the “Introduction to Property Management” course, discovered the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program, and quickly declared the concentration. Arty has found that the program and classes involved have a direct correlation and benefit to his current work and future interests.

“Leasing, maintenance, marketing, customer service and leadership are major responsibilities of my job and the courses I’m taking have enabled me to grow and improve my performance,” says Arty.

Arty has only been enrolled in the program for a little over a year, but has already experienced so many professional and monetary benefits. He had the opportunity to personally meet Dean Weidner on a field trip to Seattle this past Spring Break. He has attained valuable connections to professionals in the industry by attending local chapter meetings of IREM (Institute of Real Estate Managers) and by meeting special guests and classmates involved in local and national real estate markets.

And, at last year’s REAL Connections event, Arty was awarded a trip to Chicago for the IREM Global Summit and received $3,000 in tuition awards.

One of Arty’s favorite classes has been the “Maintenance in Property Management” course, discussing the management of physical assets. A portion of the semester is spent touring local properties with different maintenance and construction managers such as Providence Hospital, 5th Avenue Mall, and JL Towers.

“Seeing the behind-the-scenes work of what goes into maintaining buildings operations really showed how complex being a real estate manager can be and the level of impact this position has in the industry.”

Arty has big goals for the next year, including marrying his fiancé, Anastasia, and starting their personal investments by buying a triplex. They are looking forward to continued learning about the local market and managing rental properties together. He plans to graduate in the fall of 2018, and see’s himself growing in his current role with the family company and looks forward to implementing his education and experiences towards a career in property management.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfielde@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Love What, Where and How You Learn
On the leading edge of real estate management education in The Last Frontier
By Terry Fields

LOVE WHAT YOU LEARN
When I grow up, I want to be a (FILL IN THE BLANK). Doctor, teacher, engineer, scientist, astronaut, or pilot would be expected. Real estate manager would not. I want to change that through vibrant, collaborative learning environments.

The Way Way Background
As a young child, I was always interested in building things – Legos, Lincoln Logs, forts. I was one of those kids that loved Monopoly in second grade and would play computer games like SimCity and RollerCoaster Tycoon for hours. I collected football cards, religiously cataloging, researching, and monitoring their changes in value. I would start odd jobs to generate cash, and I excelled at selling candy bars, coupon books, and magazines for various fundraisers. Little did I know I was learning the lessons of supply and demand, scarcity, relationship selling, and investing.

Right before high school, my parents went through the process of designing and building a home. I loved looking at floor plans and renderings. I would meticulously design and draw out new plans on grid paper – a hobby I still enjoy. So as I looked forward to college, I thought architecture would be a good path to follow. In my junior and senior years of high school, I interned with an architecture firm, attended a college workshop for architecture, and ultimately was accepted into Ball State University’s College of Architecture and Planning. The only problem – I realized by the end of my senior year in high school that I did not want to be an architect. It was my business and entrepreneurial interests that I wanted to pursue.

I attended Ball State University, but changed my path to pre-business. What I did not realize at the time was that I had selected one of only a few universities in the country that offered degree programs in real estate management. Exploring opportunities for a minor that paired well with my business degree, I stumbled across the Residential Property Management program. Thinking that it might be related to interesting topics like flipping houses and selling real estate, I decided to declare the minor. I soon realized my original assumptions were wrong, but also that I had stumbled into an area that truly integrated my passions for real estate and business.

The Hidden Side of Real Estate
Like my younger self, when most people think of careers in real estate, they think of development or HGTV. They think of people helping people buy and sell houses for commission or the speculative thrill of flipping properties. If those prospects do not sound like a good fit, they may write off the entire industry. But this is only a fraction of the opportunity that exists in this expansive field. There is a hidden side of the industry, a side where a wide variety of interests and disciplines are needed and welcome.

All around us are buildings that serve the needs of families in search of a home, businesses in search of offices and storefronts, and manufacturers in search of warehouse, assembly, and distribution facilities. What many people do not recognize early in life is that ownership is not the only way people and companies gain rights to use real estate. For a variety of reasons, real estate is commonly leased or rented instead. And this isn’t only due to financial constraints; many opt to rent or lease residential and commercial space because they value flexibility, convenience, and the freedom to pursue opportunities without being tethered to a specific location.
The collective demand for leased space creates an opportunity for investors to fill this need, providing what is known as “income-producing real estate.” Effectively, investors make the up-front investment needed to develop or purchase a property, generate income by securing tenants and collecting rent, pay operating expenses to maintain the property, and generate a net profit or return. This business model is used with apartment communities, office buildings, retail centers, warehouses, and even mini-storage facilities. And it is happening everywhere, from airports to hospitals, duplexes to skyscrapers, and downtowns to hometowns.

**Enter Real Estate Management**

In general, management is the influence over resources to effectively and efficiently optimize the mission of an organization. Real estate management is no different. The success of any business model depends on its implementation. Every day, businesses fail and investments fail, not because they were poor ideas, but because they were poorly implemented.

Real estate managers understand the underpinnings of their area’s supply and demand dynamics. They effectively establish rental prices, optimize occupancy levels, reduce delinquencies, and identify additional revenue sources. They control operating expenses through building efficiencies, employee leadership, and process controls. They reduce liability and risk exposure by understanding the legal requirements of the industry, assessing health and safety measures, and implementing appropriate policies. And, ultimately, they influence tenant (customer) satisfaction, retention, brand reputation, and financial performance. It is a high-impact position, with high-dollar effects.

This is an industry with high-value influence at relatively early-level positions. And yet until recently, college degrees have not been required for these positions, and universities have been mostly silent in offering programs for this field. Attending Ball State University, I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time.

**My Mission**

By the time I finished my undergraduate degree and minor, I was hooked. I immediately moved on to my graduate studies, earning an MBA focused on Entrepreneurship and an MS focused on Residential Property Management (RPM). During my two-year tenure under the direction of Dr. Carla Earhart, I was struck by the industry’s support for the RPM program, its students, and its graduates. I received monetary and travel scholarships to attend conferences in New Orleans and Las Vegas. I completed an out-of-state internship, rotating between properties on the east coast. I co-authored and published a thesis and reference article on student housing. And I participated in program-specific networking events, where I received offers for local and national positions more than six

**In today’s world, education is less about access to information and more about processing and applying information.**
I was stunned by this experience. I was stunned that this industry and its opportunities remained hidden from so many. I was stunned by the support provided by companies and trade organizations to advance this career path. But above all, I was stunned by how few of these university programs existed and how few other students had the opportunities I was afforded. In this swirling culmination of industry demand, industry support, and my experiences, I knew I wanted to play a role in changing that narrative.

LOVE WHERE YOU LEARN

Upon graduation, I was recruited by Weidner Apartment Homes and offered a management position in either their Seattle or Anchorage market. Aside from my heart's immediate attachment to Alaska, I knew the company had recently donated $4 million to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to fund a real estate management program and I was excited about the potential to get involved.

Shortly after moving to Anchorage, I volunteered my time to consult on the development of the program’s curriculum and began teaching in an adjunct position. In the fall of 2013, the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program officially launched, offering a property management and real estate concentration under the BBA, Management degree.

I was hired into a full-time position with the university, and charged with teaching and directing the program.

Throughout the last four years, the program has grown to 70 students, built an advisory board of local and national industry representatives, given out more than $100,000 in scholarships, partnered with trade organizations to offer industry designations and licensing, enabled students to travel to conferences around the nation, and organized networking platforms that have led to 100% placement for our graduates.

Our value proposition to students is unique. We have an opportunity-rich program, in an AACSB-accredited school, in a state with unmatched natural beauty, with a model for education that positions our students well for their future.

LOVE HOW YOU LEARN

In today’s world, education is less about access to information and more about processing and applying information. Similarly, it is my view that an instructor’s value and the value of a degree is less about the dissemination of information – the “sage on the stage” – and more about creating a culture of learning, proactively advising and coaching students through their academic and professional development. In addition to providing content knowledge, truly influential programs create a sense of community, inspire passion, and encourage immersion well beyond the time spent in the classroom. That
is our vision and our belief, and we strive to create that culture through experiences and opportunities that build interest, understanding, and engagement.

We place a priority on experiential learning, with a higher than normal allotment of internship credits, job shadowing activities built into the courses, local and national networking opportunities with employers, and projects that get students interacting with the community. I expect my students to connect and to learn from each other. Education is more interesting, careers are more interesting, and life is more interesting when you are engaged and sharing in that experience with others.

The Weidner Center for Real Estate Management
With additional support from Weidner Apartment Homes, we recently doubled down on these beliefs and developed the Weidner Center for Real Estate Management. Housed in UAA’s College of Business and Public Policy, the center is a designated classroom and lab for our program and its students. Designed around five collaboration tables, each with a projector at the head of the table, the space is optimal for team-based learning and information sharing.

Each table has six to seven computer stations with monitors mounted beneath a glass surface, allowing students to access technology without interrupting the flow of communication across the table. From the head of the room, I can display my screen on all six projectors in the room, facilitating a more traditional lecture, or I can allow the tables to independently control their projector, displaying their monitors with a push of a button. This allows the room to function as five independent teams collaborating on projects, solving problems, and presenting their findings. The room is also equipped with cameras, speakers, and microphones to capture presentations, offer hybrid delivery, and remotely bring guest speakers into the space.

When the center is not being used for program classes, the students have card access to the space to study, collaborate, or simply socialize with other colleagues. We bring in guest speakers on topics of real estate, personal finance, and professional development through a speaker series titled “WHEELHOUSE,” and host club events.

With a glass storefront, backlit portal entrance, and internet bar, the Weidner Center breaks the mold of a traditional classroom and a traditional way of teaching and engaging students — but that is the point. It is more than a space to conduct class. It is a space for continuous connection and immersion in the program. It is a hub, a home base, and an anchorage (little “a”) for learning and the advancement of real estate management.

Terry Fields is the Program Director and Assistant Professor for the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program in UAA’s College of Business and Public Policy.

Fields graduated from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, with an MBA, Entrepreneurship and MS, Residential Property Management. He holds a real estate brokers license and is an approved real estate instructor for the state of Alaska. He is an academic member of the Institute for Real Estate Management (IREM); serving as the local chapter’s Education Chair, and on the national Student and Academic Outreach Advisory Board.

Terry Fields
Program Director and Assistant Professor
Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program
UAA College of Business and Public Policy.
Over spring break, 10 students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program visited Seattle, WA, participating in the program’s second annual field trip opportunity. Initiated and sponsored by Trinity Property Consultants, the purpose of the visit was to explore the real estate management industry outside of Alaska and introduce students to the culture and opportunities present in the industry. Over three and a half days, students experienced a whirlwind of networking opportunities and visited multiple investment properties owned by our program’s advisory board members.

The first evening, students met at the historic Cobb Building in downtown Seattle for a rooftop speed-networking event with members of Blanton Turner and the IREM Executive Committee. Students rotated through professionals learning more about their paths into real estate management, their company’s structure, and advice for building a career in the industry. Following the event, the group continued conversation over dinner, allowing the professionals to learn more about the students, what attracted them to this field of study, and what they are looking for in the future.

The next day was spent with Trinity Property Consultants, touring many of their investment properties in the western and southern regions of Seattle. Starting with a ferry ride from downtown to Bremerton, students toured properties in Silverdale, Port Orchard, Fife, and Federal Way. They learned about the company’s investment model and were able to see properties in the various stages of acquisition, remodel, and disposition. Regional leaders shared financial analysis reports and career development advice. The group wrapped up the day with continued networking and a little competition, over dinner and bowling.
The second day was hosted by Weidner Apartment Homes, and began with a tour of their $225 million downtown acquisition, Tower 12. This impressive apartment building gave students a glimpse of some unique, high-end amenities like concierge service and two rooftop lounges. Students then visited Woodin Creek Village, a 1,000-unit community currently under construction in Woodinville, WA. Students were able to ask questions about the pros and cons of leasing new construction, the challenges of developing properties, and the lessons learned by the staff. Following the site tours, students visited the Weidner Corporate Headquarters to learn more from associates at varying levels in the organization and participate in a speed-networking event focused on career development.

On the final day, students met with Trinity representatives for breakfast at Pikes Place Market. They were instructed to bring their resumes with them, and Trinity’s professionals provided critiques and feedback for students. They were able to recap the trips experiences and share what they learned. Following breakfast, students walked to Blanton Turner’s office in Pioneer Square for lunch and a Q&A session with representatives from HR, marketing, development, and commercial and residential management. This concluded the multi-day field trip, filled with a number of opportunities for students to learn more about the industry, these great companies, and real estate management career opportunities.
Adam Jacobson, alongside his husband, decided in 2015 that it was time to leave the rental market and begin building homeowner equity. They decided that owning a duplex would be a great way to offset their mortgage debt obligations, while simultaneously achieving homeownership. They purchased the building they had been renting from for years and performed a series of renovations to increase the marketability and rental potential of the attached unit.

"This experience has taught me a great deal about the industry. I learned how to position and market our unit, how good customer service impacts financial performance, and what policies and protocols are best practices. It has been an immersive, informative, and exciting process," says Adam.

As Adam was nearing the end of the renovation process he discovered the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program at UAA. He met with Professor Terry Fields and concluded that this program would be a great fit for him to meet his personal and professional goals. After the Introduction to Property Management course he found himself applying classroom material on-site and conversely, able to more easily relate his personal experiences to the lectures.

Adam is grateful for the many opportunities the program provides students, including academic awards, travel opportunities, and the construction of the Weidner Center for Real Estate Management.

"The new classroom is a great environment for studying and collaborating with fellow students. The space offers great computers, software, and top-notch technology that make learning and sharing easier," says Adam.

This past fall Adam completed an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes. Based at Park Plaza Apartments, Adam was able to grow his understanding of leasing, customer service, and real estate management. At the completion of his internship he was offered a part-time position as a Regional Leasing Consultant. In this role he adapts quickly to new communities as he goes from site-to-site. He enjoys being able to learn about the different site dynamics and best practices in this position.

Upon graduation in the fall of 2019 Adam plans to pursue a career in residential property management, continuing to learn about the management of large assets. Down the road, he hopes to expand his personal portfolio, owning and managing his own 30 or 40-unit property, setting himself up for retirement.

*What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.*
Mr. Weidner,

The WPM+RE program at UAA has had such a positive affect on my life and career. My internship with Weidner provided a valuable lesson on the art and science of residential property management, and that has been pivotal in my career as a Community Director. The generous scholarships I was awarded from the program allowed me to shift my focus away from making my education financially viable, and towards studying and getting the most out of the WPM+RE program. Your philanthropic spirit has helped so many of us in so many ways, and for that I am grateful.
Jessica Francisco has found huge success with the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program, early in her academic career. During her senior year of high school, she discovered the program and enrolled to take the introduction course first thing her freshman year. When she met Professor Terry Fields, his excitement for the industry inspired her. She found the introduction class very interesting and immediately declared her degree - BBA, Management w/Property Management and Real Estate concentration.

"My favorite part of the program is the people I’ve met through it. I’ve made a lot of connections with other students who are in the program and individuals who are already in the industry," says Jessica.

She was awarded a tuition-waiver scholarship to take the introduction class and received a $1,000 academic award in the spring of 2017 at the program’s annual Real Connections event. In addition to the monetary awards Jessica has also received first-hand, industry experience. During the summer of 2017 Jessica completed an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes. She stayed local in the Anchorage area, interning with Greenbriar Apartment Homes. At the end of the summer she was offered a part-time position as a Regional Leasing Consultant, which Jessica still holds.

"Doing an internship early on was probably one of the best decisions I’ve made, because it confirmed to me that I did want to focus more on residential property management and now I have an opportunity to do another internship for credit this summer," says Jessica.

Jessica hopes to intern with Weidner Apartment Homes this coming summer, and is interested to learn about a new region outside of Alaska. Jessica hopes to spend the summer interning in the Washington region, seeing how it is similar to and different from Alaska.

Jessica just returned from the 2018 Seattle Field Trip, where she spent time with Trinity Property Consultants, Weidner Apartment Homes, and Blanton Turner. Students networked with industry professionals, visited Seattle properties, and picked up great career advancement advice. The trip combines team-building with a strong opportunity to meet potential employers.

After graduation, Jessica would like to continue in the residential industry, hoping to be accepted into the Weidner Manager-in-Training Program after graduation. She hopes to know more about her intentions to remain in Alaska or work in another region after this summer’s internship experience.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Lauren Whitstine joined the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program after completing the Introduction to Property Management course. She immediately registered for the Leasing in Property Management course the following semester and continued her progression through the program.

“The greatest benefit of joining the program is being excited about going to school and truly enjoying what I am studying. I have met a number of really great people through my classes and networking opportunities, which I am extremely grateful for,” says Lauren.

Last March, Lauren was one of ten WPMRE students to participate in the 2018 Seattle Field Trip. This three-day event enables students to network with advisory board companies — like Trinity Property Consultants, Weidner Apartment Homes, and Blanton Turner — and tour a variety of real estate assets under management in the Seattle, WA area.

This experience helped prepare Lauren for an internship with Trinity Property Consultants in Seattle, WA this past summer, and provided a hands-on opportunity for her to experience many aspects of property management. She enjoyed learning about a market outside of Anchorage, where the economics and legalities are slightly different.

Lauren remarks, “The internship allowed me to be confident in my choice of a career. I was able to be hands on with residents and problem solve with my team. I learned to wear many different hats and prioritize my responsibilities. The internship also gave me the opportunity to form professional relationships with others in the property management industry. Many recent college graduates enter the workforce on their own and experience challenges developing their network. We are fortunate to have relevant experience and contacts before we enter the real world and that is because of the WPRME program.”

Hired this fall, Lauren is working for a local property management company in the Wasilla/Palmer area called Rent In The Valley. This paid internship experience will also allow her to earn credits toward her degree and enable her to meet certain requirements needed for the Certified Apartment Manager (CAM) designation by the time she graduates.

Lauren is on track to graduate in spring 2019. She has not quite decided if she wants to remain in Alaska or explore opportunities outside of the state. She does know that she wants to experience multiple avenues in property management and continue her education, potentially pursing an MBA in the future.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at lfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
This past June four UAA students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) Program had the opportunity to attend the 2018 NAA Apartmentalize conference and exposition in San Diego, CA. The WPMRE Program, the National Apartment Association (NAA), and the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club provided funding assistance for these students, covering travel, registration, lodging, and per diem for this experience.

NAA has over 75,000 members representing more than 9 million apartment homes globally. This annual education conference brings together more than 10,000 property management professionals to learn and share best practices and promote excellence in residential property management. The four-day conference is designed to provide networking opportunities and industry education. The conference routinely features prominent business leaders and keynote speakers and this year was no exception with participants hearing from Alex Rodriguez, Jonathan Mildenhall, Mike Rowe, and more.

WPMRE students Chidi Iwuoha Jr., Seth Venhaus, Arin Olson, and Tane' Vincent attended this year's conference with program director and associate professor Terry Fields. Each day of the conference was filled with presentations on diverse subjects ranging from connected homes to effective leasing techniques. In addition, the conference hosted a trade exposition which brought together over 514 industry vendors and suppliers who provided targeted training in various aspects of property management. The sheer magnitude of opportunities available at this one conference demonstrates not only the tremendous reach of this industry but also the wealth of experienced professionals eager to help the next generation of property managers excel.
Arin Olson, a recipient of the PMRE Club funding assistance, had this to say about his experiences in San Diego:

"Being able to attend this year's NAA Apartmentalize conference was a surreal experience that I am extremely grateful for. I was able to attend due to the funding support that I received through the Property Management and Real Estate Club at UAA, and it was an incredible opportunity to join my fellow classmates in a new city and it gave me a whole new perspective on the apartment industry outside of Alaska. It is an exciting event that attracts companies from all over the world and it is an invaluable experience for a student like myself that is exploring different career paths in the property management and real estate industry."

"My favorite part was that the event was held in San Diego, which is a great example of a city that is seeing some incredible growth in the apartment industry. All of the discussions and topics that were presented throughout the week could easily be seen in a city like San Diego and it really helped me learn by being able to visually apply it to the city. For someone who was born and raised in Alaska, it was a real eye opener to learn about some of the new innovation in the industry that we may start to see being implemented in Alaska in the near future. NAA Apartmentalize is surely a can't miss event for students interested in property management. I will absolutely be going again next year!"

The WPMRE Program offers students in the program the opportunity to attend the NAA Apartmentalize conference annually. Applications for the 2019 WPMRE Awards will be available in December 2018 and will include travel awards for next year's conference in Denver, CO. If you think the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program is right for you, e-mail Terry Fields at tfields@alaska.edu for program academic advising, additional education resources, and program awards and opportunities. Also visit the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club's Facebook page for information about events and opportunities to learn in our local community.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your contributions to the WPM+RE program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I was able to gain specialized skills and knowledge in a growing industry with extensive career opportunities. Upon graduation, I quickly secured employment, and the program has become a fundamental part of my career. I owe much of my success to your support of the program, and I am very grateful to be an alumnus.
Arin Olson began his college career in Arizona, but decided to finish his business education in UAA College of Business and Public Policy. When Arin first returned, he enrolled in the BBA, Management degree track, adding the Property Management and Real Estate (PMRE) concentration shortly after.

“The PMRE program at UAA has changed my life and given me the chance to develop real world skills that I can apply in my everyday life. My favorite part about the program is the friendships and business relationships I have been able to build with other students, faculty, and companies that are involved in the program. After your first class in the program, you start to see the same students in your classes everyday. It really makes it easy to work towards your degree knowing that you have other students in the same position working alongside you that are there to help you succeed. I can already tell that I will be staying in touch with my friends and colleagues that I have met through the program and it’s a great feeling to know that we have such a great support system and network in place to help us have successful careers,” says Arin.

In March 2018 Arin had the opportunity to attend the program’s Seattle Field Trip, hosted by Trinity Property Consultants, Weidner Apartment Homes and Blandon Turner. The trip included networking, site tours, and an in-depth look into what employment with these companies could be like.

This past summer has been incredibly busy for Arin, including the ability to travel to San Diego for the National Apartment Association's (NAA) APARTMENTALIZE conference.

“The NAA conference made me realize the magnitude of the industry and how much opportunity there is for proactive students. It is an event that offers a great support system for meeting new people and expanding your knowledge in property management and real estate,” says Arin.

Arin also earned six internship credits this summer, split between two companies. One internship was focused on commercial real estate with Regal North and the second was focused on residential management with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Prior to beginning his internship with Regal North, Arin earned his real estate license, and was able to put that use right away.

Arin plans to graduate in the May 2019 and is primarily looking for opportunities outside of Alaska. He is considering post-graduate education and a position in the industry where he can continue to gain experience. He feels confident in the connections he has built through the program and is excited to see where his career takes him after graduation.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield6@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Each year, Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) students compete for academic scholarships and travel awards to attend national conferences. This September, four WPMRE students from UAA had the opportunity to travel to Fort Lauderdale, FL to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Global Summit: Megan Barrett, Adam Jacobson, Tran Phu, and Janie Palesano. This is a summary through the eyes one student, Megan Barrett.

"The 2018 IREM Global Summit was hosted at the Diplomat Resort and Hotel and included an assortment of educational seminars and networking opportunities for both students and professionals. The people I met had a tremendous impact on my career. Each year, IREM arranges for students to meet with a CPM for an informational interview. My interviewer worked in the multi-family sector developing mixed-use space, and I was able to learn about his career path and day-to-day experiences."

"In addition to UAA students, the conference is attended by students from University of Wisconsin (UW)-Stout, Ball State University, and Virginia Tech each year. In my informational interview, I was paired up a student from UW-Stout and was able to learn about his experiences working in office management. These students and other first-time attendees were brought together at the Newcomers Breakfast and welcomed with conversations about the industry, backstories of professionals, and their current roles."
"In addition to the Newcomers Breakfast, IREM did a great job of connecting students to industry professionals, hosting a special student networking event where professionals and students worked in small groups discussing career growth, opportunities, compensation, and even interview advice. Additionally, we participated in meetings and shared dinners with our IREM region which includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho."

"The opportunity to connect and learn about these other professionals was a highlight for student Tran Phu, ‘I was able to learn about many unique challenges that these professionals face in their day to day operations and make regional comparisons to the Alaska market.’ IREM also arranged a property tour of a local retail center named Gulfstream Park, an enormous outdoor shopping center filled with restaurants and even a large horse track alongside the edge of the property."

"With graduation only two months away, student Janevieve Palesano used her second trip to this event as a valuable networking opportunity. ‘The thing I enjoyed most about this trip is the chance to connect with so many people who share the same interests as me. The IREM Global Summit impacts my career significantly by giving me a network of professionals who are just an email away for advice and guidance,’ says Janevieve."

"In addition to the networking opportunities I was able to attend educational seminars and keynote speakers. One was centered around changing practices within retail management, titled ‘Technology, Millennials and the Evolution of the Shopping Center.’ The second was, ‘Hospitality Best Practices for Property Management’ I enjoyed these topics, focusing on customer service and providing the tools for your commercial tenants’ success."

"Being a student member of IREM has proven beneficial so far; but attending the Global Summit strengthened my resolve to stay connected and involved with this organization after I graduate. Students are already looking forward to more opportunities like this at next year’s conference in San Francisco."
S tarr Adams started her college education as a business management student, deciding to pursue the Property Management and Real Estate (PMRE) concentration after an advising session with Professor Terry Fields. In her limited time in the program, Starr has been able to participate in an out-of-state field trip and a local industry internship. Her experiences have surpassed her expectations so far, and she is very excited to see where her education will lead her moving forward.

In March 2018, Starr participated in the Seattle Field Trip, networking with a number of real estate management companies, including Trinity Property Consultants, Blanton Turner, and Weidner Apartment Homes — later leading to an internship offer.

"Initially, I had dismissed the whole idea of an internship. In going to Seattle, I was able to meet different companies that all showed various aspects of property management. I was presented with not only the option of an internship, but the flexibility of a part-time position extended over a longer period while going to school full time. I have been so thankful for the opportunity to do this internship with Weidner and the flexibility they have given me to make it possible. So many valuable experiences have been gained through it, and I highly recommend internships to gain insight into all this industry has to offer," says Starr.

Starr started her internship learning to lease apartments, and in time was able to take on a management roll. She was able to experience how the property accounts receivable and payable were managed, how to ensure operational audit compliance, and even had a chance to participate in vendor negotiations.

Due to the timing of Starr’s internship she was able to take part in the entire budgeting process. She helped in the development stages and was able to sit in during the final review with company executives. Additionally, Starr was able to listen in on some of the capital budgeting decisions and draw comparisons to what she’s learning in the classroom.

"I was able to be a part of multiple aspects of residential property management, and it has been an invaluable experience. I enjoyed my role filling in as Community Director the most. It was both challenging and rewarding, and it pushed me out of my comfort zone. But through it all, the internship gave me the understanding and confidence that I can perform well in this industry," says Starr.

Starr intends to graduate in spring 2018. She really enjoyed the team and environment she experienced with Weidner, and is excited to see where her career leads after graduation.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tifield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Tane' Vincent is a double major at UAA, studying both Accounting and Management with the Property Management and Real Estate (PMRE) concentration. Tane's background includes 30 years in the Marine Corps, practicing facilities maintenance. This career has prepared him well for real estate management and provided him with a variety of skills that he has been able to transfer over to civilian life. Tane' owns eight residential units in Alaska and five additional units outside of the state. Tane' discovered this program shortly after his search for a local property management company and was amazed with the power of a program like this, and the impact it could have for owners like himself.

"Over the last three years, I have become a huge proponent of this program. I feel strongly that, with the large amount of rental property in Anchorage, there is a significant need for knowledgeable property managers who have the ability to understand and coordinate the resources required to manage a property and its occupants well, and this program provides a very solid foundation for that," says Tane'.

Since his involvement in the program, Tane' has received a number of academic and travel awards, enabling him to participate in several high-impact opportunities. In October 2017, Tane' traveled to Chicago to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management's Global Summit. In March 2018, he was one of ten students selected to travel on the WPMRE's Seattle Field Trip, where he was able to view real estate in that market and network with Advisory Board members from Trinity Property Consultants, Weidner Apartment Homes, and Blanton Turner. Most recently, Tane' traveled to San Diego, CA in June 2018 for the National Apartment Association's Apartmentalize education conference and trade show. Additionally, Tane' was selected as a Weidner Scholar, receiving $5,000 awards in 2017 and 2018.

"The biggest benefits I've received through participating in this program are the number of opportunities available to meet experts actively working in the field and discuss industry ideas and concepts. I have been able to participate in numerous local IREM and BOMA meetings, and during all of these events, I have grown my network of contacts and improved my ability to understand the application of the information we learn in the classroom," says Tane'.

Tane' plans to continue with his investments in residential properties; however, his post-graduate professional interests are primarily rooted in commercial property management. Tane' hopes to incorporate his accounting background into his future career, and is on track to graduate with both majors in spring 2020.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfiedler@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Tran Phu, a UAA senior, experienced a number of successes throughout his tenure in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) program. After completing BA 215 Introduction to Property Management early in his academic career, Tran decided to declare the Property Management and Real Estate concentration, giving him the confidence he needed in selecting a career path.

"The biggest benefit I have seen with the program is the countless opportunities to interact with companies in the industry. The WPMRE program and the UAA Property Management & Real Estate Club (PMREC) host multiple speed-networking events, career workshops, and an annual event where students can display their talents to our future employers. Through program opportunities like these, I was able to obtain two internships, participate in a networking field trip to Seattle, and attend an industry conference in Ft. Lauderdale," says Tran.

Tran’s first internship was with Cange Group in the summer of 2017. Cange Group is a local commercial real estate management company, where Tran was able to take part in management operations, including inspections, communicating with contractors, and preparing requests for proposal (RFP’s). Tran worked with landlords and contractors to ensure that the individual maintenance needs were being met. Throughout this experience, Tran’s goal was not only to assist with operations, but also to learn and absorb as much as he could from his supervisors along the way.

The second internship Tran was involved in took place over the summer of 2018 with Regal North Commercial Real Estate. During his time with this company Tran gained more exposure to the brokerage side of real estate. He helped formulate strategies to optimize income, tracked the local economy, and provided support with deals that were in progress.

"One of my projects involved building a budget that covered the financial performance of an asset, emphasizing existing leases and rental collection. I have really enjoyed both of my internships, and have appreciated the opportunity to further my education and experience across different segments of commercial real estate,” says Tran.

Tran is on track to graduate from UAA this spring. While he has not committed to any concrete plans after graduation, Tran has his eyes on the type of position he would like to work towards. Better identifying his passions, Tran hopes to work in a role where he is able to travel frequently and work with a diverse portfolio of residential and commercial assets.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfieldt@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mackenzie Odom is a senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program, graduating this May 2019. Mackenzie first became involved in the program through the Introduction to Property Management course (BA A215), initially signing up for it as an elective, but after a few weeks, decided to declare the concentration. Since then, Mackenzie has participated in an internship and received over $1,750 in WPMRE Academic Awards and tuition waivers.

"I love all of the different opportunities that students are offered, whether it's scholarships, networking, exchanging ideas, or volunteering opportunities. There is so much time and effort poured into this program and it really shows. Everyone involved in the program appreciates it. This program has created the success that I have today," says Mackenzie.

Mackenzie connected with Weidner Apartment Homes at the Real Connections event in May 2018 and was later able to secure a summer internship. Her internship experience took place at a local, luxury apartment community in Anchorage called, The Highlands Apartments. Following her successful internship, Mackenzie was offered a part-time leasing position at another site where she was able to continue her employment and education with a flexible schedule.

"My internship was very personal, allowing me to have exposure to a number of different facets of real estate management. I was able to create marketing strategies, immersing myself in the community's brand to identify the most effective marketing approaches. I was often the "face" of the community, responsible for reaching out to prospective residents and generating traffic, but also for the resident files that are completed behind the scenes. I learned the value of relationship-based leasing; that everyone is unique, with different values, so it's important to build rapport and identify those values when explaining what your community has to offer," says Mackenzie.

For Mackenzie, this internship created a direct link between her coursework and real-life application in her future career. The educational background proved very beneficial to Mackenzie's success in real estate management, and similarly, her internship allowed her to more easily connect topics in the classroom.

Mackenzie has already accepted a position with Trinity Property Consultants after graduation, participating in their leadership program. She is looking forward to getting married this summer before relocating with the company and beginning her career. She enjoys the real estate management industry and even sees herself owning investment properties down the road.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at sdfIELD@UAA.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Chidi Iwouha is a senior in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program, graduating this May 2019. Chidi -- who always informs others it is pronounced like “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” -- is an entrepreneur at heart and has taken advantage of a number of opportunities during his time in the program.

Prior to joining the WPM+RE Program, Chidi participated in a local summer internship with Weidner Apartment Homes, working at The Club Apartments in Anchorage.

“One of the biggest learning experiences I had was the impact of resident satisfaction. Responding to resident requests in a timely fashion and increasing resident satisfaction are truly fundamental. I learned a lot of the various aspects of property management, from leasing to maintenance and management. I was fully prepared to take on a full-time or part-time position at the property as a leasing agent by the end of my internship,” says Chidi.

Chidi also received a number of program awards, paying out $5,000 in tuition assistance and paying for him to attend industry conferences -- NAA’s APARTMENTALIZE -- in San Diego and Atlanta. These trips provided Chidi with national exposure, industry education, and networking opportunities to connect with industry professionals.

Chidi was also selected to participate in a program field trip to Seattle, hosted by Trinity Property Consultants and Weidner Apartment Homes in 2017. The trip provided opportunities to tour their real estate assets around the city, interact with recruiters, and even meet Dean Weidner.

Chidi’s entrepreneurial efforts include his videography business, Move Media, which he started about two years ago. A talented filmmaker, Chidi has performed work for UAA, Weidner Apartment Homes, Northrim Bank, Pita Pit, and a number of businesses around the state. Chidi attributes his success to three traits:

“GRIT - the willingness to put yourself through sacrifice and hard work to get yourself to a better place.

NETWORKING - your network is your net worth.

PROGRESSION - growth comes from getting out of your comfort zone and chasing a better version of you” says Chidi.

Moving forward Chidi sees himself investing his profits into real estate by 2020, starting with a triplex or fourplex. He sees his current company growing and developing into a video marketing agency. With the growth of his business, he plans to stay involved in real estate, simultaneously.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfelden@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Katie Galang joined the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program in the spring of 2018, after experiencing reservations about her previous direction in accounting. Having heard positive reviews about the WPM+RE program she decided to try it out. Since becoming involved, she has been able to complete two paid internships with WPM+RE Advisory Board companies, one of which fulfilled upper-division course credits.

"The greatest benefits have been all of the networking events, especially REAL Connections and the WHEELHOUSE speaker series. These events have provided me the opportunity to get an inside look at what the industry in Anchorage looks like and a structured venue to build valuable connections for the future," says Katie.

Katie's first internship was through Regal North Commercial Real Estate over the summer of 2018. Here, she was able to work in a group with three other WPM+RE students and perform market analyses for the company. In this internship, she was able to experience more of the brokerage side of real estate and help the company move toward its vision and development in the Anchorage area.

Katie's second internship took place in the spring of 2019 with Cantrell Real Estate and Property Management. This internship encompassed both commercial and residential real estate management in the Anchorage area.

"My position was as the Management Assistant which gave me the opportunity to learn first-hand what a property manager does on a day-to-day basis. I was able to participate in property walkthroughs, turned units, transitioned new contracts, and strategized how to improve curb appeal and common areas," says Katie.

Katie is on track to graduate with a BBA, Management degree in fall 2019. Looking forward, she plans to stay in Anchorage for the long-term and build her career in real estate management.

"What I enjoy most about the WPM+RE program is building relationships with my colleagues and creating business relationships for the long-term. It's great to work with other students that are excited about their future in property management and real estate, and who also take advantage of all the opportunities the program has to offer. I am excited about the connections I have built and look forward to gaining more experience in the industry," says Katie.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tiferdri@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
This past summer, five UAA students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPMRE) program were provided the opportunity to attend the National Apartment Association (NAA) 2019 APARTMENTALIZE conference in Denver, CO. The NAA is a worldwide organization and the leading voice for the rental housing industry with over 50,000 members operating more than 9.7 million rental housing units. APARTMENTALIZE is the NAA’s premier annual education conference, bringing together more than 11,000 real estate management professionals with top industry thought leaders and experts. 

During the four-day conference, attendees choose from more than 60 education sessions, ranging in topics from marketing and leasing to financial management to leadership. These sessions feature industry and non-industry experts and provide useful information that attendees can apply to their daily lives. This year’s general session keynote speakers included Mindy Kaling and Laila Ali. Students also heard from multiple “Game Changer” presenters including Alli Webb -- founder of Drybar -- and Brandon Stanton -- creator of the Humans of New York Project.

WPMRE students McCall Anger, Josh Barton, Adam Jacobson, Benjamin Vincent and Matthew Vincent attended this year’s education conference with program director, Terry Fields. Each day the students attended presentations on diverse topics including "Reputation Management" and "Leasing in a Saturated Market." attended special networking events for property management students; and interacted with the industry’s leaders.
One evening, the students attended a dinner hosted for them by Jamie Mower, Director of Talent for Alliance Residential Company. A member of the WPMRE Advisory Board, Alliance is the fourth largest manager of apartment homes in the nation — managing over 120,000 units. Jamie and her team of recruiters provided an informal opportunity for students to learn more about their company, their path into the industry, and potential opportunities for internships and career placement. At a conference this size, one-on-one experiences like this provide an additional level of value and relationship-building that the students appreciated.

In addition to the wide range of educational opportunities, the conference hosts a trade exposition with over 550 exhibitors who understand the industry’s issues and offer solutions and training to meet those challenges. The sheer magnitude of this conference exemplifies the tremendous reach of the industry, the wealth of diverse career opportunities available in it, and its dedication to help ensure the next generation of property managers is leveraged for success.

Adam Jacobson, one of the student travelers remarked, "NAA Apartmentalize was an incredible experience. There was a wide variety of educational seminars, where I learned about all different angles of property management, including utilization of technology and the pitfalls of implicit bias. The many networking events gave me the chance to speak with property managers from around the world, and I am thankful for the opportunity to have forged those relationships. I’m so grateful to have been selected to represent UAA at this event, and I would urge anyone in the WPMRE program to apply for next year’s Travel Award. And, if you are selected to attend, say ‘YES’ to everything!"

The WPMRE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the NAA Apartmentalize conference each year. Applications for the 2020 WPMRE Awards will be available in December 2019 and will include travel awards for next year’s conference in Boston, MA. If you’re interested in learning more about the WPMRE Program, e-mail Terry Fields at tfields@alaska.edu for program academic advising, additional education resources, and information on program awards and opportunities. Also visit the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club’s Facebook page for information about events and opportunities to learn in our local community.
McCall Anger is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program. He joined the program in December 2018 after hearing a presentation about it in another business course. McCall’s initial impression was that the courses fit his interests, it was universally applicable, and he liked the opportunities it afforded. McCall joined the next day and has already taken advantage of many of those opportunities, including academic and travel awards, a summer internship, and a leadership position with the student club.

To date, McCall has received over $6,000 in academic and travel awards. In addition to helping him pay for university tuition, these funds enabled McCall to attend NAA’s Apartmentalize conference in Denver, CO this past June, and this month, McCall will be attending IREM’s Global Summit in San Francisco.

“This program has a lot of networking opportunities, but moreover, it works to connect students to career, travel, and scholarship opportunities that I don’t think a lot of programs provide,” says McCall.

The contacts he has made through the program have been beneficial, helping him secure an internship with Trinity Property Consultants in San Diego this past summer. McCall said the courses that helped with his internship the most were the Introduction to Real Estate Management and Real Estate Leasing courses. He was able to hit the ground running and performed extremely well over the summer. So well in fact, that he was offered an internship in Hawaii over winter break and a tentative job offer following graduation.

Overall, he feels the program is good for the industry and that the people in the industry are heavily invested in ensuring the next generation of real estate managers receive the education, experience, and training necessary to be successful. Upon entering the program, he did not realize the depth of the Advisory Board that helps make this such a well-rounded program.

For students new to the program or considering it, McCall says, “Always be open to new ideas and opportunities. Even if you don’t know if the opportunity will appeal to you, you never know who you will meet or where it will take you, and I have always gotten more out of these experiences than I ever expected.”

McCall is on track to graduate next spring and is looking forward to where this career path will lead him. He enjoys the real estate management field and looks forward to working with Trinity Property Consultants this winter and the prospect of moving into a permanent position upon graduation.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uas.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your support and commitment to the WPM+RE program. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping form this program into a professional, diverse, and educational experience. I am so grateful to have attended and been inspired by this program, and I look forward to seeing it evolve and thrive with your help.
This past September, four UAA students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program traveled to San Francisco, CA to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Global Summit. During this annual four-day conference, real estate managers from around the world come together, creating an exciting environment as they reconnect with colleagues, learn from each other, and share ideas that will move commercial and residential management forward. Our students were able to participate in this year’s summit through the generosity of the IREM Foundation and the annual WPM+RE Travel Awards.

This year’s summit included 19 hours of education sessions, multiple networking events, a community service project, and a number of engaging speakers, including motivational speakers and authors John O’Leary and Erik Qualman. Qualman, a five-time #1 best-selling author on innovation and digital transformation, gave a keynote address on Digital Leadership and the advantages of actively leveraging both the challenges and benefits of a connected world to advance our businesses and personal brands.

UAA students McCall Anger, Josh Barton, Adam Jacobson, and Tane Vincent attended this year’s education conference with program director, Terry Fields. Each day was filled with presentations on diverse topics including, asset management, financial planning, and automation and AI in real estate. Tane commented, "Integrating technology into buildings and management seemed to be an emerging focus. The keynote speaker spoke about proactively managing our "Digital Image." This has given me a lot to think about and brought into better focus some of the opportunities and challenges presented by a connected world in our daily lives. This is an area I'd like to research further and gain a better understanding of how we are all affected by today's digital world."
On Wednesday evening, the IREM Region 12 Chapter -- including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana -- hosted a dinner for members. UAA students were invited by Traci Twitchell - Region 12 Vice President - to provide their thoughts on current initiatives, network, and generally become better acquainted with the members. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and speak with real estate management professionals from other states in a relaxed and informal environment, and this personal interaction provided a unique opportunity to connect their education to the industry and learn more about career options.

IREM does a great job welcoming students to the conference and helping them to get the most out of it. For example, each year IREM identifies individual mentors to pair with students at the event, and engage in informational interviews where students can learn more about their path in the industry and ask any questions they may have. In addition to the wide range of educational and networking opportunities presented, the conference also hosts Summit Central where industry vendors and partners are available to showcase products and technology used by professionals in the industry.

Tane’ Vincent, one of the student travelers remarked, "What an excellent opportunity! This was my second IREM Global Summit and it was, again, an amazing experience. Attending a second time enabled me to build on previous connections and grow my network. I really enjoy meeting with industry leaders and discussing where they think the industry is headed and how to take advantage of opportunities and avoid difficulties along the way. I am truly honored to have been selected for one of the WPM+RE Travel Awards that enabled me to attend this year's conference event."

The WPM+RE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the IREM Global Summit each year. Applications for the 2020 WPM+RE Awards will be available in December 2019 and will include travel awards for next year's conference in Toronto, Canada. If you're interested in learning more about the WPM+RE Program, e-mail Terry Fields at tfields@alaska.edu for program academic advising, additional education resources, and information on program awards and opportunities. Also visit the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club's Facebook page for information about events and opportunities to learn in our local community.
Josh Barton is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program. He joined the program in spring 2018 after hearing a presentation about it in another business course. He knew the Introduction to Real Estate Management course was part of his Management curriculum, so he registered for it to learn more, and ultimately decided to add the Property Management and Real Estate concentration to his degree. Since his initial decision, Josh has immersed himself in the program and has already taken advantage of the many opportunities available, including academic and travel awards, a summer internship, and active participation in the student Property Management & Real Estate Club (PMREC).

To date, Josh has received over $6,000 in academic and travel awards. In addition to helping him pay for his university tuition, these funds enabled Josh to attend NAA’s APARTMENTALIZE conference in Denver, CO this past June and the IREM Global Summit in San Francisco, CA in September.

When asked what he likes best about the program, Josh quickly replies, “The biggest benefit of this program would be the endless opportunities to engage with industry professionals outside of the classroom.”

These contacts have been beneficial, helping Josh secure a local internship with Weidner Apartment Homes this past summer. “The multiple networking opportunities available through the program are extremely valuable, particularly REAL Connections -- a WPM+RE event each spring that enables one-on-one interaction between students and professionals, including speed-networking, interviews, and student presentations to WPM+RE Advisory Board members,” says Josh.

The program really helped with Josh’s understanding of the profession and the success of his internship, particularly the Introduction to Real Estate Management and Real Estate Leasing courses. These classes provided him with the knowledge needed to perform his internship responsibilities and exceed expectations. As a result, his initial internship culminated in a permanent position with Weidner Apartment Homes.

For new or pending students, Josh notes, “This program really sets you up for career success. It supports job skills and is heavily invested in the students and their ultimate success.” Josh is on track to graduate this spring and is excited about his career path and the growth potential in front of him. He enjoys the real estate management industry and looks forward to growing his knowledge and skills with Weidner Apartment Homes.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Ben Vincent is a senior in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program, scheduled to graduate in fall 2020. He joined the program in 2017 while attending UAA classes concurrently during his senior year of high school. As Ben explains, "When looking at what was available at the university, I chose WPM+RE because this program had far more engagement and networking opportunities than the other programs, plus it was focused on my primary interest -- real estate."

Ben's decision has been a fruitful one as to date, he has received over $7,000 in academic and travel awards. In addition to receiving a $5,000 Weidner Award that helped pay for tuition, a travel award enabled Ben to attend the National Apartment Association’s (NAA) 2019 Apartmentalize conference in Denver, CO this past June. There, Ben made valuable connections and experienced a broader view of the property management industry through presentations and informal meetings.

Additionally, the contacts Ben has made through the WPM+RE program at UAA helped him secure an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes and a permanent position with RPM Last Frontier, a third-party property management company in Anchorage. Ben credits both the course material and the networking opportunities with enabling him to secure these opportunities.

Ben has been very active in the Program, participating in numerous presentations and events and currently serves as the Secretary for the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club. Capitalizing on opportunities when they presented, Ben has also earned a National Apartment Leasing Professional (NALP) designation from NAA and the Alaska Real Estate Salespersons License as part of the Program's coursework. This spring, he is looking forward to earning more designation opportunities during the Real Estate Management Capstone course, in particular IREM's Certified Property Manager (CPM) designation.

Overall, Ben feels the Program has provided him with outsized benefits and effectively prepared him for a competitive job market. As he explains it, "The sheer amount of knowledge I have gained in the Program and internships has allowed me to be more than 'just a general business student' when I am networking with industry leaders. When not in class or at work, I have been sure to take advantage of almost every opportunity that comes my way, including private career fairs, WHEELHOUSE guest speakers, speed-networking nights... you name it. Everything I have done and am able to do in the Program has been a huge boost to my career in one way or another, whether I knew it or not. I will graduate with far more than a diploma; I will also have a robust resume of industry experiences and credentials."

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at lifield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

We appreciate all that you have done to make the program what it is today. I can’t stress enough how impactful the program has been towards my personal growth and career. The mentorship of our awesome professors and the Weidner family has helped me and many other students smoothly transition from students to fully-fledged professionals within their respective real estate careers. From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much.
Ismael (Ish) El Moussa is an international student and senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. He was unaware of the program until it was brought up during BA 215 Introduction to Real Estate Management. After researching the program, he concluded the abundance of opportunities available and the quality of instructors made joining the program a very good choice for him. He does not regret his decision and has taken advantage of many of the opportunities including an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes and academic awards. Just these two opportunities netted him an excellent job with practical application of his education, along with $3,000 to help cover his tuition and other expenses.

When asked about the value of the program to him personally, Ish was quick to respond, “Networking opportunities are easily one of the biggest benefits you can get in this program. There are always events happening every semester and it just gets better as the years go by. They set you up for success if you put in the effort, and the knowledge gained in every class is invaluable. Being able to apply the knowledge you learned is so satisfying, knowing that you are not just wasting your money to simply get a degree. Also, being able to take professional exams like the CPM (Certified Property Manager) at a discounted rate is an excellent benefit available through this program.”

The contacts he made through the WPM+RE Program were a major factor in helping him secure an internship with Weidner Apartment Homes. The knowledge and professional certifications he received set him up for success during his internship and his eventual transition to a full-time position.

Commenting on his internship success, Ish again credited the value of the program in preparing students. “Every class was relevant to my field of work, but the capstone course was definitely where I learned the most, because it forced me to apply everything I had learned from the start of the program. Understanding the formulas and language of real estate from my classes, it was easy to follow what my supervisors and peers were communicating in the workplace,” says Ish.

Ish is on track to graduate this fall and is looking forward to where this career path will lead him. Overall, he benefited greatly from the involvement of real estate professionals that help ensure the next generation of real estate managers receive the education, experience, and training necessary to be successful. For students new to the program or considering it, Ish says, “This program offers a lot that other business majors don’t. I can say with confidence that the WPM+RE Program is easily one of the best offered at CBPP or even at UAA.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfeldti@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Li Djurestaal is an international student from Sweden, a student-athlete, and a junior in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Li was drawn to the Program after discovering the degree planning sheets posted around college, and felt she would enjoy being part of the program. “Taking the courses with Professor Fields, I was hooked. After that, I was sure that I wanted to pursue the WPM+RE program,” Li says.

In addition to her academic studies, Li is a student-athlete on the UAA ski team and active in various other activities around campus. As a student-athlete, she stays very busy throughout the semester, but she works to maintain a connection with others in the program and as time permits, participates in the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club and other program activities.

Li is enjoying her experiences with the WPM+RE program and is excited about how well it is preparing her for a career in real estate management. Li shares, “I think that the biggest benefits of this program are the amazing people behind it. It is incredible how much time and effort the WPM+RE department puts in to provide students with the most real-life scenarios possible. We get to visit cool buildings around Anchorage and go apartment scouting as a part of our classes. In this program, there is always a full focus on the students, preparing us in the best way possible for our professional careers.”

Li participated in an internship this past summer, researching investment properties in Prague. She was able to travel and experience a different culture, work in her dream job, and earn credits toward her degree. Based on her experiences and enthusiasm for real estate, Li was subsequently contacted by another company following the WPM+RE Fall Career Fair for additional opportunities involving real estate investment projects.

“The WPM+RE Program broadened my perspectives on how to manage investment properties. It discusses the critical elements of managing an asset such as finance, maintenance, safety preparedness, staff, etc., while maximizing net income. All of these were essential tools I used every day during my internship. What I like most about real estate is that it is relatable to everyone. Properties are not only buildings, but represent so much more. They are where people live, work, get educated, or receive medical care. Buildings represent people’s everyday lives. Being able to work with something that is such a crucial piece of everyday life makes it not only a broad career field, but a very exciting field to work in,” says Li.

Li is on track to graduate May 2021 and is excited about her future. She enjoys the real estate management field and is looking forward to learning more and building on her experiences.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfelden@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for everything! Your support and kindness have affected all of us in more ways than we could ever explain. You have made it possible for me to pursue a career in the real estate field, which has been my everlasting dream. I will be forever grateful to you and everything you have done for us!

Li Djurestaal
MSc Student
Real Estate and Construction Management
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Sean Herrmann is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program, graduating this May 2020. Sean was first introduced to the Program in fall 2017 after enrolling in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management. “I immediately knew that this was the major for me, because there are so many different routes that one can take in real estate,” says Sean.

When asked about the value of the Program to him personally, Sean was quick to respond, “I wanted a major that would give me a wide range of jobs to select from when I graduated, and the WPM+RE Program definitely helps prepare students for success after college. I also felt a personal attachment to property management due to my family owning a full-service, Alaskan environmental services company. Growing up, I was able to witness the hazardous waste removal and restoration site that comes with owning a property and was able to see my dad coordinate with various property managers, owners, and companies to assist with completing their projects. I always wanted to be in a profession that was centered around helping people in some way and property management is exactly that.”

The contacts Sean made through the Program have been beneficial and helped him secure a local internship with Weidner Apartment Homes in 2019.

Through the program, Sean earned the National Apartment Leasing Professional (NALP) designation and is scheduled to earn the Certified Property Manager (CAM) designation in April. Both achievements demonstrate Sean’s commitment to his profession and desire for success.

Sean adds, “Having worked at Weidner for almost a year now, I was surprised by how applicable everything I learned in the Program was to real world situations. In college, there are some classes where you know that what you’re learning isn’t going to be directly applicable to your day-to-day job. With the WPM+RE Program, nearly all the knowledge and skills I’ve learned have been used at some point in my current employment. I really feel like my schooling is paying off and setting me up for success in the property management industry.”

For students new to the Program or considering it, Sean says, “I am so grateful for all of the opportunities offered through the WPM+RE Program! Professor Fields does a fantastic job coordinating events with industry leaders that help students network and find internships during school and career employment immediately out of college. I highly encourage students to check out the Program and all that it has to offer; you won’t be disappointed!”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfifield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Megan Barrett, a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program, was originally featured as a Mover & Shaker spotlight in September 2017 as a sophomore — the first repeat. Megan was introduced to the Program in high school during a UAA Preview Day, and declared it as her major as an incoming freshman. She was soon deeply involved in many facets of the Program, taking part in extracurricular activities and holding leadership positions in the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club.

Megan’s early and enthusiastic participation in the WPM+RE Program contributed greatly to her many achievements, including over $15,000 in academic and travel awards. Megan was selected as a Weidner Scholar in 2018, receiving a $5,000 award that was renewed in 2019. She received travel awards to attend three national conferences for the industry, hosted by NAA (Atlanta), IREM (Fort Lauderdale), and ICSC (Las Vegas). She was one of ten students selected to participate in a WPM+RE field trip to Seattle. And, this January, she was selected by BOMA for the Don Dwiggins Memorial Scholarship.

The Seattle field trip her freshman year led to a summer internship with Weidner Apartment Homes, which led to a part-time position as a Regional Leasing Consultant during the following school year.

In the summer of 2019, Megan accepted an internship with JL Properties, managing class A office buildings and retail spaces in the Anchorage market. She is now working with Colliers International as a Property Assistant, performing in-depth market research and assisting with brokerage services as she finishes her final semester.

Relating her education to her professional experiences, Megan states, “Throughout all the positions I have held, I have seen a direct correlation between my classes and my duties. The Real Estate Principles course prepared me for the real estate license exam and enabled me to pass on my first attempt.”

Megan has experienced expedited success in the industry due to her strong commitment and ability to take advantage of the many opportunities made available to her through the WPM+RE Program. Megan has put in the effort and has built an extraordinary network of professionals she can call for information and advice. Reflecting back on her time, Megan states, “I am very grateful for the opportunities afforded to me by this Program. There is nowhere else I would have received such support, and it has allowed me to progress to where I am today. I am beyond excited to continue my career in commercial real estate when I graduate this May.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at lfeld@ualaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Matthew Vincent is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Matthew completed the Introduction to Real Estate Management course in fall 2017 and was hooked. He changed his major from Biology to Management, added the Property Management & Real Estate concentration, and immersed himself in the program. Matthew became active in the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club, organizing events like a Monopoly Tournament and Q&A sessions with local industry leaders. He also uses the many opportunities the program offers to hone his interpersonal skills and build a network of industry professionals he can call on for advice and guidance.

Matthew makes it a point to take advantage of all the opportunities available through the program, and has been the recipient of over $5,000 in academic awards. This last summer, Matthew was also able to attend APARTMENTALIZE, the National Apartment Association’s annual education conference and exposition in Denver, CO. Matthew says, “This program offers opportunities you can’t find anywhere else, and not just scholarships. They give great assistance to the students to get through school and start their careers.”

Matthew began by focusing on commercial properties and spent his first internship with Regal North Commercial canvassing the downtown area, meeting with community leaders, and establishing a strong knowledge of the Anchorage commercial market. His second internship was with Klaud Realty, where he established a commercial presence for the company and created a company marketing strategy. Currently, Matthew is a licensed Real Estate Salesperson with Dwell Realty, where he is applying the information he has learned to move his career in real estate forward. He attributes his successes to skills he learned through social activities offered in the WPM+RE program. “The networking opportunities really helped me meet professionals who provided excellent advice and opened many doors along the way,” says Matthew.

Matthew considers the program an excellent partnership between UAA and industry providing an outstanding opportunity to train the next generation of real estate professionals. As Matthew puts it, “Where else can a student learn the diverse knowledge this program offers and be actively involved with industry leaders, who are also heavily invested in our success?”

Matthew graduates next fall and is looking forward to developing his skill sets further. He enjoys the real estate industry and sees opportunities everywhere. “The world is constantly changing and being able to participate, as students, and provide value in the real estate industry through our relevant knowledge is very rewarding,” says Matthew.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Hello Mr. Weidner,

I know I keep saying this but "thank you" again for all you have done to help create a great program at UAA and other colleges around the nation. Your support has helped so many students including myself, and I think this goes for all of us; we will always be grateful for the support you have shown and given.

Matthew Vincent
Real Estate Licensee
Jack White Real Estate
Hello Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your contributions to UAA’s real estate program. Because of this, I was able to find new inspirations in my studies and life. Your contributions to the program have given me crucial guidance and resources to help me reach my goals and graduate. Myself, and the rest of the UAA community, are so grateful for your generosity. Thank you again for everything.

Savannah Garrett
Logistics and Materials Management Associate
Akima
Manuel Rodriguez is a sophomore in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Before joining the program, Manuel worked a year in real estate as a licensed salesperson with Herrington and Co., where he learned the fundamentals of real estate brokerage. He joined the WPM+RE Program in fall 2019, following his professional and academic interests in real estate and management, and his choice has already proven beneficial to his career.

Manuel states, "The biggest benefits of the WPM+RE Program are the ability to network with top companies within the industry, the scholarship and travel awards, and the opportunity to learn practical skills that are both highly effective and widely used across the industry. My greatest successes have come from making the most of the networking opportunities, securing an internship with Weidner Apartments Homes and a position with one of the largest, private real estate development companies in the state as a real estate developer in training."

While the effects of COVID-19 restrictions prevented Manuel from participating in the internship with Weidner Apartment Homes in the Seattle area, he secured a local position with H. J. Gellert & Associates that has allowed him to learn even more about residential real estate and gain firsthand experience with residential brokerage, third-party and community property management, Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), and real estate development.

Overall, Manuel feels that the information he has learned in the classroom has been most relevant in his work with marketing and leasing properties, as well as how to calculate and analyze real estate cash flow performance and the fundamentals of real estate management. As he begins this semester, he is excited to expand his knowledge in the classroom and build his resume with diverse industry experiences.

Manuel is also an active member of the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club, serving as a strong advocate for events, fundraising, and recruiting in the College of Business and Public Policy. Because of Manuel’s commitment, professionalism, and academic success, he was one of ten students selected to participate in the WPM+RE Program’s national networking field trip to Portland, OR this past March. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions also prevented this opportunity, which will hopefully be rescheduled for a later date.

Manuel is on-track to graduate in spring 2022 with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Aurora Landau is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Aurora entered college as a Finance major, but changed her degree to a Management major with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate after taking BA 215 Introduction to Real Estate Management in spring 2017. The past three and a half years in the Program has been an opportunity for her to take what she learns and apply it to her years of industry experience.

Aurora’s decision to join the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program has been a huge benefit to her both academically and professionally. She was able to use the education and approval of BA 306 Real Estate Principles as pre-licensing education to qualify her to take and pass the Alaska Real Estate Salesperson exam. Aurora is now working as a licensee for O’Banion Real Estate & Relocation Services, LLC. In her role, she is able to apply the concepts and practices learned through the Program on a daily basis to perform more effectively.

Aurora says, “Each and every class in the Program directly corresponds to a part of the real estate industry, making it so valuable. It gives students real industry experience in a classroom setting and encourages students get involved in various industry-related events to build their network and experience.”

Aurora has been employed as a broker’s assistant for the past five years. Prior to that position, she oversaw the management of 60 residential units. With professional experience, and the education provided through BA 225 Real Estate Leasing, she was able to earn the National Apartment Leasing Professional (NALP) designation through the National Apartment Association (NAA).

Through her diligent performance academically and her demonstrated abilities in the field, Aurora has been the recipient of multiple WPM+RE Awards, including her recognition as a Weidner Scholar in 2020. The highest recognition in the WPM+RE Program, this award provides recipients with $5,000 of financial aid and is eligible for renewal for a second year.

Aurora looks forward to graduating in May 2021 and continuing to implement her education in her professional endeavors. She states, “The Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program has provided me with an extremely valuable look into the industry, allowing me to experience it both in the classroom and through professional settings. It has allowed me to earn industry designations, become licensed, and advance my career before graduation. I am grateful for the opportunity to build practical knowledge alongside my industry experience.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tifton@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your ongoing support of UAA's WPMRE program. Your continuous donations have made it possible for so many students, including myself, to pursue and achieve their real estate goals.
Dear Mr. Weidner,

Thank you for your continuing support of the WPM+RE program. This program has helped me grow personally and professionally through the curriculum, WPM+RE Club, and career networking opportunities. I will be forever grateful for the experience, support, and connections I made because of the program. Thank you again for your generosity and all you have done to make the program possible.
Movers & Shakers

Lindsay Murray is currently a sophomore in UAA’s Weidner Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Lindsay was introduced to the Program in the summer of 2019 when she participated in the first Real Estate Management and Investment (REM+I) Workshop, an opportunity hosted by the WPM+RE Program annually for high school juniors and seniors. Through the workshop, she learned the principles of real estate management and was able to tour properties around Anchorage, exploring this field of study first-hand. Following this experience, Lindsay joined the Program as an incoming freshman, pursuing a BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate.

Lindsay has been working in the real estate management industry as an Administrative Assistant with Western Enterprises, Inc, providing support with lease document preparation, market rent analysis, marketing, and tenant relations. In this role, Lindsay has been able to gain valuable experience and help to connect her work to her education. She states, “Learning real estate law and Fair Housing regulations has been extremely helpful in my discussion with tenants, and the financial analysis of properties in the classroom is easier to comprehend because of my real world experiences working with various sources of revenues and expenses.”

In addition to her academics, Lindsay has been able to see benefits from the WPM+RE Program early in her college career. As a freshman, Lindsay was the recipient of a $1,000 Weidner Award and a $2,000 Travel Award to attend the IREM Global Summit conference in Toronto, Ontario. Lindsay was also selected as one of ten students to participate in a WPM+RE Field Trip to Portland, OR in March 2020 to network with industry professionals and explore real estate assets and management practices in that market. Unfortunately, this opportunity was cancelled amid the growing pandemic concerns at that time.

In summer 2020, Lindsay participated in the first WPM+RE Writing Competition, a challenge for students to draft a trade article on a relevant industry topic. Her article titled, “Tying Emotional Intelligence to the Customer Experience in Real Estate Management” received first place and a $1,000 award. Lindsay comments, “What drew me to the WPM+RE Program is the amount of support it provides students through its professors and the real estate community.”

In only her second year, Lindsay has already demonstrated a strong commitment to succeed and has been able to see the return on her efforts.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tifield@uaa.alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business degrees.
Kristina Gibson graduated from UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program this month. After transferring to UAA as a sophomore, she enrolled in BA 215 Introduction to Real Estate Management her first semester. The course really expanded her interest in real estate, so Kristina joined the WPM+RE Program in 2015 and began working toward a BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. Since joining the Program, she believes any business student would benefit from the information because it can be applied across various careers and help those looking to invest and build wealth through real estate. As a property owner herself, Kristina has been able to apply her learning to evaluate potential investments, retrofit her own property, and even perform some maintenance as needed.

Kristina comments, “So many people say that they do not use their degree when they are done with school. Because of the Property Management and Real Estate concentration, I believe that no matter what career field I go into, I will use my degree every day because of its technical and practical applications.”

Kristina also made sure to diversify her learning experiences at UAA. In 2016, she joined the Property Management and Real Estate Club, and in 2017, she was selected to participate in the first national field trip to Seattle. During that experience, she was able to tour a variety of properties and network with professionals from Weidner Apartment Homes and Trinity Property Consultants — two WPM+RE Advisory Board companies and two of the largest real estate management companies in the nation. This trip inspired Kristina to take a break from school to work full-time, so that she could purchase her first investment property. After her purchase, she returned in 2019 to finish her degree.

As a WPM+RE student, Kristina received $3,000 in scholarships, made a number of industry connections, and built meaningful relationships with like-minded peers along the way. The Program helped her begin her investment journey and prepared her to become a licensed real estate professional, so she can help others looking to invest in real estate as well.

Kristina reflects, “The concentration has changed my life in so many ways by creating a healthy support system that I didn’t have before joining the Program. When I first started attending college, I was shy, quiet, and self-conscious about my intelligence. I barely spoke during class, sat in the back, and was always distracted. After joining the concentration, I gained the confidence to participate and excel in my business classes and achieve my educational goals.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business programs.
Lucas Adams is a sophomore in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Lucas originally planned to major in Finance, but after attending the Real Estate Management and Investment (REM+I) Workshop the summer after graduating high school, he immediately knew that he wanted to double major and add the BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. After completing his first year in the Program, Lucas is connecting his education to multiple pathways in business, and he believes that students with a variety of interests have the potential to benefit from this education, not just those interested solely in real estate.

Lucas states, "This program has shed light on the various avenues I wish to pursue in my career. Although undecided between the Finance and Real Estate world, I will use the skills learned in these courses to pursue building my own portfolio of investment properties."

As a student in the program, Lucas was able to secure an internship with Rent in the Valley, one of Alaska's largest real estate management companies, and has now worked his way into a full-time position analyzing investment properties, discussing mutually beneficial business relationships with new clients, and advising tenants through the application process.

Through his internship employment, Lucas has already become a licensed real estate professional, using his knowledge to analyze and present income properties to his two mentors and investors in the field, as well as anyone willing to share some coffee and talk numbers. He has also been able to purchase his first multi-family housing investment in 2021.

By far, Lucas's favorite thing to do is network, and through the WPM+RE Program, he has been able to make connections both locally and nationally with firms in the industry. Lucas was one of ten students selected to travel to Portland, OR to learn about real estate management and industry dynamics outside of Alaska. Unfortunately, this trip was cancelled due to COVID-19, but he looks forward to the multiple travel and networking opportunities this program can provide.

Lucas states, "Enthusiasm for the Program not only comes from the students, but the faculty as well. Professor Fields shows his passion in the way he teaches and inspires students looking for different avenues in real estate. He makes classes interesting and engaging, and works to ensure that students are supported both academically and professionally as they explore career opportunities. For any students considering the WPM+RE Program, do it. You will not regret it."

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tjfields@alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA's newest 4-year business programs.
Nathan Carstens is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Prop‐
erty Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE)
Program. Originally attending UAA for Mechanical
Engineering, Nathan became aware of the Program and
decided to enroll in the BA A215 Introduction to Real
Estate Management course. “Once I began taking that
course and learning about the different tracks people can
take in real estate, I was hooked. I was intrigued at how
practical it was and how I could use it not only in a career,
but in everyday life as well,” says Nathan. Since joining
the WPM+RE Program, Nathan has been able to earn
scholarships, participate in a paid internship, and is cur‐
rently working in the industry while he finishes his degree.

In the spring 2020, Nathan applied for the WPM+RE Pro‐
gram Academic and Travel Awards. These annual awards
fund over $40,000 in tuition assistance and travel
for students declared in the BBA, Management degree
with a concentration in Property Management and
Real Estate. Nathan received a $2,000 travel award
to attend the IREM Global Summit that was to be
held in Toronto, Ontario. Additionally, Nathan was one of
ten students selected to participate in a national field
trip to Portland, OR to network with Advisory Board
companies, visit various properties, and learn more about
real estate management outside of Alaska. Unfortunately,
that trip had to be cancelled due to the beginning of the
COVID-19 pandemic.

During the summer between his junior and senior year, Nathan
landed an internship with a local full-service real estate
management company, Cantrell Real Estate and Prop‐
erty Management. In this position, Nathan was able to learn
more about homeowners association (HOA) management,
working with vendors and contractors, and property manage‐
ment accounting. After his summer internship, he transitioned
into a part-time position with the company during the fall sem‐
ester, before accepting a position with Weidner Apart‐
ment Homes as a Leasing Consultant.

Nathan states, “In BA 225 we learned all about residential and
commercial leasing, including the curriculum for the Certified
Apartment Leasing Professional (CALP) designation. It is neat
to experience what we learned in the classroom and be
able to apply my education directly to my position.”

Nathan is on track to graduate this May with his degree and
is looking forward to it. He is in the application process to par‐
ticipate in Weidner’s Manager-in-Training Program after
graduation. This 12-month program is designed for recent
graduates, pairing them with mentors and structured educa‐
tion and training to be able to successfully run one of their
multi-million dollar assets.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and
Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more
about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business programs.
Kelsey Pascua is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. She originally attended UAA to study Civil Engineering, but became aware of the WPM+RE Program as a UAA Preview Day volunteer. Preview Day is an event where high school students visit UAA to learn about different types of programs and opportunities that are offered. As a group leader, Kelsey was sitting in on a presentation about the BBA, Management degree with the Property Management and Real Estate concentration and liked what she heard. After talking to with the program advisor about the career options and curriculum, Kelsey decided to take a leap of faith and change her degree path.

Kelsey states, “In the end, it was the right decision, because not only did I enjoy my classes, I also had a lot of opportunities to network, participate in a paid internship with Weidner Apartment Homes, earn scholarships, and be able to hold a leadership position in the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club.”

In 2018, Kelsey was selected as one of ten students to participate in a WPM+RE Field Trip to Seattle, WA. There, she was able to tour a variety of properties, network with industry professionals, and learn more about the opportunities available to graduates in this field.

Capitalizing on this experience, Kelsey landed a paid internship with Weidner Apartment Homes and spent the summer of 2018 in Washington learning about leasing, marketing, budgeting, maintenance, and working with vendors. Kelsey’s commitment to the program, her involvement in the student club, and her academic success led to her being recognized as one of three Weidner Scholars in 2020, the highest award in the WPM+RE Program, and receiving $5,000 in tuition assistance.

Kelsey states, “I would definitely recommend the WPM+RE Program to students. It amazes me how much time and effort the WPM+RE faculty put into providing students like me with networking opportunities, scholarships, and real-life experiences in Anchorage and outside of Alaska. The mentors you meet in this program are always focused on the students and making sure we are prepared for our career. For students who are looking into the program, please participate in the networking events! It is a great way to get connected with the advisory board members and other WPM+RE students.”

Kelsey is set to graduate this May and has already accepted an offer to join Weidner Apartment Homes as a Manager-in-Training upon graduation.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more about one of UAA’s newest 4-year business programs.
Tristan Compton is a sophomore at UAA, double-majoring in Finance and Management with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE Program). Tristan was introduced to the program by a friend and fellow WPM+RE student. The referral sparked his interest, and after a conversation with the Program Director, Tristan was convinced that this would be a good fit for him. During the first year of the program, Tristan certainly hit the ground running. Despite headwinds caused by the pandemic, Tristan was able secure employment, licensing, scholarships, and even closed on his first personal investment property.

Tristan states, "The WPM+RE Program is such a unique offering, that has provided me with a number of opportunities to network both in-state and out-of-state with motivated, like-minded individuals."

And, Tristan certainly is a motivated individual! In addition to his service in the Alaska Air National Guard as a Finance and Comptroller Technician, Tristan has been employed with Rent in Alaska for the last year. In this role, he performs third-party property management services, working with a variety of owner-clients and residents. Additionally, Tristan earned his real estate salesperson’s license, and has began taking on roles in real estate brokerage.

Drawing on this experience and his education to-date, Tristan recently closed on his first investment property — a four-plex residential building in Wasilla, AK.

Tristan states, "The WPM+RE Program directly led to my employment and the resources that ultimately led to my ability to comfortably begin investing in real estate. It helps provide a framework for my future growth, both professionally and financially."

Academically, Tristan has excelled in his coursework throughout his first year. His combination of academic achievement and demonstrated interest in property management and real estate has already rewarded him with three scholarships from the WPM+RE Program. In addition to a $2,000 academic award, Tristan received travel scholarships to attend the National Apartment Association’s APARTMENTALIZE conference in Chicago last month and will be attending the IREM Global Summit in Las Vegas in October.

Early successes in the WPM+RE Program have Tristan excited about the future. As a sophomore, Tristan has a lot more to look forward to as he continues his academic and professional journey.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Bradley Brunell is a senior at UAA, completing his final semester in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Originally from Southern California, Bradley began his academic career studying real estate appraisal and working in the hospitality industry. After researching careers in the real estate industry, Bradley identified property management as an option that most closely aligned with his interests and skills. A national search of colleges that offered degree programs in property management, led Bradley to UAA's College of Business and Public Policy and the BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. Bradley enrolled and moved to Anchorage, AK in fall 2019 to complete his degree.

Bradley states, "I enjoyed working in hospitality, meeting new people and building relationships, but the nature of hospitality is short-term interactions. Property management was attractive, because it had the similar elements of relationship-building and interpersonal skills, but over a longer-term schedule."

During the internship, Bradley was able to contribute to the team immediately, leasing apartments, conducting market surveys, and assisting current residents. He even had the chance to assist in the due diligence process, conducting unit-by-unit inspections and reviewing maintenance records and lease agreements.

Bradley states, "It was rewarding to be able to work with the residents over the two-month experience and have them express that they were sad that I had to leave. The internship confirmed my interest in this profession and desire to be in this industry."

During his first year in the program, Bradley was selected for a $2,000 academic award, and in 2021, he was selected as a Weidner Scholar, the program’s highest recognition and a $5,000 award. On track to graduate in December, Bradley is looking forward to a career in the industry and grateful for his time at UAA.

He states, "The WPM+RE Program was a great fit for me. For others that think it might be a good fit for them, too, I would recommend enrolling in the Introduction to Real Estate Management course to try it out and learn more."

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
This October, three UAA students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program traveled to Las Vegas, NV to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Global Summit. During this annual four-day conference, real estate managers from around the world come together, creating an exciting environment as they reconnect with colleagues, learn from each other, and share ideas that will move commercial and residential management forward. Our students were able to participate in this year’s summit through the generosity of the IREM Foundation and the annual WPM+RE Travel Awards.

This year’s summit included hours of education sessions, multiple networking events, a community service project, and a number of engaging speakers, including motivational speakers and authors Risha Grant, John Auff, and Liz Bohannon. Bohannon is the Founder and CEO of socially conscious fashion brand Seeko Designs, which she founded in 2008 as a way to provide educational and economic opportunities for women in East Africa. Her story is filled with lessons for success that are grounded in the principle of having beginner’s mind, which Liz sums up in her book, Beginner’s Pluck: Build Your Life Purpose and Impact Now.

UAA students Manuel Rodriguez, Magnus Noroey, and Tristan Compton attended this year’s summit. Each day was filled with presentations on diverse topics including, ESG initiatives for real estate, dynamic leadership, budgeting, and leveraging tech in real estate. In addition to the education and speaker opportunities, the conference gives students the opportunity to network with industry professionals from around the nation. For Magnus Noroey, this was the most impactful highlight from the experience.
Magnus comments, “This conference was my first interaction with professionals in the real estate industry and with other WPM+RE students, since I joined the program in January 2021, in the middle of the pandemic shut down. I traveled to Las Vegas without knowing anyone. When I flew home five days later, I had many new friends, including students from UAA, students from other schools, and professionals that welcomed us and really opened up to connect with us in a meaningful way. I left with a clearer understanding of the industry and career opportunities, in addition to good memories and a renewed motivation.”

One example was the Regional Dinner hosted by the IREM Region 12 Chapter, which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. UAA students were invited to join and become better acquainted with the members. This was a valuable opportunity to meet and speak with real estate management professionals from other states in a relaxed and informal environment, providing a personal, unique opportunity to connect their education to the industry.

Talking about the event, Magnus noted, “The networking part of the conference was extremely helpful. I was able to connect with so many new and influential people for my future. When I told them I was from Norway, they started to connect me with people in international companies to discuss future internship and career opportunities. They said an international position in the company could enable me to work with both the North American and European sides of the company. Hearing these professionals tell me that was inspiring, and I have already setup meetings with some of these companies about next steps.”

The WPM+RE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the IREM Global Summit each year. Applications for the 2022 WPM+RE Awards will be available in December 2021 and will include travel awards for next year’s conference in Dallas, TX. If you’re interested in learning more about the WPM+RE Program, e-mail Terry Fields at tfields@alaska.edu for academic advising, additional education resources, and information on program awards and opportunities. Also visit the UAA Property Management and Real Estate Club’s Facebook page for information about events and opportunities to learn in our local community.
Jacob Mahoney is a senior at UAA, completing his final semester in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Jacob explored other areas of study, including history and radiology, before deciding on a degree in business. As a Management major, he enrolled in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management and quickly found that he really enjoyed the course. After speaking with an advisor and learning that the WPM+RE Program would not add any additional credit requirements, he changed his Management concentration from “General” to “Property Management and Real Estate” in spring 2020.

Jacob states, “At the time, I was working for UAA’s Conference Services in a Guest Services position. Having some experience with hospitality, I easily connected with the principles of property management. I really enjoy the interpersonal relationships and energetic pace that these industries share, along with the investment and business fundamentals that are needed to run a valuable real estate asset.”

Not long after joining the program, Jacob received an email from the Program Director advertising a part-time leasing position with Weidner Apartment Homes. He applied and began working as a Leasing Consultant at a 138-unit apartment community in Anchorage.

Jacob states, “Being a student in the WPM+RE Program was definitely a benefit during the interview process. Weidner really values education and liked how this position would align with my academic goals. They worked with my school schedule during the semesters and offered me full-time hours during winter and summer breaks.”

Jacob has continued to work while simultaneously completing his degree, and highly recommends that other students combine academics and on-the-job experience if they can.

Jacob states, “As a hands-on learner, it was nice to be able to hear a lesson in class one day and then apply it on the job the next day. My professional experiences helped me connect to the coursework, and my coursework helped me connect to my profession. My experiences also enabled me to earn industry credentials, including the National Apartment Leasing Professional (NALP) and the Certified Apartment Manager (CAM) designations. Overall, it made me a better student and a better professional.”

Graduating this December, Jacob has already accepted a Manager-in-Training position with Weidner Apartment Homes and will begin the next step of his journey in January.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tjfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Korena Nelson is a senior at UAA, completing her final semester in the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Originally exploring education in sciences, Korena identified business as an education and career path that better fit her interests. After reviewing the business majors available at UAA, she decided on the BBA, Management major with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate.

Korena states, "I had previously considered a career in pharmacy, but discovered my freshman year that it wasn't the right path for me. Real estate was something I had discussed my family, and always had an interest in. I was excited to see it offered as an educational pathway within a business management degree. I changed my major at the end of my freshman year and began taking real estate courses the following fall, starting with BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management."

The following fall, Korena enrolled in BA A225 Real Estate Leasing. In this course, students learn about the process of working with prospective tenants, leasing residential and commercial property. Through a collaboration with the National Apartment Association Education Institute, students enroll in the Certified Apartment Leasing Professional (CALP) designation and test for this national credential within the course curriculum. Korena successfully completed the education and exam, earning a provisional designation until she met the experience requirements. Though, she did not have to wait long -- In January 2021, Korena was offered a summer internship with Weidner Apartment Homes in Anchorage, AK.

Korena states, "My professor shared an announcement about the internship and I immediately reached out to the recruiter. I was offered a paid internship that would start in June, and allowed me to earn six (6) credits toward my degree. 

After seven summers of commercial salmon fishing, I was excited for this new opportunity to learn within my field of study."

Korena interned at Alpine Apartments, a 387-unit apartment community. The size and fast-paced environment of this property enabled her to learn a lot, quickly, and she really enjoyed the relationships she built with her team and residents. Following her internship, Korena was offered a flexible, part-time position with the company while she finished her degree.

Graduating this May, Korena has already accepted a Manager-in-Training position with Weidner Apartment Homes and will begin the next step of her journey in June.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Sam Deering is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Sam’s path into the program began while he was employed at Fred Meyer, speaking with a customer that was a WPM+RE student — now alumni — when she suggested that he look into it. Sam always had an interest in real estate and was already enrolled as a freshman at UAA at the time. After reaching out to Terry Fields, the Program Coordinator, he registered for the first course, BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management. The course confirmed his interest in this industry and the wealth of employment opportunities it provides, so Sam made the decision to change his degree to the BBA, Management major with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate.

Discussing what attracted Sam to join the WPM+RE Program, he states, “I really enjoyed how applied the education was to the real world. The math made sense to me, and the content was relevant and interesting. I could quickly see how the program would provide value to me both professionally and personally.”

Sam did not waste any time getting immersed in the extracurricular elements of the program that provide additional opportunities for education and networking. In his first year, Sam participated in REAL Connections, an annual event that connects students with industry leaders and recruiters. Students have the opportunity to present to the WPM+RE Advisory Board about themselves and their professional interests, share in a networking awards luncheon, and then participate in up to seven interviews with local and national companies. Through this opportunity, Sam was offered a summer internship with Weidner Apartment Homes in Anchorage, AK.

Sam states, “As a freshman, I was surprised to receive the offer, but the internship was very beneficial. I most enjoyed the leasing elements of the position, getting to work with a variety of people and helping them to secure their next home.”

Following the internship, Sam was offered a flexible, part-time position that he has maintained throughout the rest of his academic career. The ability to be in the industry while taking courses has been extremely valuable for Sam.

He states, “My employment helps me better understand my coursework, and my coursework helps me better understand the “why” behind what I am responsible for at the property.”

Graduating this summer, Sam is excited to build on his experience and continue in the industry at the next level.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Magnar Noroe is a junior in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. An international student from Norway, he transferred on an athletic scholarship to compete on the Nordic skiing for the UAA Ski Team. Following his interest in business, Magnus decided on the BBA, Management degree and registered for the required course, BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management, in spring 2021.

Magnus says, “In Norway, I had researched real estate careers and academic programs, but found that most were at private institutions and were not accessible to me. So, when Professor Fields reached out about the Property Management and Real Estate concentration as an emphasis area for my Management major, I was eager to join. I was attracted to real estate for its blend of business, professionalism, and customer service, and the further I have progressed in the WPM+RE Program, the more opportunities I see.”

Shortly after joining the WPM+RE Program, Magnus was eligible to apply for scholarship opportunities. In 2021, he received a $2,000 WPM+RE Academic Award and a travel award to attend the IREM Global Summit in Las Vegas, NV in October 2021. An international event, the Global Summit brings professionals together for networking, education, and advancement of the industry.

Magnus recounts, “I was nervous, at first, to attend the conference. Because of COVID interruptions, I had not been able to network with other students or professionals in the Program. However, everyone I met at the conference was so friendly and welcoming. They were eager to share their stories and provide advice. IREM even arranged for me to meet with a mentor at the event -- Brett Voeltz with Berkley Partners -- and we continue to meet regularly through ZOOM.”

The 2022 WPM+RE awards were announced this month, and Magnus was selected for three additional awards. He received the $2,000 WPM+RE Academic Award for a second time, but also received the program’s highest honor, the $5,000 Weidner Scholar award, and was selected to attend another national conference -- NAA’s APARTMENTALIZE in San Diego, CA in June 2022.

Magnus notes that some of the WPM+RE Program’s greatest strengths are the Advisory Board and the networking opportunities provided for students to connect with industry professionals. Through these opportunities, Magnus was offered a paid internship with Weidner Apartment Homes in the Anchorage market this summer, and he is looking forward to this learning experience ahead of his final year at UAA.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Shelly Yocum is finishing her sophomore year in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. While completing her Associate of Applied Science degree in business, Shelly enrolled in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management to fulfill an elective requirement. Currently working for Weidner Apartment Homes and having some familiarity with the Weidner Center classroom on campus, Shelly knew that UAA had a program for real estate, but was not sure what all was available. Professor Terry Fields extended an invitation to learn more, and now, Shelly will continue on to earn a four-year BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate after she completes with her AAS.

While living in Hawaii, Shelly developed a background in customer service working for AT&T for 10 years. In 2014, she earned her Hawaii Real Estate License and worked as a Leasing Agent at a 1,000-unit apartment community.

Shelly says, "I knew some people that worked in real estate and it was always something that I was interested in. An AT&T client of mine rekindled that interest, and I saw that my skills and the most enjoyable pieces of my position transferred well to residential property management -- building rapport, helping people find products that meet their needs, and problem solving."

Shelly moved to Anchorage, AK in 2016 and began working as a Leasing Specialist with Weidner Apartment Homes. She was promoted to an Assistant Community Director of a 250+ unit apartment community, and then again to a Community Director overseeing a 138-unit community.

Shelly says, "It's exciting to take classes while working in the industry. It's helped me to feel more confident with the financials and operations of my position. And, the coursework is more relatable because of the experiences I have had."

Relatively new to the WPM+RE Program, Shelly applied for the annual scholarships in March 2022 and was awarded $2,000 in academic awards. She is also a member of the Property Management and Real Estate Club at UAA. The student club secured funds to send a member to the National Apartment Association's APARTMENTALIZE conference in San Diego, CA this June, and Shelly was selected as the student representative.

Shelly is looking forward to growing both professionally and academically while she completes her degree, and she is very excited to join a group of like-minded individuals in San Diego to learn, network, and share.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
What better way to immerse yourself in education than to travel for school? Four lucky students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program did just that over the summer, traveling to beautiful San Diego, CA. It was here at the San Diego Convention Center that this year’s APARTMENTALIZE was hosted, the National Apartment Association’s (NAA) annual education conference. Drawing in over 11,000 attendees, participants ranged from top industry professionals to those just starting out. NAA is a leader in this space, with over 11.6 million apartment homes and 95,000 members globally.

APARTMENTALIZE is NAA’s largest educational offering, with over 100 different training sessions for participants to choose from during the three-day conference. Topics covered everything from efficiently managing a team to understanding the resident mind and everything in between. Keynote speakers like Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Rob Lowe and Danica Patrick closed out each day in the “General Session.” Participants also heard from “Game Changer” speakers including Anthony Trucks -- shifting your mindset -- and Ashton Applewhite -- ageism in the workplace.

WPM+RE student attendees, Ross Spencer, Glenn Penamora, Shelly Yocum, and Magnus Noroej, joined Terry Fields, Program Director and Associate Professor, at the conference. Each day they chose sessions and presentations to attend, covering industry-specific topics like, ‘What Your Maintenance Teams Aren’t Telling You’ and ‘What Do Post-Pandemic Renters Need?’ In between sessions, students networked with industry peers as well as other students from around the nation.
One morning, the National Apartment Association Education Institute (NAAEI) hosted a networking breakfast specifically for students and faculty attending from universities with property management programs. Being such a large conference, the students appreciated this small-group experience that added another level of value and relationship building. From connections made here, students have opportunities to stay in touch for future internship possibilities or career placement in other states.

In addition to the wide range of educational opportunities, the conference hosts a trade exposition with over 550 exhibitors who understand the industry's issues and offer solutions and training to meet those challenges. The sheer magnitude of this exposition exemplifies the tremendous reach of the industry, the wealth of diverse career opportunities available in it, and its dedication to help ensure the next generation of property managers is leveraged for success.

One of the WPM+RE students, Ross Spencer, reflects on his experience, "I'm a bit entrepreneurial myself, and seeing so many opportunities to connect put a smile on my face. I've spent quite a few years in skilled trade jobs, and the trade exposition combined my love of those jobs with my newfound passion for property management and real estate. I spent countless hours wandering the exposition floor and chatting with people from all over the country, trading contact information and ideas, jokes, and excitement for the future. Though the entire APARTMENTALIZE experience was one I'll never forget, this exposition was easily one of the most intriguing parts for me!"

The WPM+RE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the NAA APARTMENTALIZE conference each year. The application for the 2023 WPM+RE Awards is now available and includes travel awards for next year's conference in Atlanta, GA. If you're interested in learning more about the WPM+RE Program, e-mail Terry Fields at tfIELDS@alaska.edu for academic advising, additional education resources, and information on program awards and opportunities.
Andy Palomares is a junior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WP-M+RE) Program. Andy chose to pursue a BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate shortly after separating from the United States Air Force. His choice stems from a desire to utilize real estate investing as vehicle to pursue financial freedom for him and his family.

His interest in real estate started when he was introduced to the podcast “Bigger Pockets,” and his first move towards investing was turning his primary residence into a rental. Since then, he and his family have added a duplex to their rental portfolio for short- and long-term rentals. Andy says, “My time so far in the WPM+RE Program has affirmed my decisions to invest and also taught me new practices that I plan to implement.”

Andy strongly believes networking is a catalyst for improvement, and initiated the post-pandemic reestablishment of the program’s Property Management and Real Estate Club in spring 2022, serving as the President. “There are so many benefits to gathering and socializing, including mental well-being,” stated Andy. He plans to expand his portfolio of rental properties and build upon his network of like-minded individuals, taking advantage of any opportunity he gets that aligns with his vision.

For example, Andy applied for and was selected to join the College of Business and Public Policy’s Tom Case Leadership Fellows (TCLF) program. This fellowship will not only help him with his future goals, but it will also help him to give back to the community. Andy enjoys giving back, especially teaching the generations that are coming after us. “I want to pass along everything I know to my children and their generation, because they’re next to run things and I want them to have every advantage they can when they do,” says Andy.

Andy’s latest mantra for himself is, “Don’t get stuck in analysis-paralysis.” He encourages others to follow their dreams and to “go for it” even if they are scared. For him, that looks like joining the WPM+RE Program, and so many doors have already been opened. In March, Andy received a travel award that will allow him to attend the IREM Global Summit in Dallas, TX in October 2022. “I’m very excited for this opportunity for me to meet professionals in the industry and expand my knowledge and network,” says Andy.

Andy has ambitious plans for 2023, including plans to buy at least two more rental properties and to attend as many professional and personal development events as he can through the WPM+RE and TCLF programs.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tffields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Amy Apinru is a junior in UAA's Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Growing up Amy's parents were involved in the real estate industry through sales and skilled trades, and she was exposed to real estate flips and investment properties at a young age through them. Amy was introduced to the WPM+RE program as an Alaska Middle College student, and decided to take BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management to learn more.

"After hearing about the program from Professor Fields, I enrolled in the first course. That really solidified my interest in pursuing a degree in this field and a career in the real estate industry," says Amy.

Amy graduated from the Alaska Middle College with 55 university credits, and joined the WPM+RE program in spring 2022 by declaring the BBA, Management degree with a concentration in Property Management and Real Estate. She hit the ground running, applying for scholarships and internships in the local industry, and she was hired as a Leasing Consultant for Weidner Apartment Homes, working at a class A multi-family community in Anchorage. Amy was able to earn six (6) internship credits toward her degree for this experience, and she has remained working with the company while she continues her education.

Amy states, "Prior to this experience, I worked in retail and administrative positions. I feel like those skills rolled over well to this position. I love that no two days are the same, requiring me to remain adaptable, and I enjoy how this position allows me to build relationships with the residents I serve.

Amy serves as a student officer in the Property Management and Real Estate club and was one of three students selected for a $2,000 travel award to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) Global Summit in Dallas, TX in October 2022.

"What I love most about the WPM+RE Program is how the classroom education applies directly to my current employment and compliments my business degree with practical employment preparedness. I also love how the program opportunities outside of the classroom, such as the networking events and conference travel opportunities, push me out of my comfort zone and help me build confidence," says Amy.

On a path graduate in May 2024, Amy is excited to continue exploring opportunities in the industry. She hopes to sit for the real estate license exam this winter, and is in the early stages of saving up for her first investment property.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
through the generosity of the IREM Foundation and the annual WPM+RE Travel Awards, five UAA students from the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) program were able to travel to Dallas, TX this October to attend the Institute of Real Estate Management’s (IREM) Global Summit. Attendance at this annual conference engages students in a way that lectures and books simply cannot.

At the Global Summit, real estate professionals from around the world get together to network and learn from each other. Attendees reconnect with old colleagues, share new industry information, and pass along ideas that will move commercial and residential real estate forward. With nearly 20 hours of education sessions to attend, multiple networking events, and a community service project, students maintained a full agenda. IREM hosted keynote guest speakers like Phil Gwoke, who spoke on the topic of “Talent Management Across Generational Lines,” and Colonel Nicole Malachowski, who spoke about “Pushing the Envelope: Being the Best When it Counts.”

UAA students Magnus Norrey, Tristan Compton, Amy Apineru, Ross Spencer, Andy Palomares, and Tuva Bygrave attended this year’s summit. Each day was filled with presentations on diverse topics, from Modernizing Your Business Technology While Reducing Costs to Reimagining Staffing: Discovering Opportunity in the Great Resignation and a host of other exciting subjects. On Wednesday evening, the IREM Region 12 Chapter, including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, hosted a networking dinner for members.
UAA students were invited by Jason Jackson, Region 12 Vice President, to provide their thoughts on current initiatives, network, and generally become better acquainted with the members. This was a meaningful opportunity to meet and speak with real estate management professionals from other states in a relaxed and informal environment, and this personal interaction provided a unique opportunity to connect their education to the industry while learning more about careers.

In addition to the natural networking opportunities, IREM goes a step further for students by identifying individual mentors to pair with students at the event and scheduling informational interviews where students can learn more about their path in the industry and ask questions. Beyond the vast array of educational and networking opportunities presented, the conference also hosts Summit Central, where industry vendors and partners are available to showcase products and technology used by professionals in the industry.

Reflecting on the experience, Ross Spencer comments, “I don’t think I’ll look at communication in the workplace the same after Phil Gwoke’s presentation. I knew there were differences between generations, but I’d never considered how much our communication was affected by it. Eye contact, handshakes, phone and email etiquette, each generation views the importance of them differently, and it was eye-opening to learn.” Andy Palomares adds, “It was a great experience. I learned a lot, met many great people, and really enjoyed listening to the stories of the different speakers. I hope to attend next year’s event in Toronto.”

The WPM+RE Program offers students the opportunity to attend the IREM Global Summit each year. Applications for the 2023 WPM+RE Awards will be available in December 2022 and will include travel awards for next year’s conference in Toronto, ON. If you’re interested in learning more about the WPM+RE Program, e-mail Terry Fields at tfields@alaska.edu for academic advising, additional education resources, and information on program awards and opportunities.
Glenn Penamora is a junior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Glenn, a Filipino-Alaska Native, grew up in the community of Kodiak, AK before moving to Anchorage to college. As a BBA, Management major, Glenn enrolled in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management his sophomore year.

Glenn recalls, “I was mesmerized. The way Professor Fields portrayed the information was something that stuck with me. I could tell he really was passionate about the material and the industry. After that semester, I declared the Property Management and Real Estate concentration for my Management degree.”

That fall, Glenn applied for the WPM+RE Academic and Travel Awards. He received a $1,000 Weidner Award and a $2,000 Travel Award to attend the National Apartment Association’s annual conference, APARTMENTALIZE, in San Diego, CA.

“The conference was an invaluable opportunity to expand my understanding of the industry, network, and hear from national speakers, including Magic Johnson! I am extremely grateful to have been able to receive these awards, because it shows that the program believes in me, and I look forward to applying again this year,” says Glenn.

Glenn participated in a paid internship opportunity with Weidner Apartment Homes in summer 2022. In addition to broadening his skills and putting his education into practice, Glenn was able to earn six (6) internship credits toward his degree.

Glenn states, “The internship helped me gain more insight into the residential side of managing properties. There is so much behind-the-scenes work that I truly find interesting. I love the feeling of going into work and not knowing what to expect on a daily basis. It helps keep me on my toes and provides a level of excitement that I knew I would find in this field.”

Working toward a May 2024 graduation, Glenn is interested in exploring the commercial side of real estate, through an internship, before identifying his post-graduate career plans either in- or out-of-state.

Glenn remarks, “I am extremely grateful to have chosen this incredible program, because it offers so much to its students and presents so many opportunities to grow and network. I will always vouch for this program, because it produces top notch professionals who really care about their work.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tjfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Erin Toohey is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Erin began her academic journey at UAA in 2014, exploring different majors. A number of family members are involved in real estate, but it was never something Erin considered for herself at the time. In 2017, she enrolled in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management, and it ultimately set her on her current path.

“At the time I felt that I was fizzling out academically and losing interest in my education. When I joined the WPM+RE program, it sparked my drive to continue and I finally felt like I was working towards something I could see myself doing as a career – something that I enjoyed,” says Erin.

Like many at UAA, Erin has balanced her education with full-time employment. While chipping away at her degree, Erin began working for The Summit Group, a full-service real estate brokerage in Anchorage. Initially an unlicensed assistant, Erin earned the Alaska Real Estate Salespersons License in 2020 and was able to increase her role with the brokerage.

Erin recalls, “I have had the opportunity to gain a lot of hands-on experiences in both property management and real estate sales over the past four years. Since earning my real estate license, my primary focus has been residential leasing for the properties that we manage. One of my proudest accomplishments was taking a nearly vacant 12-plex property in the middle of winter and bringing it to 100% occupancy in just a few months.”

WPM+RE students that participate in internships or industry employment while earning their degree commonly recount how valuable it is to blend the academics with the daily, practical application. Erin confirms this belief.

“Being able to better visualize and apply what I was learning made me a better student. Through my education, I have been able to earn credentials, like the Certified Apartment Leasing Professional designation, and networking with like-minded peers through the Property Management and Real Estate Club” says Erin.

Looking ahead to graduation, Erin notes, “I’m not sure what the future holds. I love the company that I’m with now, and I look forward to continued growth with my current team.”

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Amanda Schmeling is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Amanda started working in the industry while she was in high school, doing lawn care, painting, and renovations for a small, family-owned rental portfolio. Originally an accounting major, Amanda discovered the program going into her junior year.

“I moved around a lot when I was growing up, and I always enjoyed the process of looking at real estate with my parents. Whether it’s flipping houses or rental properties, real estate has always been a part of my life and something that interested me,” says Amanda. “When I learned that there was an academic program for real estate at UAA, I decided to enroll in BA A215 Introduction to Real Estate Management to learn more.”

Soon after enrolling in the course, Amanda switched her major and joined the WPM+RE Program in spring 2022. She hit the ground running, earning a $2,000 WPM+RE Academic Award and connecting with recruiters for Weidner Apartment Homes through the program’s annual networking opportunity. That connection turned into a paid internship with the company during the summer, which also enabled her to earn three (3) credits toward her degree.

Amanda recalls, “The internship experience was such a strong professional development opportunity for me. I am naturally an introverted person, but the internship forced me outside of my comfort zone and improved my communication skills. What used to make me nervous became fun!”

When asked what her greatest takeaway from the experience was, Amanda states, “In a leasing position, as with any customer service position, people can tell when you are authentic, when you really care and want to help them. It is a lesson that I will certainly carry with me.”

Looking ahead, Amanda is considering working in the affordable housing industry. For a number of years, she has volunteered through East Rotary and Chugach Manor, working with homeless and low-income populations.

“I like the idea of joining a mission-driven organization that works to provide housing for some of the most vulnerable populations in need,” says Amanda.

Graduating in May 2023, Amanda hopes to buy a duplex this year with her fiancé, and begin building her own portfolio.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Ross Spencer is a senior in UAA’s Weidner Property Management and Real Estate (WPM+RE) Program. Prior to joining the program, Ross had an idea for an invention, a toolbox attachment for staplers, and was working on a patent for his prototype design. Wanting to learn more about entrepreneurship and business, he decided to attend college for a formal education, enrolling in the BBA, Management degree in UAA’s College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP).

Ross recalls, “I was originally declared in the ‘General Management’ track, but after taking the Introduction to Real Estate Management class, I switched to the ‘Property Management and Real Estate’ concentration. I found it perfectly blended my goal of learning to run a business with my passion for real estate that I developed during my time working in construction.”

Ross has been intentional and proactive during his academic career, and has been able to capitalize on numerous opportunities because of it. In 2022, Ross received a $2,000 academic award and two travel awards to attend the National Apartment Association’s APARTMENTALIZE conference in San Diego, CA and the Institute of Real Estate Management’s Global Summit in Dallas, TX.

“I can’t say enough about how positive my experience has been with the WPM+RE Program. The industry connections that I have been able to make through events and opportunities to travel around the country add so much to my overall education,” states Ross.

As the current Vice President for the student club and the Teaching Assistant for the program, Ross is giving back to the program, too. In these roles, he works to provide opportunities for other students to connect, learn, and grow professionally.

Adding to his accolades, Ross competed in the CBPP Business Plan Competition in 2022 and won second place. He adds, “Even better than winning was the feedback and connection with the judges, many who are very active in the community.” His drive, acumen, and professionalism were further recognized in his selection for the CBPP Tom Case Leadership Fellows, a prestigious program that connects students with an industry mentor tied to their career or academic interests.

Graduating in fall 2023, Ross is currently searching for a summer internship to round out his education.

What will your story be? Contact the Weidner Property Management and Real Estate Program advisor today at tjfields@alaska.edu to learn more.
Mr. Weidner -

Thank you for your generous support of the Property Management and Real Estate program at UAA. You have made an impact on the program in so many ways. From scholarships and creating an ideal learning environment, to just being the type of community citizen our students admire. I am honored to contribute in a small way to the legacy you have created!
A LIFE IS NOT IMPORTANT EXCEPT FOR THE IMPACT IT HAS ON OTHER LIVES.

JACKIE ROBINSON