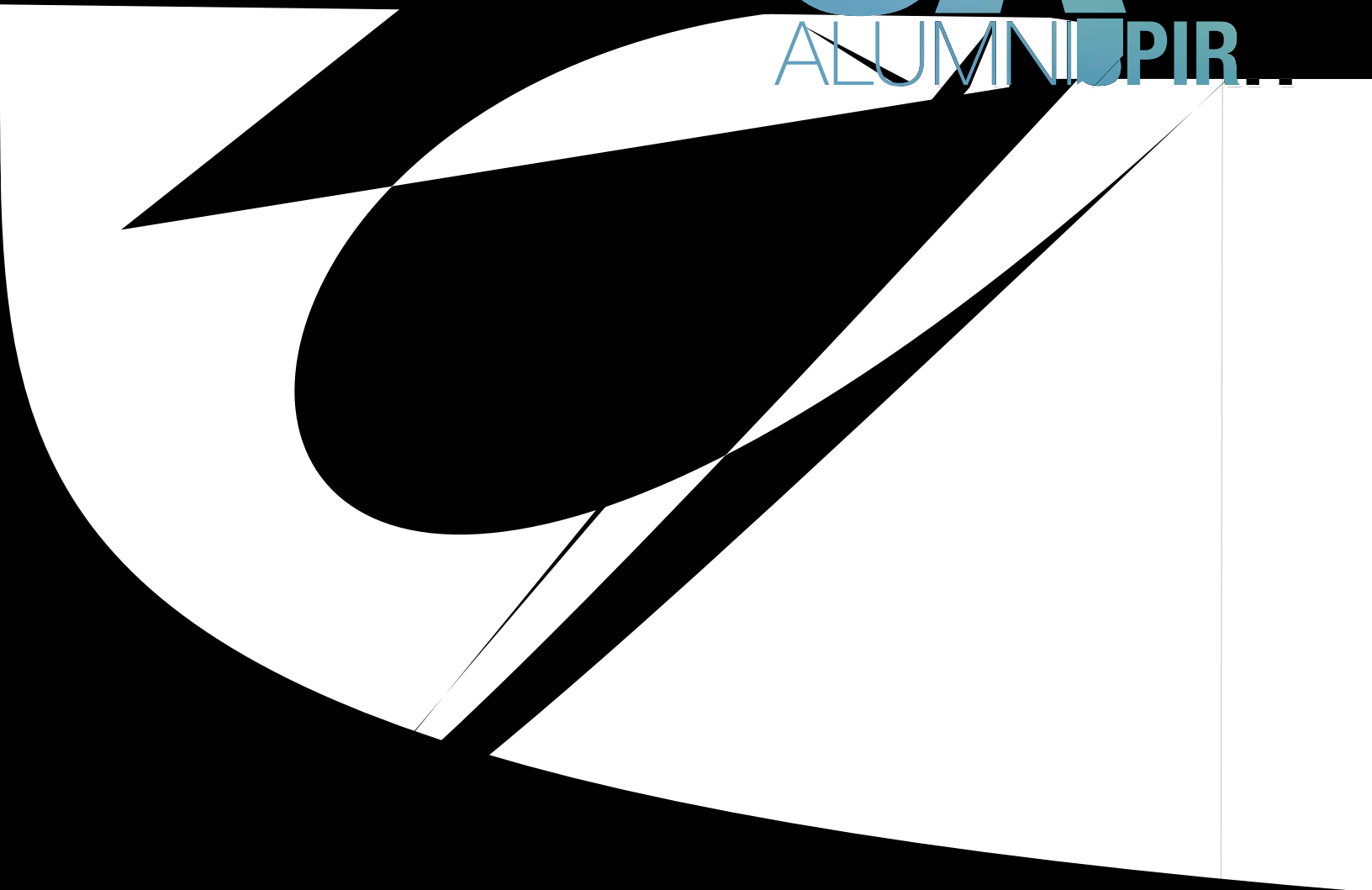
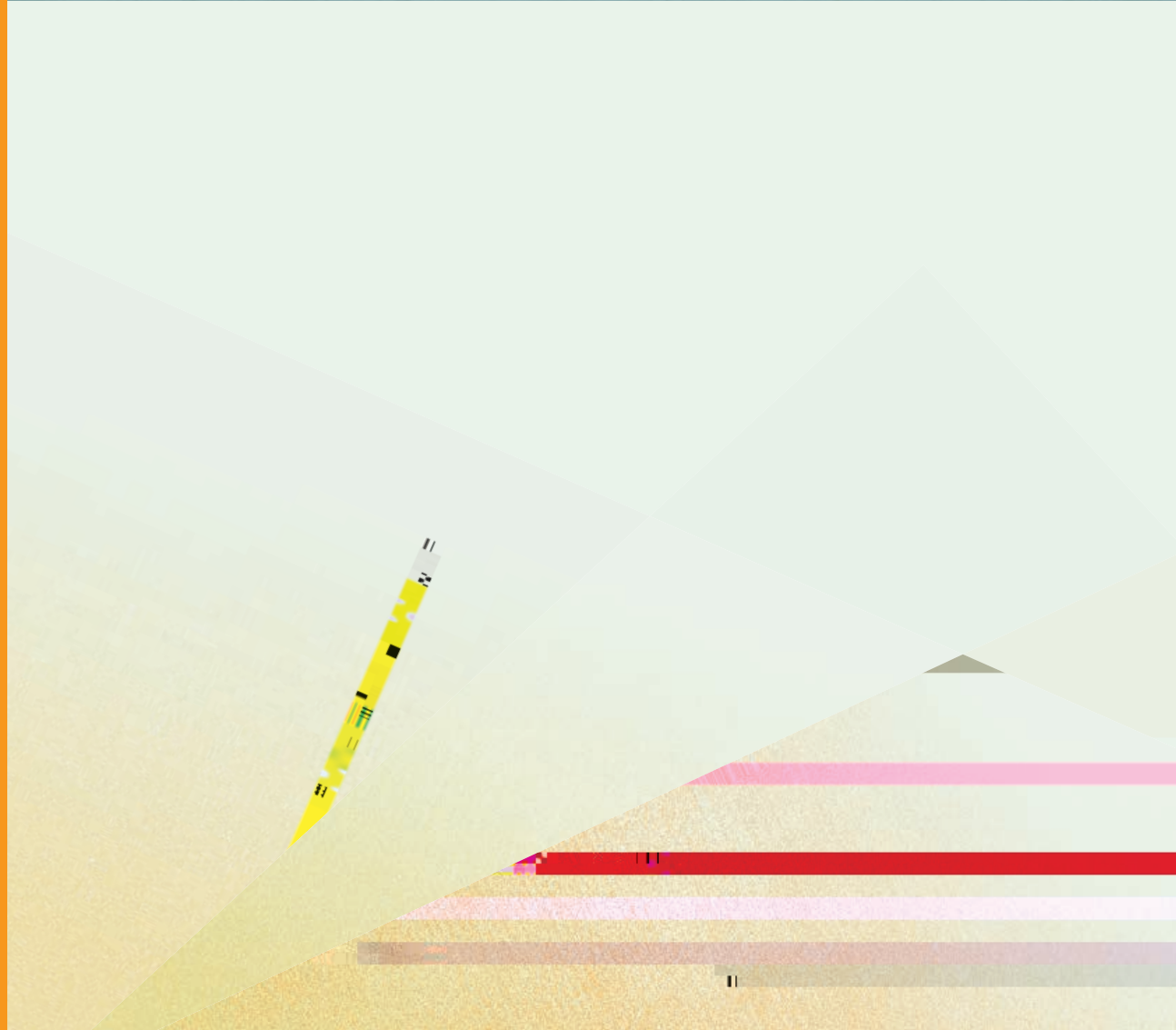


UA  
ALUMNIPIR







# into action

Harmony isn't a word typically associated with 7.1 magnitude earthquakes. And yet, after the ground briefly tried to tear itself apart the morning of Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, Seawolves immediately responded from near and far to work together to pick up the pieces.

"Faced with one of the largest earthquakes in U.S. history, our UAA family proved what they are made of," said Chancellor Cathy Sandeen. "We reopened campus in five days and our students completed their fall studies. Students scheduled to graduate did so on time. Management and facilities teams restored and reopened 70 buildings in less than a week. It's a testament to the commitment of UAA and a wonderful example of Alaska spirit. It makes me proud to be here."

## INCIDENT MANAGED

While most of the UAA community received a surprise five-day weekend after the earthquake, Facilities and Campus Services (FCS) sustained detriment of last-minute crammers. In order to stick to the tight timetable, Buchholdt and his internal team of staff and external network of contractors worked through the weekend, early mornings and late nights to clean up, assess and repair each building on campus.

"What was inspiring wasn't so much a system or process, but the dedication of the staff that showed up for the cleanup," said Buchholdt. "And the contractors, they knew the campus and culture enough to be very integral, an extension of the in-house team. In many ways, the reason we were able to open that Wednesday was because of not only the dedicated staff, but also the dedicated contractors that had experience with us."

## ALUMNI ASSEMBLE

Of all the contractors who offered their services to UAA, Mike Fierro, B.S. '89, M.S. '01, a senior structural engineer at Reid Middleton, is the most familiar with campus. In addition to his alumni status, Fierro is the designer behind the UAA/APU Consortium Library and ANSEP, Health Sciences, and Engineering and Industry Buildings.

Fierro returned to UAA immediately following the earthquake to help FCS staff conduct rapid screenings of each building, quickly searching for damage and assigning a green, yellow or red tag. Afterward, Fierro designed repairs for the damages he found. Although he describes this as an almost Sisyphean

task, as originally unnoticed damages would be discovered or new ones would be created during aftershocks, Fierro was pleased to see how the buildings held up.

"The university buildings range from being built in the '70s to the last few years, and overall they performed pretty well. The newer ones performed outstanding, but I'm biased," joked Fierro.

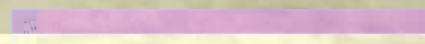
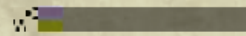
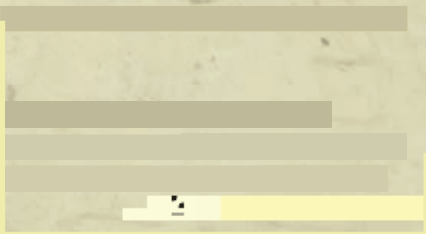
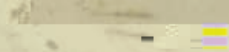
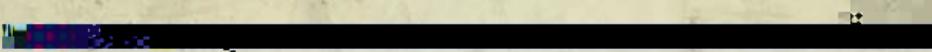
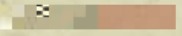
On campus, the alumni response was just as strong. Just an hour and a half after the earthquake, Department of Transportation project engineers Mahear Abou Eid, B.S. '09, M.S. '17, and Randy Lenig, B.S. '15, stood above the northbound Minnesota Drive exit ramp looking over the scene of the now-iconic photo depicting a miraculously undamaged GMC Terrain (pun not intended) marooned on the collapsed ramp.

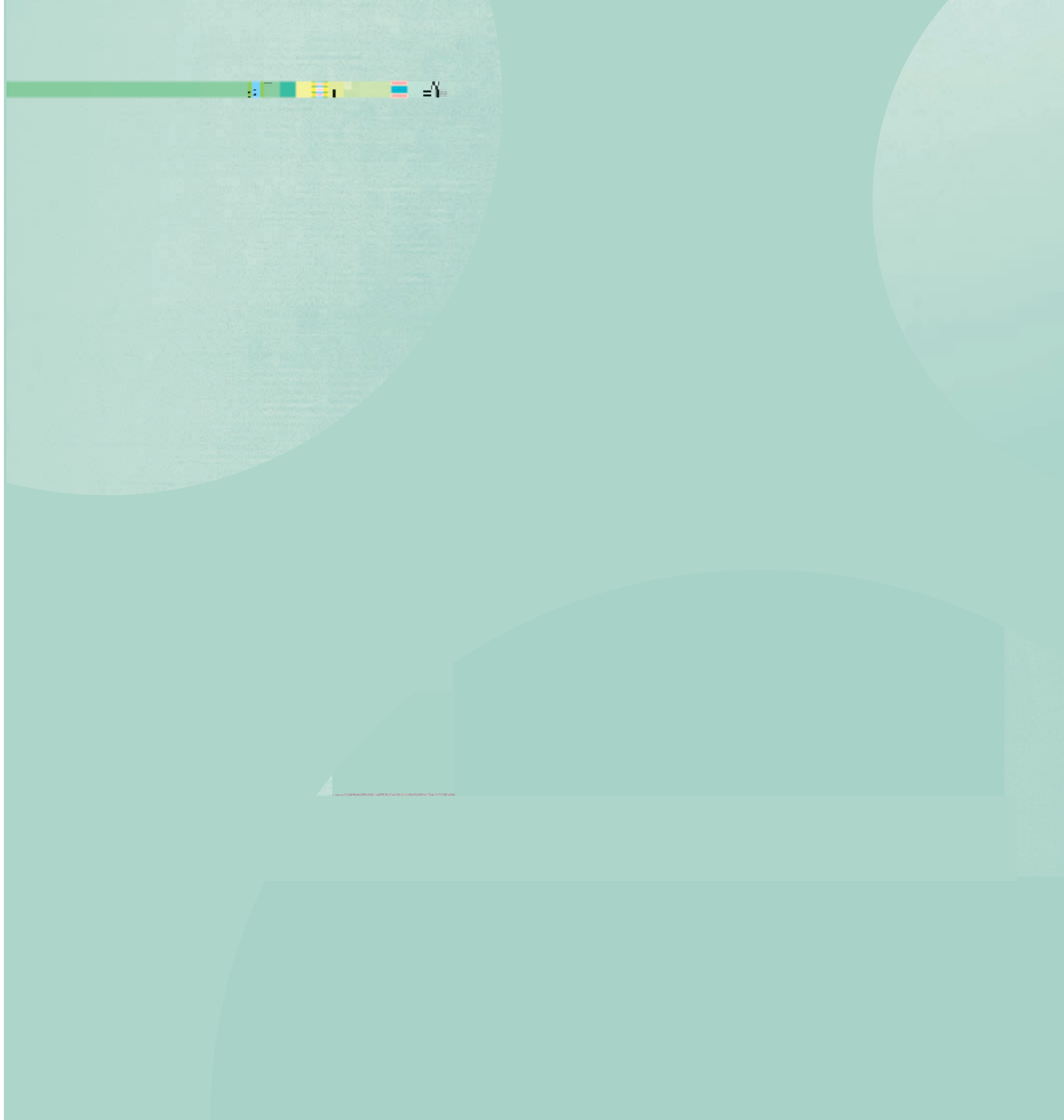
Equally as iconic as the photo is the remarkably short time it took to rebuild the ramp, which Lenig estimates took three days and 4,600 tons of materials. Abou Eid credits the expedient reconstruction to the whole community of engineers and contractors coming together, not to mention uncharacteristically cooperative weather.

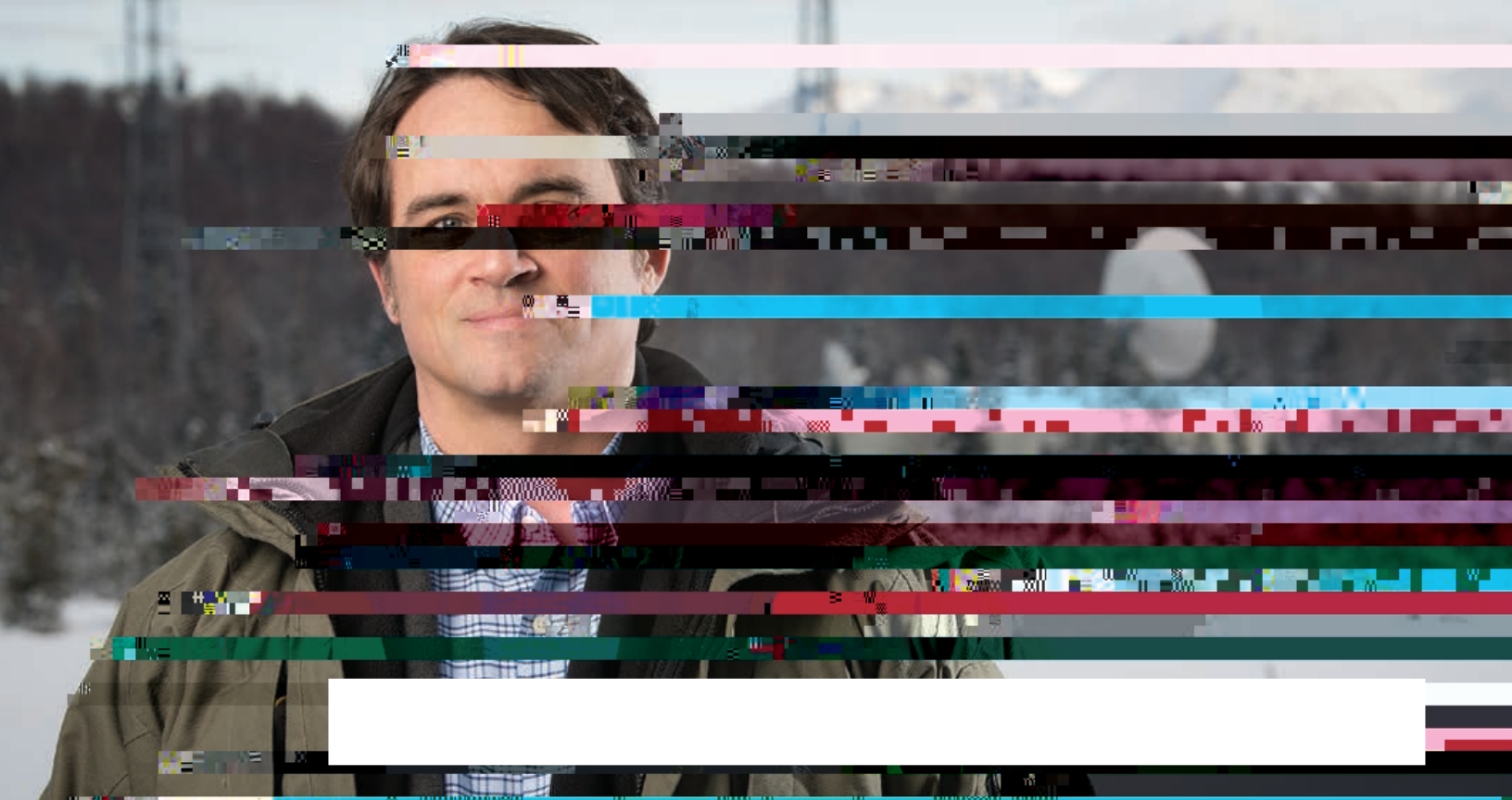
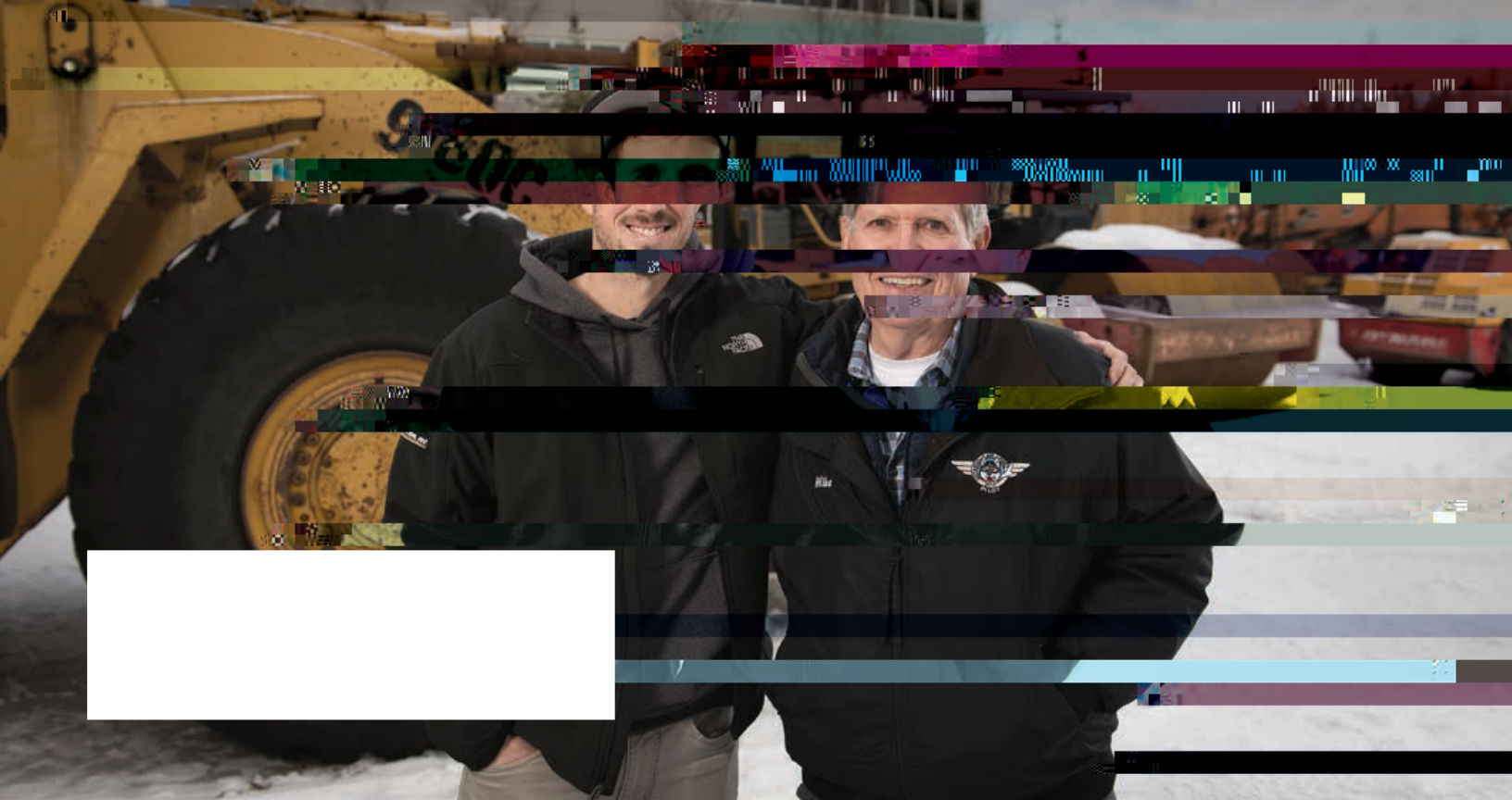
"The Anchorage community really came alive. It was impressive what the community, DOT and the contractors were able to pull together," said Abou Eid. "It was just a really well-coordinated effort, and it was the perfect situation as far as weather. If there was snow on the ground, that would've caused a huge pain in trying to figure out what was broken and how to move things."

## SOLID DATA

Talk to enough people who were on the front lines of the earthquake









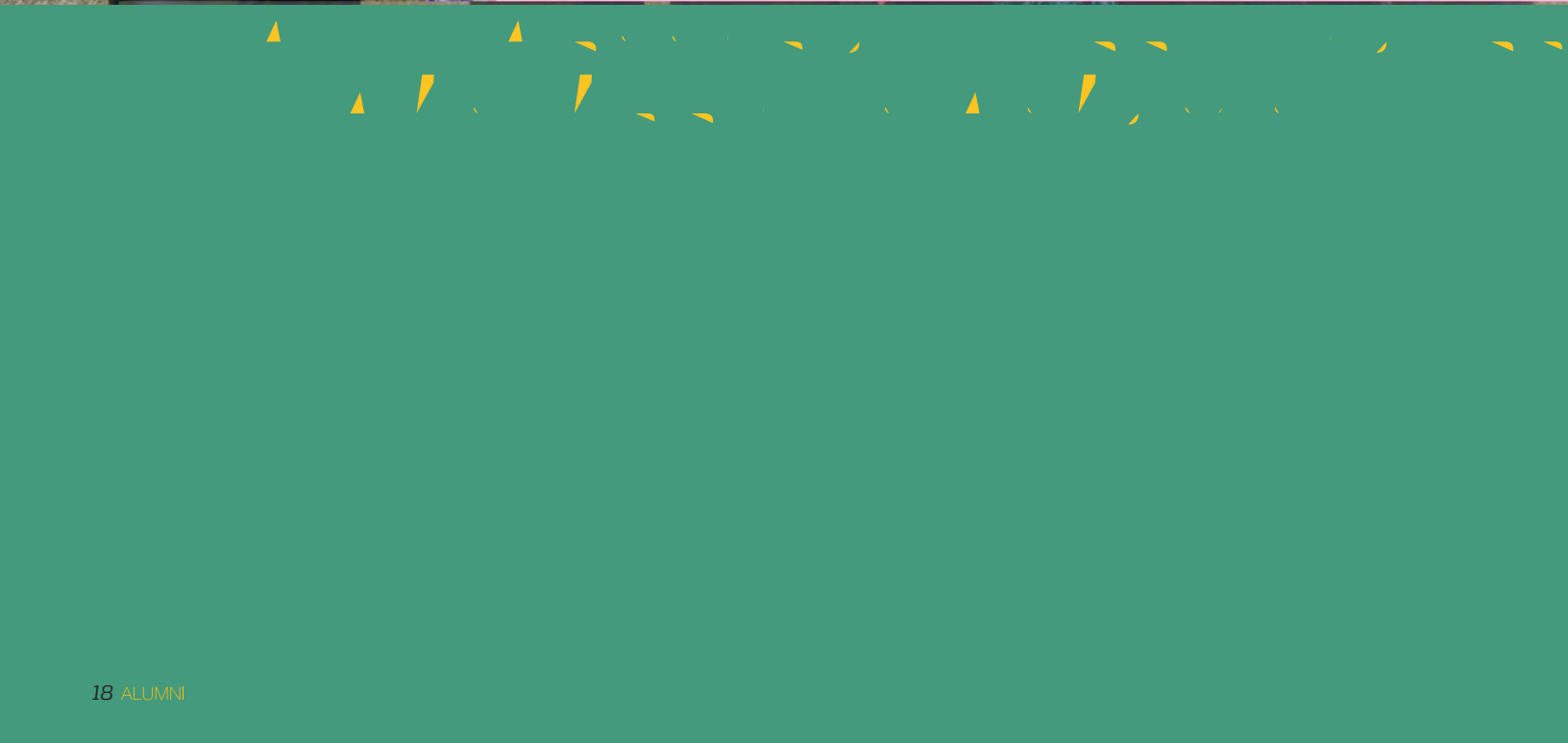






Chancellor Sandeen with ANSEP faculty and staff at a gathering on Nov. 17, 2018, for 100 STEM students ranging from 6th grade to Ph.D. level. (L-R: Matt Calhoun, Audrey Alstrom, Cathy Sandeen, Yosty Storms, Thecla Ulroan and Michael Bourdukofsky)

For more information, visit [uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor](http://uaa.alaska.edu/chancellor).



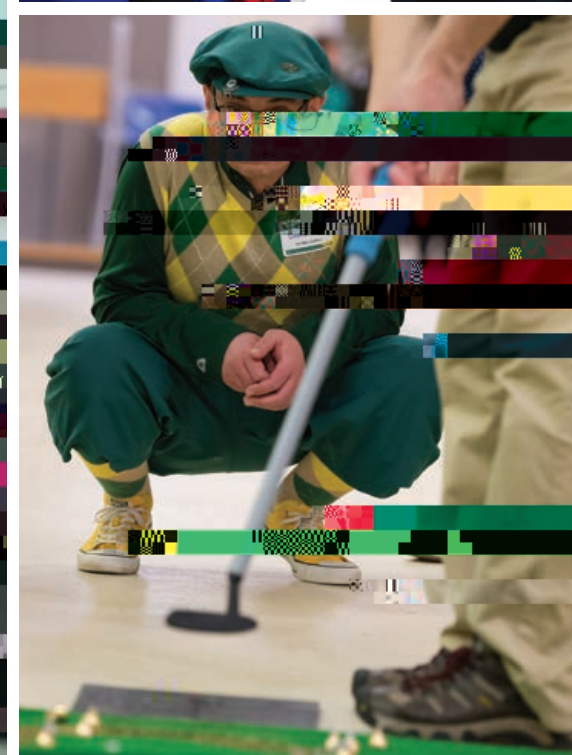
and will continue to ensure students have a path to licensure either a or through accredited programs through UAF or UAS.

For more information, visit the of Education website at [uaa.alaska.edu/soed](http://uaa.alaska.edu/soed).





**PAGE 22:** Kelcie Ralph, B.A. '09, presenting "Childhood Car Access: Long-term Consequences for Education, Employment and Earnings." CBPP adjunct professor John Duffy, B.A. '79, receives an honorary doctorate from the National University of Mongolia on Feb. 28. Joe Howell, A.A.S. '15, B.B.A. '16, planning his next shot during the annual Alumni ParTee: Nine in the Spine event at UAA.



**PAGE 23:** Pick.Click.Give. program manager for The Alaska Community Foundation and scuba instructor of eight years Jessie Lavoie, M.P.A. '15, giving lessons in Whittier. Former track and field student-athlete David Registe, B.S. '12, is the director of programs at The Dome in Anchorage.



# ALUMNI LIFE

Have pics of your life after UAA? Send them to [seawolf.forever@alaska.edu](mailto:seawolf.forever@alaska.edu).



## ALUMNI NEWS BRIEFS

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

UAA director of alumni engagement Tina Teaford, UAA Alumni Association board member Crystal Enkvist, B.A. '93, M.P.A. '13, and Emily Edenshaw, B.A. '12, joined alumni from UAF and UAS in Juneau for the annual Legislative Fly-in. Over the first week of February, they met with state officials and participated in legislative meetings to advocate on behalf of the UA system.

### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

The UAA Department of Music is winding down for the semester with a series of performances featuring students, faculty and alumni. Events include Jazz Week Benefit Concert, Sinfonia, Guitar Ensemble and pianist Blair McMillen in concert. Calendar and ticket

### 4



During a Women's Entrepreneurship Week celebration event on Oct. 16 at UAA, lead analyst for the Center for Economic Development Richelle Johnson, B.A. '15, reported that 26 percent of all employer firms in Alaska are owned by women, which is the highest in the U.S. The majority of those businesses are less than five years old. Johnson said that research shows that women-owned businesses like its ability to strengthen cognitive function, can lessen the negative effects of high altitude, such as tachycardia and tachypnea.

### AAAA



The UAA Alumni Association is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members. Journalism and public communications alumna Cassidy Davis, B.A. '10, currently oversees brand communications for Conrac Solutions in Seattle. She also serves as scholarship chair for the Public Relations Society of America Puget Sound Chapter. Aviation technology alumnus Mark Skolnick, B.S. '01, is a first officer with Alaska Airlines-Virgin America, and practices law in Anchorage. Previously, he was a flight instructor and adjunct professor at UAA for nearly eight years, and graduated from UCLA School of Law in 2007.

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In October 2018, middle school teacher Danielle Riha, B.Ed. '01 was named 2019 Alaska Teacher of the Year. Three months later in January, Riha was announced as one of four finalists for 2019 National Teacher of the Year. This spring, Riha will travel to Washington, D.C. with her fellow finalists to participate in the national competition. Riha teaches at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School and has been with the school since its founding in 2007.



