



North Word

A Publication of Alaska Bible College

Summer 2011

Sixteen graduates honored in Class of 2011

by Prof. Gary Willford

College graduation is always a special time, and this is no different for Alaska Bible College. Sixteen men and women crossed the stage this May to receive degrees and certificates, culminating many months and years of hard work.

On Friday, May 13, soon-to-be graduates and their families along with faculty, staff, students and ABC board members, gathered together in the Murdock Campus Center for our annual graduation banquet. This was a great time for the ABC family to be together – enjoying a fabulous meal, listening to outstanding special music (presented by ABC students), and viewing an enjoyable and memorable slide show that featured the 2011 graduates. This evening also gave the ABC family an opportunity to meet the families and friends of the graduates and to hear some interesting “graduate” tidbits that one does not normally hear in the course of the school year. We all enjoyed our time together, and we rejoice in the

relationships made possible because of the Lord Jesus.

Alaska Bible College celebrated her 41st Commencement on Saturday, May 14, awarding seven B.A. degrees, four A.A. degrees, three two-year Bible & Ministry Certificates, and two one-year Bible Certificates. On this day we honored the culmination of years of study, persistence, and the abundance of God’s grace in the life of each graduate. We rejoice in our Father’s faithfulness to the ABC family, especially to these sixteen graduates.

But Commencement isn’t the end! This is also the beginning of a new chapter in the life of each individual as he or she continues to “explore God’s Word and follow

Jesus’ steps.” These graduates are a great group, and we know that God has special plans for each of them. One of our B.A. graduates serves as local pastor. Two other B.A. grads are planning to serve Jesus on the foreign field; one heading to Cameroon with his wife and six-month-old daughter, and the other focusing on an orphanage ministry in Kenya. Several others will be involved in Christian camps this summer. Other blessings coming



Please see *Graduates* on Page 6

Meet the newest ABC alumni

DANA HELMER

Bible & Ministry Certificate

“Ever since I was little I wanted to go to Alaska Bible College,” Dana, who grew up in Eagle, Alaska, said.

During her time at ABC, Dana learned how vital personal Bible study is to promote growth in her Christian life.

She will return to Eagle for a year before marrying Josh Heffner. She would like to be involved in children’s ministry in the future.



JOSH HEFFNER

Bachelor of Arts Degree

After hearing about ABC from friends and former ABC students, this Pennsylvanian was intrigued at the prospect of attending college in rural Alaska.

“This all came at the perfect time in my life, and I could easily see God orchestrating things so that I would come,” Josh said. As he leaves ABC he said, “I take with me a great preparedness in skill and education that I will apply to my life and ministry.”

Josh is now in Palmer, Alaska, where he is the youth pastor at Palmer Church of God. He looks forward to being joined by his fiancée, Dana Helmer.



KARIANN MUDD

*Bachelor of Arts Degree
Cum Laude*

Kariann served as a Resident Assistant in the girls’ dorm as well as on the worship team, among her many areas of Christian ministry for the past four years. She said she was drawn to ABC’s remote location,

family-like atmosphere, and the missionary faculty and staff.

“I will take with me from ABC a mind and heart that has been opened up to the wonderful truth of the Bible in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. I learned how to study — observe, interpret, apply — the Scripture for myself and, through this study as well as the personal example of the faculty/staff, I gained an even deeper love for the Word of God.

“I came to Alaska Bible College a 19-year-old girl with a hunger and excitement for more [Bible knowledge]. I left Alaska Bible College a woman who has a deepened and enriched knowledge and understanding of biblical truth for my whole existence as a believer. What I have learned here will forever stay with me, increasing the authenticity of my life in imitation of Christ, the depth and passion of my faith, and the effectiveness and potency of my ministry.”

Kariann has returned home to her parents’ ranch in Oregon for the summer to seek God’s direction for her future. She looks forward to a life in ministry and is committed to bringing God the fullest glory that possible.

“ABC offered just the direction of study I was looking for: Scripturally rock-solid, academically deep and challenging training in Biblical Studies/Christian Ministry with a Missions Emphasis.”

JONATHAN FLAMM

Bachelor of Arts Degree



TOM JOHNSON

Bachelor of Arts Degree



LEN RICHISON

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Len completed his degree in pastoral studies while pastoring Kenny Lake Community Chapel, a 45 mile drive from ABC.

He said the philosophy classes were especially helpful in learning to identify worldview issues confronting the church today.

“It was good to be challenged to use some different glasses to look at the church and the world in which we live,” Len said.

“I thoroughly enjoy working with and ministering to the people in Kenny Lake and Chitina,” Len said.

JASON PIDCOCK

Bachelor of Arts Degree

When longtime Alaska missionary Dwayne King recommended ABC, Jason looked into it and knew it was where the Lord was leading him.

After four years at ABC, Jason said the most important thing he has learned is that a relationship with God is a life-long commitment, not a four-year or two-year commitment that ends after obtaining a degree or certificate.

He and Megan Carlton will marry this Fall and then join the ABC staff full-time in Admissions.



MEGAN JO CARLTON

Associate of Arts Degree

Megan followed her brother, Ben, also an ABC alumnus, to Alaska from Michigan. Along with working for the Department of Transportation and Copper Center Lodge this summer, she is also planning her October 1, 2011, wedding to Jason Pidcock. Megan said she and

Jason look forward to getting involved in ministry with a local church as well as helping ABC with recruiting efforts in Anchorage and Palmer.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Barnabas Award

Chad Bradley

Beckie Joy Music Scholarship

Adelina Grosshans

Christian Ministry Award

Chad Bradley & Mikey Langlois

Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society

Kariann Mudd

Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Honorary

Charles Leslie, B.A. 1987

PEP Scholarship

Josh Heffner

Phil A. Wall Memorial Scholarship

Adelina Grosshans & Mikey Langlois

Ministry Award

Bob Steiger

Vincent Joy Scholarship

Eric Major



ROBERT STEIGER

Bachelor of Arts Degree

In between caring for his first child and bagging a bear on a recent hunting trip, Bob managed to work in a four-year degree. He and his wife Sarah and daughter Addison plan to return to Africa as full-time missionaries.



TRICIA MOLINI

Associate of Arts Degree

Tricia's journey to ABC should be told in her own words:

"For a while I had felt God was calling me to go to Bible college and I kept resisting because I thought that I wasn't a good enough Christian. I started to look around just to see what was out there, and came across the ABC website. I started looking into the college, because I thought it would be an amazing experience to see Alaska. Over the next couple of weeks ABC kept popping into my head, so I decided to apply and see what happened. I think I made a pretty good choice.

"One of the most important things I will take with me as I leave ABC is a better understanding of God's grace. It took me five years to finish my degree, and God is the One who got me through it. I will also treasure the friendships I made here."

This summer Tricia is working at a Christian camp in California before taking a job in Antarctica in the fall.



MARK PEIFER

Associate of Arts Degree

Mark was introduced to Alaska Bible College by his pastor, who happened to be the brother of former ABC president Steve Hostetter. He said he was attracted to ABC because of its location in rural Alaska.

He says the most important thing ABC taught him is how to study the Bible. "PIBS [Principles of Inductive Bible Study] and PBI [Principles of Biblical Interpretation] were amazing classes," Mark said.

This summer Mark is a counselor at Victory Bible Camp, 90 miles from Glennallen.



AMY HELKENN

Bible Certificate

Amy chose to attend ABC because it was affordable and close to her home in Kenny Lake, Alaska.

“One of the most important things I will take with me coming out of ABC is simply

the layer of strong, foundational Bible,” Amy said. She will head to Barclay College in Haviland, Kan., this fall to major in family and youth psychology.

MARLENA MAXWELL

Bible Certificate

Marlena completed her certificate while caring for her growing family. Her husband, Jacob, is an ABC graduate, and the two live with their daughter and son in Glennallen.



CHAD BRADLEY

Bible & Ministry Certificate

Chad left Texas to come to Alaska Bible College based on the professors and the school’s absolute dedication to the Word of God. He also appreciated the school’s remote location and low cost.

“I will take with me skills in reading and understanding the Word and also a fuller understanding of what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus,” Chad said.

He will work for a year in Texas before continuing his education in the Th.M. program at Dallas Theological Seminary.

ELIZABETH ENGLISH

Associate of Arts Degree



ABBEY ROGERS

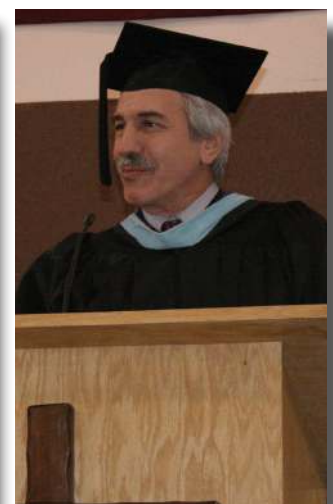
Bible & Ministry Certificate



A giant THANK YOU goes to the graduation committee: Nikki Palmer, Gary Willford, Laura Habecker and Linda Flamm headed up the organization of the graduation festivities including the banquet Friday night for the graduates and their families, and the commencement and reception on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who helped with setup, cleanup, and everything in between!



Pam Givens serves cake during the graduation reception.



Above: Vaughn Hammond (left) and Prof. Hal Givens (right) address the graduates.



Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

— Colossians 3:17



Counterclockwise, beginning above: Kariann Mudd and Bob Steiger reflect on their years at ABC during the commencement ceremony; Prof. Gary Willford congratulates Elizabeth English; Len Richison and Bob Steiger; Jonathan Flamm and his mentor Harley Bowerman enjoy the festivities while Mark Peifer and Dana Helmer look on in the receiving line; Ginny Helkenn visits with Megan Carlton and Jason Pidcock.



from this Class of 2011 are the announcements of two weddings. All four were in the Marriage and Family Class that I taught in the fall of 2010, and it was exciting to watch these relationships develop.

Personally, I will greatly miss these graduates. The beginning of each school year is an exciting time as we meet the new students whom God brings to ABC. These students that God entrusts to us are diamonds in the rough (often “stubborn, irascible, and recalcitrant” – my terms of affection!), and sometimes it is no easy matter to teach and encourage these unique individuals. However, our Father abounds in grace, for faculty and students alike, and He brings us through. As each one walks across the platform, there is great joy in my heart, and I praise Him for allowing our paths to cross and for all that He has done, teaching and molding us to “deny self, take up our cross and follow Jesus.” I am praying for these men and women and am looking forward to reading the new chapter(s) that our Lord Jesus is writing in their lives. To Him be glory now and forevermore.

Correction

In the last issue of NorthWord, we congratulated Anne Bennett on her marriage but included the incorrect last name. She married Noah Miller. Congratulations, Anne and Noah! It was great to see you at graduation.

Alaska Bible College admits qualified students of any race, sex, color, and ethnic origin.

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Travis ('99) & Shari Dickinson are moving to Texas, where Travis will be an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Christian Apologetics at The College at Southwestern (the undergraduate Great Books program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary).

“Since ABC, I taught high school in the Denver area,” Travis said. “I went to Biola University for an MA in Apologetics and then stayed on for an MA in philosophy. After this, I was accepted into the philosophy program at the University of Iowa and will be defending my dissertation in June!”

Travis and Shari have three daughters: Kaelia (5), Delaney (3) and Emery (almost 1). Besides being a stay-at-home mom, Shari serves on the board of the women’s ministry at their church and together they led the graduate student fellowship this last year.

“All of this is a testament to the goodness of God,” Travis said. “I’m not sure we could have done five years of grad school, working three jobs, with young children without his supply. Words cannot express how blown away we have been by God’s continual and rich providence every step of the way on this journey.”

After graduating from ABC, **Jim and Pam Eaches ('07)** joined Village Missions. “This took us out of the state to serve in (the socialist republic of) California,” Jim said. “The Lord brought us back this January to serve as pastor of Copper Center Community Chapel.”

Currently they are in the middle of a building project with the new church building going up this summer.

The Eaches have seven children from 4 to 18 years old. Two of their kids, Joshua and Hannah, plan on

attending ABC this fall.

Patti Chandler ('87) graduated in 2010 with an MA in Theology from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minn. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul.

Welcome to the ABC Family



Jeff Ringger is the new Food Service Manager. He and his wife, Anne, together provide delicious

homemade meals in the cache. The Ringgers have two young children.



Michael White has joined the maintenance department. His expertise in mechanics will be especially helpful in keeping

ABC vehicles running smoothly.

Michael came to ABC last year as a student and will continue to take classes part-time while on staff.

Please keep in touch

We would like to keep in contact with our alumni. Please send your e-mail address and news to meastty@akbible.edu so we can add you to our upcoming alumni e-letter! If you’d like to spread the word about ABC and want brochures to hand out, please let us know. We invite you to join us on Facebook and keep in touch!

ABC, KCAM together further local ministry

Through a series of events that only God could orchestrate, Alaska Bible College has partnered with KCAM to expand ministry opportunities for its students and help spread the gospel.

Forty-six years ago, KCAM was begun by Vince Joy, who also founded ABC. After KCAM was released from its status as a subsidiary of SEND North to pursue independence as a local station, Station Manager Scott Yahr asked the Alaska Bible College Board to consider overseeing the ministry.

ABC Board Chairman Vaughn Hammond said he sees great potential in a relationship between the two organizations.

“ABC will benefit with a potential increase in different ministry opportunities as well as different types of courses focusing on media ministry,” Hammond said. “I also see ABC being involved with the ministry of KCAM by helping to spread God’s Word over the radio waves.”

KCAM currently is staffed by President and Station Manager Scott Yahr and Program Director Michelle Easty, both of whom are on staff at ABC. Corey Emery and Roger Bovee are engineers who keep the computers and equipment running.

During the Spring 2011 semester, KCAM benefited from the work of four students who learned to operate the board during hockey and basketball games, announce news and weather reports, and produce various audio materials. These students received credit for their mandatory Christian Ministry Training.

This fall ABC plans to offer an Introduction to Broadcasting class as an elective, with plenty of hands-on training in the high-tech KCAM studios.

“We look forward to providing another area of ministry that students can choose from,” Yahr said.

Students will learn the essentials of broadcasting, from announcing news, to hosting music to producing audio,



photo by Adelina Grosshans

Students Jason Pidcock and Jeremy Mudd prepare a newscast in “Studio Green”.

and see how broadcasting can be used as an outreach to the entire community.

“Broadcasting in the Copper River Valley is a rewarding ministry as we hear from people whose lives have been changed through the programs they hear on KCAM,” Yahr said.

Also coming this year is KCAM’s much-anticipated FM station, which will feature an all-music format, providing even more airtime in which to connect with the local audience. Please be in prayer for the radio station staff, student volunteers, and ABC board members as they continue to reach out in a unique way to evangelize the lost.

The station is on the radio dial at AM 790, and streams online at kcam.org.



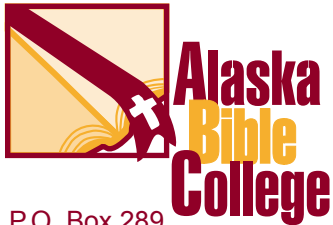
photo by Scott Yahr

The Palmer extension of ABC is the former Matanuska Christian School building, at 248 East Elmwood Avenue in Palmer, Alaska.

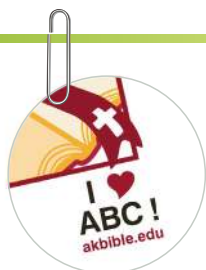
Palmer campus opens this fall

Alaska Bible College is opening its doors on the new campus in Palmer, Alaska. Since purchasing the Palmer facility in January, ABC leadership has been praying that God would provide everything necessary for holding classes there this fall. Approvals were required from ABHE (our accrediting agency), the State of Alaska, and the City of Palmer before proceeding. Everything was approved by the end of July, and ABC received a substantial financial gift that was enough to pay off the balance of the Palmer property. Now we are awaiting God’s provision in the area of enrollment. Please pray with us for the students that He will bring to ABC.

Harley Bowerman is moving to the Palmer area to develop the Christian Ministry Training program there, and will teach courses and assist President Nick Ringger. Bob Bates, Joe Greesson, and Mr. Ringger, along with adjunct faculty, will be teaching in Palmer this fall.



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Fall Semester 2011

August	17-21	Orientation for new students
	20	Dorms open for returning students
	22	Classes begin
September	6-8	Spiritual Life Focus Week
	25-25	College Days
October	17-18	Fall Break
November	24-25	Thanksgiving recess
December	1	Classes End
	5-8	Final Exam week
	9	Semester ends

ALASKA BIBLE COLLEGE ABOUT ADMISSIONS ACADEMICS COSTS STUDENT LIFE PARTNER

CURRENT STUDENTS ALUMNI PROSPECTIVE FACULTY/STAFF PARENTS FRIENDS & CHURCHES PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Explore His Word...
EQUIPPING MEN AND WOMEN FOR OVER 46 YEARS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD AS LEADERS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND MISSIONS.

FOLLOW HIS STEPS

ANCHORAGE EXTENSION

akbible.edu

Check out our newly redesigned website and exciting ABC video! Everything you need to know about life and academics at Alaska Bible College is online.