UAF honors outstanding graduates

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FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska Fairbanks has given special honors to three top graduating seniors.

Awards were given to Ashley Strauch, Raymond “Ramy” Brooks and Troy Bouffard at the annual student awards breakfast on Saturday. The UAF commencement ceremony is at May 11 at the Carlson Center.

Strauch, who will receive a bachelor’s degree in psychology, is the winner of the 2014 Marion Frances Boswell Memorial Award, given for outstanding graduating senior woman. She has focused on public health and health psychology during her college career, including research focused on improving the quality of life for Alaska Native cancer survivors and their caregivers.

Strauch is also this year’s student commencement speaker.

Brooks is the recipient of the 2014 Gray S. Tilly Memorial Award, given to an outstanding graduating nontraditional student. After one semester at Western State University in Colorado, Brooks joined the Navy and spent about 15 years as a competitive dog musher. He returned to school in 2008 to start work on a degree in geological engineering.

Bouffard is recipient of the 2014 Joel Wiegert Award, given to the outstanding graduating senior man. The retired Army master sergeant received his bachelor’s degree in political science in December, enrolling at UAF in spring 2011 while working as an aide in the Alaska Legislature. He works today as a research assistant for the UAF Arctic Domain Security Orientation.

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