

## SUZANNE LINFORD

Linford's Loyalty Shines Celebrity Spotlight on UAA's Culinary Arts

Loyalty, dedication and commitment are all marks of a life-long friend of UAA, Suzanne (Sue) Linford. This September marked Linford's 24th year supporting UAA's Culinary Arts, Hospitality & Restaurant Management program and volunteering at the Celebrity Chef Invitational, UAA's signature, black-tie event to support culinary student scholarships and maintenance of state-of-the-art learning facilities.

Linford owns Linford of Alaska Inc., a local wholesale food distribution company that has been serving Alaska since 1973. Each year, Linford sponsors a table for her employees to enjoy the Celebrity Chef Invitational while she volunteers in the kitchen, cooking and plating dishes for guests alongside celebrity and local chefs, culinary students and community volunteers. She even has a chef's jacket embroidered with each year of her involvement to prove it.

One year, Linford was asked to take over the cooking, which required deep frying. She smiled with a slight cringe, recalling, "Oh, I smelled like oil!" But she admitted she missed being in the kitchen this year. "When I'm in the kitchen I don't have to dress up. I just put on chef clothes."

Linford's first gift to Culinary Arts was in 1992. Why? "Because I was asked," she plainly stated.

Linford explained why she continues dedicating her time to the event and investing in the program: "I like a challenge. I sell food. I don't cook. To see what's possible and how to do it is a good learning experience." Giving back at the local level is also important to Linford—local business, local talent, local students.

Next fall marks the 25th Celebrity Chef Invitational, and if we're lucky, Linford's 25th year as a friend and loyal UAA donor.

Read more about Sue Linford's contributions to UAA at [ppor.uaa.org](http://ppor.uaa.org)

By Kelly Donnelly, Development Officer

Usibelli moved to Fairbanks for high school, then earned a civil engineering degree at UA in 1959. Five years later, he and his young family were driving home to Alaska from products



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