DANSRD

Winter 2010–2011

Rural Development NEWS

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development

UAF
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

DANSRD Offers Students More

Miranda Wright accepts the charge as Director for the newly merged Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development

Welcome and Greetings with hope that your New Year is filled with excitement, adventure and great accomplishments. The recent merger of the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development (RD) with the Department of Alaska Native Studies (ANS) offers new opportunities for you to build an exciting program of study. The bachelor's degree for ANS has been expanded and is now being made available by distance delivery to place-committed students throughout the state. Further, the program is undergoing a major review and its curriculum is being revitalized to take advantage of the combined strengths of ANS and RD. It will soon be possible for ANS majors to declare a concentration area in the same way that concentration areas are utilized as minors by RD students. The three ANS concentrations presently being proposed are Alaska Native Languages and Art, Alaska Native Education, and Alaska Native Law, Politics, and Government. With these changes, it will also be possible for students to choose to major either in Rural Development or in Alaska Native Studies and to minor in the other. While we are engaged in re-building the ANS program, we continue to offer BA and MA degrees in Rural Development both by distance delivery and on the Fairbanks Campus. Take a few moments to read the newsletter and learn of the wonderful accomplishments of our students, staff, and faculty.

—Miranda Wright, Director

Ralph Gabrielli, Academic Program Head, leads the department's efforts in revising the Alaska Native Studies BA degree for distance delivery

Synergy occurs when the combining of things produces an effect that is greater than the sum of those things taken individually. Almost a year ago, the Rural Development and Alaska Native Studies programs were joined. The purpose was to bring about an academic synergy that would strengthen both programs and benefit all students. From the beginning, it was a natural fit: Rural Development is an applied program that focuses on building leadership capacity, and the Alaska Native Studies program focuses on language, culture, and history from an academic and theoretical point of view. Both programs respect tradition and both embrace change. The members of our merged Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development are enthusiastic about this work and believe that synergy has been achieved. But synergy, achieved or not, is only valuable when it provides benefit to someone, to people, to students. I hope most sincerely that you will find this work useful to you as you pursue your goals.

—Ralph Gabrielli

RD Students Attend Global Climate Change Conference

THE ALASKAN ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT is a litmus test for climate change and 14 Rural Development students had the opportunity to share the Alaskan experience with the international community addressing climate change legislation at a global level. The world convened for two weeks, December 7–18, 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties 15 (COP15) and was attended by 120 heads of state, 10,000+ delegates and 13,000+ observers.

Mike Davis, RD faculty, and Joli Morgan, KUC Professor Emeritus, developed the Rural Development Leadership Seminar COP15 course with the support and partnerships of the National Science Foundation—Office of Polar Programs and the Arctic Athabaskan Council of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. Anna Kerttula of the NSF-OPP, was a guest lecturer to the class in preparation for the trip; students found her insight inspiring and informative about how climate change impact can be different by gender. She framed the concern of women and indigenous peoples' voice in the process of legislating climate change policy. Cindy Dickson, Executive Director, and Colleen Henry, Project Coordinator, of the Arctic Athabaskan Council offered to nominate the RD class participants as official delegates of their NGO (non-governmental organization) which allowed the group unparalleled, full access to the COP15 venue in Copenhagen. The AAC also invited the class to assist with their side event at the World Wildlife Federation tent where they presented on the climate change impact on caribou populations and fresh water resources that are vital to their culture and subsistence way of life. The AAC has been active in the UN Indigenous Peoples Caucus which focuses on the human rights approach to climate change. For more information about AAC's important work see their website at www.ArcticAthabaskanCouncil.com.

Background information on climate change science and legislative efforts was provided prior to the trip by key guest lecturers. U.S Senators Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski each spent a session with the class to share their insight on U.S. policy development on climate change and their own thoughts about where we go from here as a key member of the UN community. Dr. Terry Chapin, a leading researcher in the climate change science community provided a vivid, historical accounting of the progression of climate change

Loren Anderson as volunteer guide at Climaforum event

Model UN Russia delegates Tricia and Elizabeth negotiate with USA delegate

and future trends. U.S. legislative staff Colin Hayes and Brian Hughes of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources met by audio-conference before the trip with the RD class and then met in person with the group in Copenhagen to talk about the U.S. role in global climate change policy development; both in terms of the needs of the country and the responsibility of the U.S. to the world community.

Once in Copenhagen, the world opened up for the class. As NGO delegates the RD class was authorized full access to the conference center, Bella Center, and was issued free travel passes for all of Copenhagen's transit systems. In addition to the COP15 sessions, there were 200+ side events located throughout the city for participants to attend presentations, public talks, workshops and exhibits by governments and organizations—all related to climate change. Each morning, students attended the Indigenous Peoples Caucus moderated by Vicky Tauli-Corpuz of the Philippines which reported on the daily progress of negotiating text for the COP15 agreement that would incorporate Indigenous "voice" in the final language.

The RD students made their own contributions to the world-wide gathering; the class as a whole presented on the first day in Copenhagen at the World Wildlife Foundation tent venue on "Students from University of Alaska Fairbanks Present Climate Change Observations and Repercussions on their Region". Brice Eningowuk, of Shishmaref, presented a slide show on the erosion of his community and the multi-agency/government planning processes for addressing the future of the village. Tomi Marsh and Karen Petersen, of southeast Alaska, did a joint presentation on "Ocean Acidification and Coastal Communities". Loren Anderson, of Anchorage, and Karen Petersen presented at a local public school about life in Alaska and Alaska Native cultures. All of the faculty and students volunteered a day at the Climaforum venue which provided exhibits, films, presenters and more related to climate change and how it is impacting individual countries and eco-systems. The highlight of the trip was the group's assisting the Arctic Athabaskan Council's side event near the end of the two weeks. Everyone had brought Native foods from Alaska and Canada to share with the international public as they listened to the stories from the Athabaskan Elders about how traditional life has changed due to climate disruptions and also testimony from youth delegates about their concerns for the culture surviving without a sustainable subsistence economy.

COP 15 group photo at welcome sign

COP15 participants march for climate change legislation

RD 492 students served traditional Alaska foods in Copenhagen

RD class at Denmark National Museum entrance

The RD class also met up with other RD alumni attending COP15 with their respective NGO delegations; Crystal Frank with REDOIL (Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands) and Kelly Eningowuk with the Inuit Circumpolar Council. At the Indigenous People's Forum held at the National Museum the class was able to hear Indigenous people using their own framework and experiences to put a "human face" on climate change. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and world leader on global climate change and human rights; Patricia Cochran, Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission; and other speakers from South America and the Seychelles island nation. Climate change is bringing diverse groups together realizing that support for each other is necessary to mitigate impacts to every country. The thawing and melting of arctic ice raises the sea level and threatens island nations so they are just as concerned about the melting ice caps as those who live in the circumpolar north.

Perhaps the most instructive activity for the RD students to understand United Nations protocols was participating in a Model UN. The Danish Model United Nations invited the class to participate in a mock UN session. Students were assigned countries and given background literature on their respective countries stance on climate change. On the Model UN day, the students (in pairs) followed the UN guidelines for assembly, drafting and presenting position papers, and caucusing with other country delegates to negotiate text changes. After practicing the UN process students were able to follow the COP15 sessions with a better understanding of what was transpiring and how much of a challenge it is to formulate a final document acceptable to all parties.

It was a long two-week seminar experience but provided a thorough orientation for each student to return home and advocate for climate change policy and understanding at a local level. Students planned on presenting to classmates, community boards, legislators and Alaska fishery groups. In April 2010 Barbara Blake, Freddie Olin IV and Karen Petersen presented to the University of Alaska Fairbanks community on their experience and future projections for global climate change policy. As one student commented at the end of the trip, ". . . this seminar was the grand culmination of my time in the program. I had the opportunity to see how community-based, local principles are applicable on an international scale. Indigenous knowledge has relevance in observing and adapting to climate change."

Festival of Native Arts Celebrates Alaska Native Traditions

Inu-Yupiaq Dance Group performs at Festival. UAF photo credit Todd Paris

Beginning in 1973, UAF students and faculty organized a spring festival focused on the artistic expressions of each Alaska Native culture. Almost forty years later, the Festival of Native Arts continues to unite the major Native culture groups of Alaska. The sole purpose of the Festival of Native Arts is cultural expression and education.

The annual festival is organized by a student planning committee with faculty and staff advisors from the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (DANSRD). The 2011 Festival of Native Arts will mark its 38th year!!

The upcoming Festival of Native Arts is scheduled for March 3rd, 4th and 5th , 2011 to be held on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. Students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks have selected "Tradition, Wisdom & Ingenuity" as the theme. For more information and updates check the website at www.uaf.edu/festival or call DANSRD at 1-888-574-6528 toll-free or (907) 474-6528 in Fairbanks.

Festival Support Coordinator/Admin Assistant Cathy Brooks

Festival of Native Arts. UAF photo credit Todd Paris

Festival Performers. UAF photo credit Todd Paris

National Park Service and DANSRD Renew Partnership

Continue the Legacy with the Spring 2010 Seminar "Cultural Tourism in Alaska and the National Park Service"

OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS the National Park Service and DANSRD have partnered to provide Rural Development bachelor and master degree students the opportunity to study federal management and programs first-hand in locations around the U.S. and Alaska. The format is a spring semester seminar that provides classroom instruction paired with a week-long experiential visit to National Park sites. In Spring 2010 the National Park Service, Alaska Region agreed to a third five-year continuation of this valuable program and sponsored a seminar on "Cultural Tourism in Alaska and the National Park Service" that was held in Fairbanks and Anaktuvuk Pass the week of May 17th.

The NPS/DANSRD partnership seminars promote two-way communication between the National Park Service and rural Alaska. The Rural Development students represent a cross-section of the state so the experiences and learning obtained in the seminars "gets back" to rural Alaska as the recipients share what they have learned with their communities and home organizations. For the National Park Service, they are able to get their message out on their resource stewardship responsibilities and recruiting rural Alaskans to NPS careers in Alaska's rich natural and cultural environment.

The course was taught by RD faculty Dr. Gordon L. Pullar and Dixie Dayo MA, as well as NPS affiliate faculty members Dr. Ted Birkedal and Dr. Rachel Mason. From January to May the students were introduced to general concepts related to cultural tourism in their class sessions that culminated in individual research papers that explored the topic from national and international perspectives as well as local responses of indigenous peoples and rural communities. Student assigned readings included the book "Nunamiut: Among Alaska's Inland Eskimos" by Helge Ingstad and the RD senior project "Nunamiut History of Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska (1949-2004) by RD BA graduate Vera Weber (now Woods). These readings provided the background for the upcoming Anaktuvuk Pass visit during the seminar week.

In May, twelve RD students from five of Alaska's regions, and eleven different communities, were welcomed to their seminar week by Pam Rice, NPS Chief of Interpretation, Joy Shockley-Huntington, Director of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Cultural Programs, and Deb Hickok, President of the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau in the recently opened Morris Thompson Cultural Center located on the bank of the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks. The Morris Thompson Cultural Center was envisioned and built by a unique partnership between the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Alaska Public Land Information Center and the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Led by the late Senator Ted Stevens, they collaborated to secure the land and funds for this legacy community center.

To begin the seminar presentations, Dave Krupa, NPS Intellectual Repatriation, and Professor William Schneider, UAF Project Jukebox described their programs' activities

Jaclyn, Roselyn, and Cynthia in Athabascan traditional tent

in working closely with local communities and Native elders to document their histories, stories and cultural knowledge while ensuring that the resulting documentation is shared and accessible as agreed upon by all participants. These were followed by a slide show and talk on the Ethnohistory of the Nunamiut People from Grant Spearman, retired North Slope Borough Ethnographer. This served as a perfect segue for the next day's travel to Anaktuvuk Pass.

Anaktuvuk Pass was a whirlwind overnight trip that not only introduced the RD class to a new community but many of the local leaders shared their stories and roles in adapting their small, tight-knit community to developing a local economy based on cultural tourism. City Mayor Homer Mekiana, Nagsragmiut Tribal President Timothy Ahgook, Sr. and Nunamiut Corporation President Lawrence Burris shared their different perspectives as municipal, tribal and corporate leaders. Esther Hugo, Vice Mayor and Vera Woods, Curator of the Simon Paneak Memorial Museum, spoke to the history of Anaktuvuk Pass as a community, its history as a recently settled nomadic people, and the recent development of cultural tourism at a scale that adds to the local economy yet protects the quality of their traditional lifestyle. At the end of the day RD faculty and students shared in a community potluck and night of Nunamiut Inupiaq dancing. The next morning the seminar resumed with local residents James and Anna Nageak and Ada Lincoln sharing their stories of growing up from traditional Inupiaq nomadic lifestyles to the current modern era. Della Tagarook demonstrated Inupiaq skin mask making and the seminar group were hosted by Vera Woods in the newly built Simon Paneak Memorial Museum soon to be opened to the public. The morning session closed with a presentation by Al Smith, Park Ranger, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

Upon returning to Fairbanks, the seminar group continued on to experience one of the most successful, family owned, cultural tourism enterprises—the Riverboat Discovery Tour owned and operated by the Binkley family. Capt. Jim Binkley, his wife Mary, and their four children developed a riverboat tour that introduces guests to the interior Alaska cultural activities of historical riverboats, floatplane aircraft, dog mushing, and the Athabascan subsistence lifestyle. Next, Angela Linn, Manager of the Ethnology Collection of the University of Alaska Museum, hosted

Anna,Theresa, Jennifer, Gail, and Kay with fur parka model at Riverboat tour

Ted Birkedal, Rex Snyder, and Janna Maillelle Inupiaq dance

RD students look at historical certificate from Seward collection

James Nageak describes AKP history photos to Edgar Blatchford

Nicholas Hoover and Cynthia Berns look at mask form design

the group at the Museum of the North with a personalized showing of the archive collections from each of the student's home villages. The day finished with a public lecture at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center's theatre by Dr. James Kari on the "Geographic Knowledge in Athabascan Prehistory".

The last day of the seminar featured RD students "giving back" as presenters on tourism programs that they manage professionally. Loren Anderson (BA student in RD) is the Cultural Programs Manager for the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage. He gave a talk on how to make connections with visitors to cultural museums and venues. Patuk Glenn (BA student in RD), Curator of the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow presented on the mission of the center and its relationship to the North Slope community and tourism industry as an indigenous center. Edgar Blatchford (past Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and current PhD student enrolled in the seminar course) is an Associate Professor at University of Alaska Anchorage and lectured on the importance of cultural tourism to the economy. The seminar week closed with another presentation by Grant Spearman on "Authentic Voices in Presenting Yourselves to Yourselves in Museums" which summarized the outcome of the seminar.

RD group photo with Vera Woods, Ada Lincoln, and Della Tagarook

2009–10 DANSRD Graduates Tie for Most on Record

DANSRD GRADUATED 21 students in commencements at seven campuses throughout Alaska. The department also celebrated two faculty members receiving their PhD degrees: Theresa Arevgaq John and Jordan P Lewis. The UAF Honorary PhD of Humane Letters was conveyed upon Honored Cultural Leader and Wisdom Bearer, Kangrilnguq Paul John of Toksook Bay who has been a faculty Elder in DANSRD courses.

Summer 2009

Margretta "Peggy" Akagi-Exendine, Juneau
B.A. Rural Development

Annette Donaldson, Delta/Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Fall 2009

Patricia "Tricia" Gillam, Fritz Creek
M.A.Rural Development

Grace Kirk with Dr Pullar at Chukchi Campus

DANSRD students line up for Fairbanks commencement

Beatrice Grewal, BA graduate at Bristol Bay Campus. Photo credit Eric Reed

Above: Paul John and Theresa John (father, daughter) receive PhDs at the May 2010 commencement.

Left: Pat and Gordon Jackson—two MA graduates in one family!

Lisa Haugen graduates at the Northwest Campus. UAF photo credit Todd Paris

Karen Petersen MA grad and Cheri Johansen BA grad

Patricia Gillam with Dr Pullar at Katchemak Bay Campus

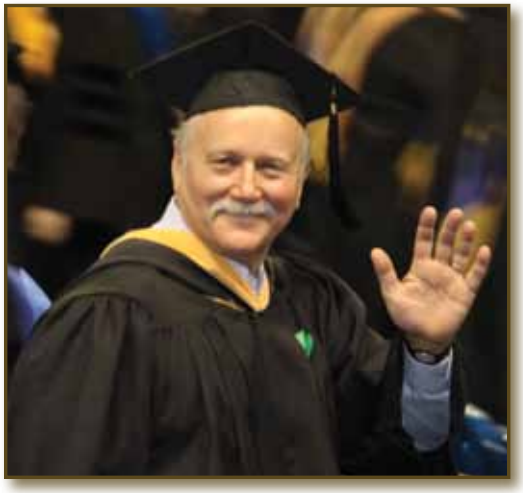
Dr. Pullar congratulates new MA graduate Gordon Pullar Jr.

Spring 2010

Brendalynn Del Rosario Andrade, Barrow/ Fairbanks, B.A.Alaska Native Studies and Anthropology
Barbara Blake, Klawock
B.A.Rural Development
Pearl Brower, Barrow
M.A.Rural Development
Janelle (Fritze) Cook, Dillingham
B.A.Rural Development
Marcella Cornell, Anchorage
M.A.Rural Development
V. Matthew Gilbert, Arctic Village
M.A.Rural Development
Beatrice Grewal, Dillingham
B.A.Rural Development
Lisa Haugen, Unalakleet
B.A.Rural Development
Gordon Jackson, Juneau
M.A.Rural Development
Pat Jackson, Juneau
M.A.Rural Development
Cheri Johansen, Dillingham
B.A.Rural Development
Jenny Bell Jones, Fairbanks
M.A.Rural Development
Grace Kirk, Kotzebue
B.A.Rural Development
Sven Paukan, St. Mary's
B.A.Rural Development
Karen Petersen, Thorne Bay
M.A.Rural Development
Gordon Pullar Jr., Kodiak
M.A.Rural Development
Terry Reeve, Bethel
M.A.Rural Development

Summer 2010

Edwina Langenberg-Miller, Healy
M.A.Rural Development



Mike Davis waves during processional

Jenny Bell Jones, MA

Jenny Bell Jones capstoned her MA graduation with a perfect 4.0 GPA for her third degree at UAF. She earned Summa Cum Laude honors with her Associate and Bachelor degrees. Jenny joined DANSRD this past year as an Academic Research Assistant and is assisting the faculty with course development and curriculum revisions. Her MA project was the development of a course curriculum on the many different aspects of modern subsistence-based communities. The abstract of her project "Subsistence-Based Communities in the 21st Century" reads:

"The course covers many different aspects of modern subsistence-based communities. While the focus is on the Arctic, other parts of the world are investigated to provide comparisons and show how subsistence remains important on a global scale. Urban subsistence users in Alaska and communities in the contiguous United States where subsistence is still important are looked at as well.

The position of non-Natives in Alaska relative to subsistence is explored and students are assigned a text by a contemporary non-Native author who grew up in the subsistence lifeway in Northwest Alaska.

Students are introduced to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) as well as other legislation, both federal and state, that has affected subsistence users in Alaska. Although this is not a law class, several important subsistence related court cases are reviewed."

Jenny has developed a one-credit distance delivery ANCSA course (RD 110 – ANCSA: Land Claims in the 21st Century), has assisted Dr. Gordon L. Pullar and Professor Dixie Dayo on an upper division and graduate course on ANCSA that is now available by both audio-conference and by on-line web. After attending the Federal Bar Association's annual Indian Law Conference in summer 2010, Jenny updated the ANS 425 Federal Indian Law and Alaska Natives course and the ANS 325 Native Self-Government course that she will teach Spring 2011. Currently she is working on new course development in a cultural literacy project that will provide a basic foundation to entering RD and ANS majors, a class on subsistence in Northern communities, and a seminar on workforce development and entrepreneurship. Jenny feels she has found a home away from home with DANSRD. In her words she "cannot think of anywhere else she would rather work." Her goal is to put her lifetime of experience and education toward enhancing the learning for RD and ANS students.

Terence Reeve, MA

Terence "Terry" Reeve was among the ten Rural Development masters students receiving MA degrees in the May 2010 UAF commencement. Like many of the RD students who work full time while also taking classes to complete their degrees, Terry serves as the Marine Advisory Program (MAP) agent with an office in Bethel at the UAF Kuskokwim Campus. He has been with the University of Alaska for 6 ½ years.

Terry is a senior fisheries advisor with over 30 years experience in rural Alaska fisheries development. He has been involved with agencies such as the Bering Sea Fisherman's Association, Community Development Quota (CDQ) for the Y-K Delta Region and Sea Crest, Inc. In his role with the Marine Advisory Program, his work includes an archeological development project for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, eco-tourism development, birding tourism and on-going marine extension projects for the Y-K Delta. He assists local fish entrepreneurs in creating new enterprises and direct marketing and village fish plant start-up. His work and contributions have a direct impact in helping sustain the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.

In combining his vast work experience and knowledge, Terry produced his MA project "Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Cultural Resources Project." Another distinction for Terry to claim is the honor of being the oldest graduate from UAF for the May 2010 graduates. Congratulations, Terry!

Barbara Blake Graduates with Multiple Awards

BARBARA BLAKE, deservedly earned multiple honors with her graduation in May 2010 from UAF. Her undergraduate experience utilized the many campuses available through the University of Alaska system including; University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, University of Alaska Anchorage in Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Rural and Community Development in Gakona and Fairbanks and student exchange to American University in Washington, D.C.

Barbara was selected as the 2010 recipient of the Gray S. Tilly Memorial Award for the outstanding graduating non-traditional student for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This award is given each year to a graduating senior who ranks highest in character, personality, scholarship, extracurricular activities, and contributions to the University and Fairbanks communities. She also was selected as the Outstanding Student in Rural Development, the Outstanding Student in Tribal Management and earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2010 semester.

Barbara has been a model student that made the most of her undergraduate education by building upon each course taken to develop professionally and intellectually. As a student and single parent she achieved above the norm through her involvement with student organizations, work as a peer advisor and participation in several internships. Her strength comes from a solid foundation in her culture, support of her family and pride in her Haida/Tlingit/Athabascan heritage. Upon graduation she accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. as Program Assistant for the Office of Tribal Relations and was elected to the 2010-11 Sealaska Board of Directors, Youth Board Advisor. Her senior project for the Rural Development BA program was a comprehensive guide for Alaska Native students on internship opportunities. You can download the guide on the DANSRD website at http://www.uaf.edu/danrd/ba-program/special-opportunities/internships/InternshipGuide.pdf.

Barbara Blake—Outstanding Student in Rural Development

Profs Gabrielli and Davis, Vice Chancellor Bernice Joseph, and Senator Albert Kookesh accompany Barbara Blake at the awards ceremony

RD Indigenous Leadership Symposium Provides MA Program Foundation

Each academic year, the Rural Development MA program starts off with a gathering of the new RD graduate students and the program faculty for a week-long symposium on Indigenous Leadership. The goal is to introduce the MA students to practitioners from throughout Alaska and the circumpolar north that embody the leadership styles and skills that result in healthy, sustainable organizations and communities. The symposiums accomplish that goal by immersing the participants in dialogue, work sessions and presentations from distinguished Elders and leaders from diverse tribal, state, and non-profit perspectives.

Leading the week's agenda for the Fall 2009 symposium were three Resident Elder Faculty; Mr. John Borbridge, Jr., Mrs. Alice Petrivelli, and Senator John Sackett. They each spent time sharing their personal histories and life experiences that resulted in their Alaska Native leadership roles.

John Borbridge, Jr., Tlingit from Juneau, began his career as a teacher and coach and the skills honed from these professions served him well as he was drawn into the Alaska Native politics of the 1960s and 70s. After a period of working for the Indian Health Service he was asked by the tribal leaders of his home region, Southeast Alaska, to represent them in Washington, D.C. on working for a fair settlement of Alaska Native land claims. This led to six years as President of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, where he was instrumental in the Alaska Native land claims efforts. He advocated for Southeast Alaska as well as for the Alaska Federation of Natives in the land claims process. He served as the first Vice President of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and was AFN's chief lobbyist in Washington, D.C. for the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Following the passage of ANCSA Borbridge served as President and Chairman of the Board for Sealaska Corporation, and was appointed to serve as a Commissioner on the American Indian Policy Review Commission formed by an act of Congress. He then received a Presidential appointment to serve on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. For more about John Borbridge, Jr. and his thoughts about the ANCSA legislation process go to the website www.litsite.org and see his interview under the "ANCSA at 30" index.

RD 600 group photo 2009

RD 600 group photo 2010

Mrs. Alice Petrivelli, Aleut from Atka, was the first woman president of an ANCSA regional corporation. Her family was relocated

International guest presenter Andrey Khalkachan listens to faculty Elder Alice Petrivelli

Bristol Bay Native Corporation hosts Inez Webb (RD BA student) and Jason Metrokin (President & CEO - BBNC), RD faculty Dixie Dayo, Adrianne Hicks (RD MA student) and Andria Agli, BBNC (RD MA Graduate).

Sarah Scanlon gathers student input on leadership qualities

by the U.S. Government's Aleut Internment Program during World War II. As a housewife in the latter 1960s she became concerned about Alaska Natives' losing their land. To learn more she started attending the Aleut League meetings and before long was asked to work for The Aleut Corporation (TAC) created by ANCSA. Since then she has served in multiple leadership capacities including Chair, Vice Chair, President, and Vice President of TAC, TAC representative on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Board, Alaska Native Heritage Center Academy Board, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Cultural Heritage Program Advisory Board, President of Atxam Corporation, Member of the Alaska Trust Company, Member and former Secretary of the Alaska Native Science Commission and was a staunch advocate of restitution for the displaced World War II Aleuts which ultimately resulted in Aleut reparations with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. For more about Alice Petrivelli and her thoughts about how ANCSA has changed Alaska Native life go to the website www.litsite.org and see her interview under the "ANCSA at 30" index.

Senator John Sackett, Athabascan born at Cutoff on the Koyukuk River, was launched into a Native leadership role as the youngest Chief ever elected to the Tanana Chiefs Conference where he began a life-long pursuit of Alaska Native rights. His Alaska public office career began at age 22 when elected to the Alaska House of Representatives for the Interior and later as State Senator in 1972. His life experience also included owning private businesses, serving as Vice President for the Fairbanks Native Association, President and Chairman of Doyon, Ltd., and serving on statewide private industry boards. See also in this newsletter issue an article written by Senator Sackett about his life experience and philosophy of leadership.

Twenty eight RD students attended the Fall 2009 symposium, one of the largest groups ever, and in addition to the Resident Elders the week's agenda provided diverse Native leaders as speakers and presenters. A welcome from Dorothy Cook, President of the Native Village of Eklutna and an opening presentation from Senator Albert Kookesh, Chairman of Sealaska Corporation and Co-Chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives set a framework for students to appreciate tradition and contemporary leadership as complementary elements rather than opposing philosophies. The week's program included time for students

to meet with the DANSRD faculty, present to each other as peers on their research goals, and field trip excursions to Alaska Native corporate headquarters based in Anchorage. Other guest presenters included Commissioner Emil Notti of the Alaska State Department of Commerce and founding President of the Alaska Federation of Natives; Barbara Joe, J.D. (an RD grad) of Yukon, Canada; Edgar Blatchford, Associate Professor of Journalism and Alaska Native Studies at UAA and former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and past Chair of Chugach Alaska Corporation; Senator Albert Kookesh, Sheri Buretta, Chairman of Chugach Alaska Corporation, Sarah Scanlon, Deputy Director, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP), and Charles Edwardsen, Jr. (Etok), former Executive Director of the Arctic Slope Native Association.

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the Afognak Native Corporation hosted site visits for the class. BBNC President and CEO Jason Metrokin and Inez Webb, Administrative Manager (and current RD student), gave a presentation on the regional corporation as well as a tour of their operations. Shauna Hegna, Afognak Native Corporation Vice President for Shareholder Development, met with the class at Afognak's corporate offices and also guided the class through their Afognak Museum. Hegna arranged for a video-conferenced presentation by Sarah Lukin, Executive Director of the Native American Contractors Association in Washington, D.C., to talk about current legislative challenges to Native contracting from other congressional bodies. Shauna and Sarah are twins and both graduates of the MA program in Rural Development and have graciously agreed to present at the RD symposiums several times.

The 2010 session of the RD leadership symposium and seminar was held October 2-8 in Anchorage and hosted seventeen students. John Borbridge, Jr., Alice Petrivelli and Senator John Sackett returned to serve as resident Elder Faculty for the week. As in past years, the symposium hosted a distinguished group of Native leaders speaking to students and sharing their experiences. One of the presenters, Marie Greene, President and CEO of NANA Corporation, gave a presentation of her RD MA project. The 2010 symposium included presentations from Senator Albert Kookesh, Miranda Wright (Director of DANSRD), Perry Eaton (founding President and CEO for the Alaska Native Heritage Center), Sarah Scanlon (Deputy Director of RurAL CAP), Senator Willie Hensley, Ellen Weiser of the Resiliency and Adaptation Program, and former UA President Mark Hamilton. The symposium group was generously hosted for visits to Native corporation offices by Andria Agli and Tiel Smith of Bristol Bay Native Corporation and Shauna Hegna of Afognak Native Corporation. Each of them demonstrated the commitment and unique mission that Native corporations have for their shareholders that differentiates them from typical for-profit corporations. Adding an international focus to the study of indigenous circumpolar north leadership was guest presenter Andrey Khalkachan, Chairman of the Gizhiga Tribal Community, Magadan Province, Russian Far East. He presented on issues faced by indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation.

MA students Hannah Loon, Anishia Elbie, Jenny Bell Jones smile at the end of the day.

Melody Tuck, Barbara Blake, and Lacey Shoemaker at Afognak Museum

Selected Excerpts From "Life Is Good"

BY SENATOR JOHN SACKETT, RETIRED

SENATOR JOHN SACKETT, resident faculty Elder for the Indigenous Leadership Symposium, presented his leadership philosophy by sharing the history of his leadership in Alaska. It's a powerful story that demonstrates the sacrifice indigenous leaders make when holding leadership roles in a society foreign to their traditional ways. For the full text go to the DANSRD website www.uaf.edu/danrd and select the link for Senator Sackett.

When asked, I usually say I was born in Cutoff, Alaska. It was a small Athabaskan village along the Koyukuk River in Interior Alaska. . . . In those years, everyone I knew lived a migratory subsistence lifestyle. . . .

We believed in a God like other people . . . but we also believed in our own natural world and religion. We believe that human beings have two souls, an outer soul called "yeega" and an inner (body) soul called "sun ggu bedze" –the life force or soul, as we conceive it in traditional Christian beliefs.

The early stories of hardship and starvation made us stronger and instilled in us a strong work ethic. To live off the land (literally and figuratively), people had to depend on resourcefulness and initiative. . . .

My family was one of the last to leave Cutoff. As soon as I turned six years old and before they left, I was sent to the St. Mark Mission School in Nenana. It was traumatic and frightening for me and many other elementary school age children. . . . (for high school) I entered a Presbyterian boarding school called Sheldon Jackson. . . .Sheldon Jackson was a turning point in my life, an excellent one. . . .My self-confidence grew and I graduated as Valedictorian in 1963.

After graduation, I decided to attend Ohio University in Athens. . . .The next year I attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. This was in 1964-65 during which time many Native organizations were created. It was the beginning of the land claims movement. . . .Then the Tanana Chiefs Conference scheduled a meeting in Fairbanks to discuss land claim issues. I was curious about their efforts and decided to skip a class and attend one of their meetings. I had only gone to listen, but soon I was designated a delegate from my region. Three days later, I was elected President of the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

I must tell you now that this action was contrary to how Athabaskans normally dealt with leadership. By custom, a young person listened while an elder spoke. But we were in the midst of rapid change. Despite confusion and rapid changes, elders recognized that these new times brought unusual opportunities and challenges. Contrary to custom, they were willing to trust a younger person to influence and shape changes for the benefit of Native people. . . .

Through my involvement with these early Native organizations, **I saw the disparity between rural and urban Alaska, and between Native and non-Native Alaska**. . . .with the encouragement of many elders, I ran for and won a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives. . . . Thus began my political career. . . . I was the first Athabaskan Indian to represent our region in the state legislature. . . .

I concluded there were two extremely important attributes that were needed to be effective in the legislature. First, I had to be knowledgeable in my chosen field (and my field was finance because adequate funding could solve many of our rural needs). Second, **I had to become a leader in a non-Athabaskan world.** . . .

Younger people may not fully realize how different life was before land claims and before both rural and urban legislators recognized the need to improve the health, safety, and quality of life in every part of Alaska. I hope that spirit of cooperation continues. With proper leadership, it can. . . .

I have had a wonderful life. I feel privileged to have lived in both the old ways and the modern world. I have achieved my goals. I believe I have made a positive difference and helped improve the lives of my fellow Alaskans, rural and urban. Now, at the age of 66, I continue to study and learn. I continue to find areas where I might be of assistance. It gives me joy.

Life is good.

DANSRD Achievements

The 2010 Festival of Native Arts event was awarded the UAF Student Organization's COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD for their contributions to UAF, Fairbanks and Alaska communities. Plan to attend the 2011 Festival of Native Arts March 3, 4, & 5 and see what a great job the students do every year! For more information see the website at www.uaf.edu/festival.

Freddie Olin IV, BA student in Rural Development, accepted an internship with Senator Mark Begich's Fairbanks U.S. Senate office for the Fall 2010 semester. Freddie has also been named as the Student Representative for the University of Alaska Fairbanks Chancellor's Campus Diversity Action Committee. Congratulations Freddie!!!

Freddie Olin is a new intern with Senator Mark Begich

Dr. Theresa John co-authoring a book entitled *Yupiit Yuraryarait or Yup'ik Ways of Dancing* with photographer James Barker and anthropologist Ann Fienup-Riordan. The book features Barker's years of Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta dance photography. Theresa produced a fifteen minute DVD of Yup'ik dance from her Yup'ik dance dissertation, which is attached to this book published by the University of Alaska Press. Dr. John is also co-authoring a book chapter with her doctoral advisor Dr. Joan Parker Webster on the Multiliteracy strand of the Second Language Acquisition Teacher Education (SLATE) project. The chapter is about mentoring masters students and co-teaching a summer institute course on multiliteracies. The University of Arizona is the publisher. The Alaska Native Language Center received federal education funding in 2007 to support four Ph.D students (including Dr. John) and eighteen Masters students. Three years later, sixteen Masters students and one PhD (Dr. John) graduated from UAF.

Governor Parnell reappointed Dr. Theresa John to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The Council aims to enrich the cultural life of Alaskans and supports excellence in the arts.

Kay Thomas, Fairbanks DANSRD administrative assistant received the University of Alaska "Make Students Count" award at the May 2010 Board of Regents meeting in Anchorage. One staff person is selected from each of the UAF, UAA and UAS campuses each year to recognize their service to students.

Theresa John and Ann Riordan at book signing. Photo credit Andrey Khalkachan

Gail Staudinger and Kay Thomas receive staff awards

Gail Staudinger, Anchorage DANSRD administrative coordinator, received the 2009-10 Margaret "Peggy" Wood Staff Recognition Award for the College of Rural & Community Development for her exemplary service to CRCD, its mission and the hundreds of students she has assisted in her 29 years at UAF.

Gordon Pullar receives Governor's Award. Photo credit Andrey Khalkachan

Dr. Jordan Lewis, DANSRD faculty, received the Dennis Demmert Appreciation & Recognition Award for 2009-10. The award recognizes faculty and staff who demonstrate UAF's goal of being the educational center for Alaska Natives.

Dr. Gordon L. Pullar was one of eight recipients of the 2010 Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities. The Governor's Office press release states "Dr. Pullar distinguishes himself as a civic leader in the Native community, as a mentor of students in Rural and Native studies, and as a scholar whose research speaks to the issues facing the Alaska Native community. Dr. Pullar played a prominent part in the cultural revival on Kodiak Island that led to the creation of the Alutiiq Museum. Serving as University of Alaska Fairbanks Head of the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development, Dr. Pullar built a program that graduated over 54 masters degree students. Dr. Pullar's research has contributed to an understanding of Suqpiaq ethnic identity and historic roots. He has written on the impact of land claims, repatriation of cultural property, self determination, and intellectual property rights. His contributions are recognized internationally where he has presented his research. Dr. Pullar serves as a role model for emerging and established scholars in the field of Native and Rural Studies." The awards are sponsored by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Humanities Forum and the Office of the Governor.

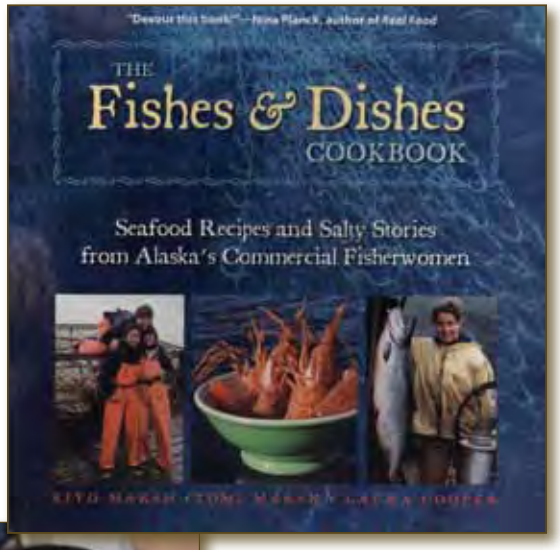
Crystal Frank and Tonya Garnett promote RD program on the Yukon

Crystal Frank, MA student in Rural Development, represented DANSRD at the National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI) in Hawaii, October 2009. Each year the NAPALI program co-sponsors a DANSRD student to attend this week-long leadership institute with the goal to improve the lives of Pacific Americans through education, mentorship, and leadership training. Crystal advocates higher education to interior youth whenever she travels home and volunteers to coordinate

a local Gwich'in dance group. Hannah Loon of Selawik was selected to attend the October 2010 NAPALI Institute.

Dr. Gordon L. Pullar has chapters published in the 2010 releases of *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska* (edited by Crowell, Worl, Ongtooguk and Biddison) and *Giinaquq: Like a Face-Sugpiaq Masks of the Kodiak Archipelago* (edited by Haakanson Jr. and Steffian).

Tomi Marsh, BA student in Rural Development, co-authors *The Fishes & Dishes Cookbook* which incorporates Alaska seafood



Tomi Marsh co-authors The Fishes & Dishes Cookbook

recipes amongst stories of commercial fishing and literary introductions to fishing terminology, methods, and sustainability for the industry. A must-read for every Alaskan!

Dr. Mike Koskey authored the forward for the 2010 publication "The Adventures of Yaabaa Teeshaay: First Man Stories from Healy Lake" (edited by Constance Ann Friend). His recent research projects include a baseline harvest and use study of subsistence resources in the Upper Tanana region, and a more in-depth study on the changing uses of non-salmon fish in the Birch Creek/Yukon Flats region under conditions of climate change and culture change. Currently, in partnership with the National Park Service he is working on an Ethnographic

Mike Koskey on the Yukon

Overview and Assessment for the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. This effort focuses on the history and culture of the communities of Central, Circle, and Eagle and these communities' residents' uses of the Nation Preserve for subsistence and other activities.

Dixie Dayo

Professors Dixie Dayo and Gordon L. Pullar developed a new course on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for undergraduates and graduate students. They developed the course so that it can be taught by audio-conference or by web-based independent learning and are in the final process of getting it approved as a permanent course offering for UAF.

Rick Caulfield, UAS Provost

Dr. Rick Caulfield, former DANSRD faculty and Academic Program Head and more recently Director of the Tanana Valley Campus (now the Community and Technical College), accepted the position of Provost for the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau in June 2010.

University of Alaska
Department of Alaska Native Studies & Rural Development
College of Rural and Community Development
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Students Earn MA with Peace Corps

Loki Tobin works with youth in Azerbaijan. Photo credit Loki Tobin

UAF's MA DEGREE program in Rural Development emphasizes international study, indigenous leadership development, and management of programs and projects in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment so is a perfect fit to partner with the Peace Corps Master's International Program. Currently there are five MA students in the MIPC in Rural Development and they represent the "cycle" of combining their MA studies with the required two-year Peace Corps service.

Anna Brewster began her first year in the MA program this fall and will complete her RD foundation courses in her first year while also completing the year-long application process for the Peace Corps.

Lacey Shoemaker completed her first year of study in May 2010 and upon the start of her second year was accepted for a Peace Corps assignment in November 2010 as a Community-Based Organizational Development Worker in the country of Thailand beginning March 2011. Julie Emslie, also a second year RD student is beginning her Peace Corps Service in Jamaica working on education and literacy projects. She and her husband Matt were fortunate to receive their Peace Corps assignments with the same country. While Lacey and Julie are in their two-year Peace Corps service they will complete their Project Research credits for their MA in Rural Development and the UAF Graduate School provides a 12 credit tuition waiver during the two-year Peace Corps service period.

Jessica Meyer completed her Peace Corps service in Macedonia in November 2010 at which time she will return to the U.S. and complete her MA elective courses, her comprehensive exam and her thesis defense and graduate by Spring 2011. Loki Tobin has also completed her two-year Peace Corps service in Ajerbaijan but has opted to take advantage of the opportunity to extend her Peace Corps service for an additional year and during that time will continue her work with the youth there and finish her MA elective courses by distance.

Interested in MIPC? To qualify, students must meet both the admission requirements for the University of Alaska Fairbanks master's degree program and the requirements established by the Peace Corps for volunteer service. For information about the Peace Corps Master's International Program go to their website at www.peacecorps.gov/masters. For questions regarding potential graduate studies in Rural Development in combination with MIPC contact Michael Davis, Associate Professor & MIPC Advisor for DANSRD at medavis@alaska.edu .

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