

# THE RAHI REVIEW

Vol. XX No. 2

Challenge Yourself...

DECEMBER 2008



RAHI class of 2008 during the cap and gown ceremony. Photo by Sam Chanar

## RAHI Students Make Good Choices

Students from the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) made the choice this summer to go to college. They earned between seven and ten credits at UAF, giving them a headstart on college.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Alaska Honors Institute honored the accomplishments of 47 RAHI students at a graduation ceremony and a public reception.

**Ed Alexander** of Fort Yukon, a 1993-94 RAHI alumna, was the keynote speaker. Ed received his bachelor's degree from UAF in Interdisciplinary Studies and Secondary Education minoring in English and is now a high school humanities teacher in Arctic Village.

The RAHI program is aimed at rural and Alaska Native students who have completed their junior or senior year of high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Proposed in 1982 by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the University of Alaska, RAHI emphasizes a challenging university curriculum and a residential program to acquaint students with college life and expectations. More than 390 students, after participating in RAHI, have gone on to earn graduate (including medical doctor, pharmacy, and law degrees), baccalaureate, associate degrees, and certificates. Many RAHI alumni have

joined Alaska's professional workforce and many more are in the postsecondary pipeline.

"We attempt to build a supportive community in which students participate in a rich academic setting, build a university transcript, and develop a long-term supportive network with peers, staff and instructors," said **Denise Wartes**, program coordinator.

The RAHI 2008 curriculum included university courses funded in part by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Wells Fargo, the National Institutes of Health Alaska InBre program, UAF's College of Rural and Community Development, UAF's International Polar Year office, UAF Vice Chancellor of Advancement & Community Engagement, UAF's Northern Leadership Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, EPSCoR program, and the LTER program. RAHI is sponsored by UAF's College of Rural and Community Development.

In addition to the academics involved with the program, students get to know each other through participation in events such as the Midnight Sun Run, Mosquito Meander, 4th of July picnic, Nenana whitewater rafting, movies, bowling, basketball, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, Alaska Native dancing, swimming, and a recreational overnight outing at Bingle Memorial Camp at Harding Lake.

## Join RAHI on MySpace and Facebook!

Denise is managing the RAHI MySpace and Facebook websites. Any suggestions and assistance are greatly appreciated. To date, there are 90 RAHI alum participating in RAHI MySpace and Facebook is becoming very popular for the short time since RAHI has joined.

Please join us on the RAHI MySpace (UAFRAHI) and Facebook (RAHI UAF).

Contact <fyrahi@uaf.edu> to join.

## Spring 2008 Dean's and Chancellor's Honor Roll

### RAHIers who made the Chancellor's list:

Miriam L. Ohman 2003 Tununak

### RAHIers who made the Dean's list:

Rebecca C. Church	2004	Quinhagak
Joel Hunt	2003	Emmonak
Louise Kangas	2005	Fairbanks
Roberta R. (Karmun) Moto	1985	Deering
Charlene E. Nicolos	2004	Barrow
Jonathan I. Richar	2002	Trapper Creek
Megan G. Richards	2005	Kandik River
Dana C. Salmon	2000	Chalkyitsik
Ralph S. Sinnok	2007	Shishmaref

CONGRATULATIONS! Keep up the good work.

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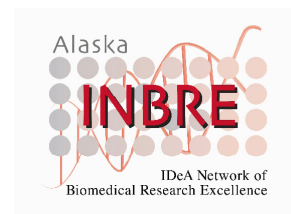
Photos: RAHI Alumni unless otherwise noted

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The *RAHI Review* attempts to be accurate in its presentation. However, if we make errors, we apologize. Send corrections. Missing phone numbers and addresses are usually omitted by request. Please send news, updates, and greetings. Keeping track of 1400+ RAHI alumni is a very challenging job. Please let us know about address changes.

## RAHI SPONSORS

University of Alaska Fairbanks  
New York Life  
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company  
Wells Fargo  
Boeing  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Institutes of Health



## 2008 RAHI Students

	<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>VILLAGE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
1	ANDREA	ALSTROM	ST. MARY'S	MT. EDGECEMBE
2	CHERI	ALSTROM	BETHEL	MT. EDGECEMBE
3	PANTELEIMON	ASKOAK	RUSSIAN MSN	RUSSIAN MSN SCHOOL
4	CHALISA	ATTLA	FAIRBANKS	GILA
5	GRADY	BAUMFALK	NENANA	NENANA CITY SCHOOL
6	ADRIENNE	BEANS	MTN VILLAGE	GILA
7	YVONNE	BELL	HOOPER BAY	HOOPER BAY SCHOOL
8	TATIANA	CHANGSAK	RUSSIAN MSN	RUSSIAN MSN SCHOOL
9	GORDON	DAVIS	GALENA	SIDNEY HUNTINGTON SCHOOL
10	AUSTEN	ERICKSON	UNALAKLEET	UNALAKLEET SCHOOL
11	EMERIE	FAIRBANKS	BETHEL	BETHEL REGIONAL
12	MARINA	FIALA	KODIAK	KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL
13	STEPHANIE	FOX	KODIAK	KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL
14	HAZEL	FREYTAG	UNALAKLEET	UNALAKLEET SCHOOL
15	EMMY	HAMMOND	CHICKEN	GATEWAY CORRESPONDENCE
16	KYLE	HARDIN	DILLINGHAM	DILLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
17	JARID	HOPE	BARROW	BARROW HIGH SCHOOL
18	SARAH	HOPSON	ANAKTUVUK	MT. EDGECEMBE
19	ANDREA	JOSEPH	TUNTUTULIAK	TUNTUTULIAK SCHOOL
20	NICOLE	KANAYURAK	BARROW	BARROW HIGH SCHOOL
21	SAMANTHA	KANRILAK	TUNUNAK	TUNUNAK SCHOOL
22	MICHELLE	KAVAIRLOOK	KOYUK	KOYUK MALEMUTE SCHOOL
23	DANIEL	KOKRINE	NORTH POLE	EFFIE KOKRINE SCHOOL
24	BARTON	KOONOOKA	GAMBELL	GAMBELL SCHOOL
25	CHRISTOPHER	LIU	BETHEL	MT. EDGECEMBE
26	PRISCIA	MEMEO	POINT HOPE	POINT HOPE SCHOOL
27	DANIEL	ORR	BETHEL	BETHEL REGIONAL
28	SHAYNA	PATKOTAK	BARROW	BARROW HIGH SCHOOL
29	LLOYD	PIKOK	POINT LAY	POINT LAY SCHOOL
30	KATRINA	RASMUSSEN	WASILLA	TWINDLY BRIDGE CHARTER SCH
31	TASHA	REDFOX	MTN VILLAGE	MT. EDGECEMBE
32	DEANNA	RODGERS	BETHEL	BETHEL REGIONAL
33	ZACHARY	ROHAN	BARROW	BARROW HIGH SCHOOL
34	VICTORIA	SINNOK	SHISHMAREF	SHISHMAREF SCHOOL
35	ALBERT	SMITH	SELAWIK	SELAWIK SCHOOL
36	LACY	SQUARTSOFF	PORT LIONS	MT. EDGECEMBE
37	ALLISON	WASULI	KOTZEBUE	KOTZEBUE HIGH SCHOOL
38	LILLIAN	WEBER	ANAKTUVUK	MT. EDGECEMBE
39	KARRIN	WITTENBERGER	GALENA	SIDNEY HUNTINGTON SCH
40	ALFRED	WRIGHT	MANLEY	MANLEY SCHOOL

### **RAHI II Students**

1	DAPHNE	ATTLA	FAIRBANKS	WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
2	ROBIN	CONGDON	BARROW	WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
3	NICOLE	CORWIN	BARROW	BARROW SCHOOL
4	SHELLY	DEWILDE	FAIRBANKS	WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
5	CORI	EIDE	NOME	NOME SCHOOL
6	ERIN	NELSON	KOTZEBUE	KOTZEBUE SCHOOL
7	WHITNEY	WALKER	SITKA	MT. EDGECEMBE

### **LTER INTERN**

1	SHAUNNA	TAKAK	SHAKTOOLIK	MT EDGECEMBE
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## New York Life Foundation Generously Funds the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) For Three Years

**Denise Wartes**, the RAHI program coordinator, announces a generous donation from the New York Life Foundation. For the next three years, this New York Life donation will allow ten students from across the state of Alaska to be fully funded (tuition, airfare, room, board, textbooks, supplies, local transportation, teaching & residence hall staff salaries) to attend the RAHI program in the summers of 2009-2011. New York Life is also funding ten rural students into the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA), a two-week summer science camp for students in 8th-12th grade. ASRA will serve as a pipeline into the RAHI program in the next year, and help increase their chances of success in college and beyond.

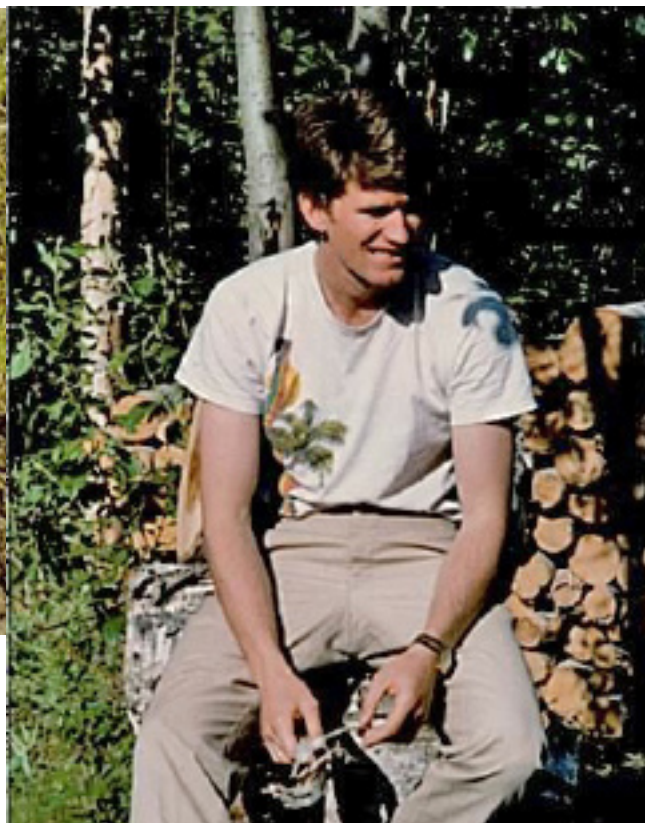
In addition, New York Life has expanded their donation to include three years of funding:

- to establish and maintain a RAHI advisory committee
- to establish RAHI alumni scholarships for students attending UAF
- to support three years of RAHI alumni reunions
- to support increased alumni engagement
- to establish a "New York Life Interns" program for RAHI alums
- to increase rural recruitment for both RAHI & ASRA

We are truly grateful for your donation to Alaska's future!



Guess Who These People are from 1983!!!





## Alyeska funds the RAHI Alyeska Petroleum Engineering Class for a Third Summer

The RAHI program would like to thank the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for funding a third summer of the RAHI Petroleum Engineering Class. Their donation allows ten students from across the state of Alaska to be fully funded (tuition, airfare, room, board, textbooks, supplies, local transportation, teaching & residence hall staff salaries) to attend the RAHI program in summer of 2009. In its third year, Alyeska made a five-year commitment to UAF's Rural Alaska Honors Institute program.



**Dr. Shirish Patil**, chair of UAF's petroleum engineering department, **Dr. Abhijit Dandekar** and **Dr. Santanu Khataniar** co-taught the RAHI 2008 Alyeska Petroleum Engineering class this summer. Twenty students from villages such as: Anaktuvuk Pass, Barrow, Galena, Gambell, Hooper Bay, Hydaburg, Kotlik, Kotzebue, Nenana, Noatak, Nome, Russian Mission, and Selawik have already benefited by Alyeska's generosity.

We are truly grateful for your donation to Alaska's future!

## Wells Fargo funds the RAHI Wells Fargo Business Management Class for a Third Summer

The RAHI program would like to thank Wells Fargo for funding a third summer of the RAHI Business Management Class. Their donation allows ten students from across the state of Alaska to be fully funded (tuition, airfare, room, board, textbooks, supplies, local transportation, teaching & residence hall staff salaries) to attend the RAHI program in summer of 2009.



The RAHI 2007 and 2008 Wells Fargo Business Management class was taught by **Dr. Liz Ross**, former CEO of the 13th Regional Corporation, the only Alaska Native woman with a DBA in business. In addition to teaching for RAHI in the summer, **Dr. Ross** teaches classes through American Intercontinental University and Embry Riddle.

Twenty students from villages such as: Barrow, Bethel, Chugiak, Emmonak, Hughes, Koliganek, Kodiak, Mountain Village, Noorvik, North Pole, Point Lay, Russian Mission, St. Mary's, Tanana, Tok, Tuntutuliak, Unalakleet, and Wasilla have already benefited by Wells Fargo's generosity.

We are truly grateful for your donation to Alaska's future!

## RAHI thanks Boeing for their donation



Six RAHI 2009 students will benefit from Boeing's donation. The RAHI program was selected as one among many on the Northwest Coast because it met the guidelines of their scholarship program. Their gift will help fund the academic tuition of nine students in the RAHI 2009 six-week summer program. Thank you Boeing and Jim Malinowski, the local rep from Boeing!



Class of 2008. Photo by Sam Chanar

## Class of 1983

**Eddie Gavin ('83 Buckland)** is a special ed aide at the school and coaches basketball in Buckland.

**Pearl (Arey) Todhunter ('83 Noatak)** sends greetings from Anchorage. < Pearl.Todhunter@CH2M.com>

**Louisa (Jacobs) VanDeventer ('83 Nunapitchuk)** "I am living in Dillingham, running my own air taxi with my husband, **Matt** and have two wonderful boys who are now in the 9th and 11th grade. I went to visit the RAHI program in March with my family but no one was around. (**Denise** says sorry we missed you). My boys did a tour of the campus with a tour guide so they were able to see the university. Best regards to all, and Hello to all the '83 RAHIers." <van31f@yahoo.com>

## Class of 1984

**Sam Davis ('84 Mekoryuk)** lives in Bethel and works for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. What is your current mailing address, **Sam**?

**Robert Evans ('84 Nome)**  
"Folks know me as **Bobby Evans**. I am class of 1984 from Nome via Covenant High School in Unalakleet. CHS closed its doors in 1985. I am in my 20th year with the State of Alaska - Department of Corrections. I can retire on November 1, 2008, but I won't. I have held numerous positions within the department such as - special projects/property officer, prisoner transportation officer, firearms instructor, field training officer, recruitment, CPR instructor, security/training sergeant and am currently a shift supervisor. The department has been very good to me. I live in Nome with my three wonderful children - **Mason** (16), **Kaylene** (13), and **Dawson** (7). We moved back to Nome in 2001 after seven years in Kenai. I enjoy spending time with my kids, hunting, fishing and officiating high school basketball. Officiating has enabled me to travel all over the state and meet and make new friends. Hello to all the RAHI 84'ers! Next year my son will apply to RAHI." <evans12@gci.net>

**Archie Ferguson ('84 Kotzebue)** was a finalist in Alaska Marketplace at AFN with his *Wild Alaskan Cup O'Noodles* in practical use of new technology division.

**Faina (Pavilla) Galaktionoff ('84 Atmautluak)** lives in Anchorage and works for Southcentral Foundation. Please provide RAHI with your current mailing address, **Faina**.

**Mary (Yunak) Martinez ('84 Kotlik)** was featured in the May 2008 issue of the Calista newsletter *The Storyknife*. See article on page 8.

**Cathy (Harpak) Moses ('84 Mtn. Village)** lives in her home village, is married, and works for the tribe.

**Caroline Constantine-Notti ('84 Tyonek)** works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Fairbanks. <carolinenotti@hotmail.com>

**Oleanna Petla ('84 Koliganek)** works with a housing authority in Hawaii and may have an A.A. degree? Please update your current address with RAHI, **Oleanna**.



**Phyllis (John) Rose ('84 Kwigillinok)** "Hi to all of the '84 RAHI-ers! I ran into **Nina** (my roommate in '84) at the Alaska Heritage Center here in Anchorage. I also run into **Faina** and **Sandra** once in a blue moon. I remember being so so quiet then but I am not keeping myself in that space too much anymore. I am attending Alaska Pacific University full-time (changing careers from accounting to psychology), received my B.A. in Psychology in December 2007, and am now in my first year of a 2-year master of



science in counseling psychology program. It is amazing to be back in school at 43 years old as it is so different from 24 years ago!!! Yes, it has been that long ago that we were at RAHI!!! I was once married, for 12 years. I did not produce any children as I've never wanted to, but I do enjoy borrowing others' children and returning them afterwards. I have a goddaughter and also have about 53 nieces and nephews...I adore each relationship I have with each one of them. Anyway, I bought a condo and moved into it and have been doing some touch up renovations through this summer. If you are in town, feel free to call me at 907-243-0013 or stop by 2328 McCrae Road and visit. You can also email me at <rphyllis@gmail.com>. Hope this finds all doing well and enjoying life."

**Dorinda "Emmy" Mikulecky Sanderson ('84 Hydaburg)** stays busy with her family at home in Hydaburg.

**Mona Strickland ('84 Kotzebue)** "Hi to **Phyllis (Rose '84 Kwigillinok** and **Kim (Weston-Smith '84 Mekoryuk)**. I'm still in Kotzebue, still married and we have two children; **Anthony** is 18 and **Lynnette** is 13 going on 40! LOL!



She's the one giving me all my white hairs! The picture of me was taken in Florida at the Universal Studios and the one of my children is at the Kennedy Space Center this past January." <mstrickland@maniilaq.org>

**Kimberly Weston-Smith ('84 Mekoryuk)** "Phyllis, so good to hear from you. :) and how courageous of you to change careers. I have lived in Bethel for 18 years. Years have passed so quickly and life goes on. I am married to my husband of 20 years and have an 18 year old son **Collin** and 16 year old daughter **Chelsea**. I have been employed with Office of Children's Services for 16 years in various positions and have been a social worker for 8 years. I travel to several villages throughout the YK Delta and enjoy the company of the people and of course eating the yummy traditional foods :) Just like **Phyllis**, it would be wonderful to hear from other 84'ers and the happenings. After all, we shared several weeks of our lives together during that summer. Until then! <kimberly.weston-smith@alaska.gov>

**Brenda Tikiun ('84 Atmautluak)** is married. "My family and I moved back to Alaska this past summer from Hawaii. It is great to be back in Alaska and living closer to family. My youngest son (10 yr. old) was so excited to see snow! Hope to hear from you all. Have a safe and joyous winter!" <brendatikiun@yahoo.com> <btikiun@calistacorp.com>

## Class of 1985

**Elsie (Francis) Boudreau ('85 St. Mary's)** lives in Anchorage with her family.

**Renee (Kauffman) Crow ('85 St. Paul)** "I have been teaching for the Lower Kuskokwim School District for 15 years. I married my college sweetheart **Sam** and we have four children, one dog, and two chickens. We recently went on a six-week camping trip through Canada, Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Utah and Colorado. We had a great time and thankfully left the dog and

(cont. on page 8)

Top: Mona Strickland and Bottom: her children



# Employee Spotlight



<sup>YUNAK</sup>  
**Mary Martinez**

2004 thesis on uptake of trace metals in vegetation samples in Southwest Alaska can be found at [www.calistacorp.com/landresources/reports.asp](http://www.calistacorp.com/landresources/reports.asp)

Information Systems (GIS). She is proud to be a part of the team that is working towards sound resource management in the Calista Region.

Mary says that she missed her home while she was away at school, but that it was worth it to gain an education that has allowed her to help her Corporation. She says that working in the Lands Department allows her to represent the rural communities, which is very important to her as a former village resident.

Working as a Lands Planner is a very challenging position, and Mary says that she still references texts on land laws and other resources. In a position like hers, you learn new things every day. "Knowledge improves with practice," Mary says.

Mary Martinez is a Calista Shareholder and works in the Lands Department as a Lands Planner. She is originally from Kotlik, and holds a bachelor's degree in natural resource management and a master's in environmental science from Alaska Pacific University. Mary's

Mary also enjoys working with professionals from a variety of resource-related fields, such as geology and Geographic

Everyday duties in Mary's position include finalizing sales agreements between the Corporation and contractors, following up on projects and payments and drafting legal transfer documents.

Taken from May 2008 issue of *The Story Knife*, the voice of Calista,

(cont. from page 7)

chickens home while we traveled in our mini-van." <Renee\_Crow@lksd.org>

**Debbie (Vent) Kokrine ('85 Huslia)** "I am still working at Bassett Army Hospital as a labor and delivery nurse. **Ashley** ('06 North Pole) is currently attending UAF, **Dan** ('08 North Pole) is finishing his senior year at Effie Kokrine Charter School. I am trying to get my certification for obstetrics, took the test September 19th but haven't heard the results yet. Wish me luck!!!" <dlkokrine@hotmail.com>

**Tracy Nix Patterson ('85 Hydaburg)** stays busy with her family at home in Hydaburg.

**Mae Pitka ('85 Russian Mission)**

"I just wanted to ditto **Beverly's** (**Simon Kokrine** '85 Huslia) request in the last RAHI Review, but I might up mine to \$100,001.99 income. Ha Ha. I am busy with teaching K-1st grade students here in Russian Mission. I am also working towards getting my master's in applied linguistics through UAF. I am busier than I have ever imagined. I am definitely taking the "Challenge Yourself" to heart. Great to see that people from my class have their sense of humor still intact. ;) Anyone else hitting 40 this year? Ha Ha. Write when you have a few minutes. Take care!!!" <maepitka@yahoo.com>

## Class of 1986

**Charleen Fisher-Salmon ('86 Beaver)** is the school principal at Beaver. She took the school children on a trip to Japan in April 2008. See story on page 12.

**Jessie Marlene (Lee) Luther ('86 Buckland)** is a stay at home mom living in Buckland.

**Sven "Scumpy" Paukan ('86 St. Mary's)** visited the RAHI booth at AFN and updated us on his family. His oldest daughter is now a freshman in high school at Mt. Edgecumbe in Sitka. **Scumpy** continues to work for the village corporation, and says Hi to his RAHI friends.

## Native Educator: Beverly Simon Kokrine

By Ginger Placeres

Excerpts taken from May 2008 *The Council*

As the Native community experiences out-migration, a term to describe Alaska's rural population moving to hub cities like Fairbanks, this intensifies the need for strong Native role models for our urban children. Native teachers who reside in these hub cities play an important role; they bring culture, respect, and accomplishment into a westernized, citified atmosphere for the very group who need it most—children. This issue is twofold: we are minorities in Fairbanks, and minorities in the profession of teaching. The few who do teach in Fairbanks are valuable ambassadors for education and cultural representation; ultimately people we should support and respect.

**Beverly Simon Kokrine ('85 Huslia)** has been a teacher for 11 years with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Her parents are **Franklin** and **Lillian Simon**, and she has four siblings: **Eileen Jackson**, **Christopher Simon**, **Doreen David** and **Colleen Weter**. She grew up in Huslia, Alaska, and emerged a professional along with several of her peers in a single generation of amazing people. There are teachers, a superintendent, nurses, lawyers, a former Tanana Chiefs Conference President, and other leaders representing the Native community throughout Alaska.



As for **Beverly**, she taught 1st grade for three years at Nordale Elementary, one at Badger Elementary, and the last seven at Ticasuk Brown Elementary, teaching kindergarten—an age group she prefers. “It is the best job to have when you are raising a family. I have the same days off as my children. The summers off is the added bonus.” Her children with **Curt Kokrine** are **Curt Joe**, **Clay**, daughter **Justin “JJ,”** and **David**.

“They come in with such a sense of innocence.” **Beverly** says of her students. She has a wonderful rapport with children that empower them to be independent in the classroom. “They absorb information so quickly” says **Beverly** of her students—you would be amazed by the sheer amount of small bodies all about their business. She instructs 13 in the morning, and 11 in the afternoon; they overlap for a time as morning students leave. **Beverly's** nature has everything to do with her ease in the classroom; she is naturally patient and calm. Add to this her great sense of humor that is always embracing the beauty of innocence in her students.

The paradox between her quiet skills and classroom management is probably most obvious in **Beverly's** petite frame—a hundred pounds sopping wet—and brings mirth to the classroom scene. Others would require a large physical presence! Not **Beverly**, she manages with technique, respect, and a love for her job.

Her method is to give students choices, showing students that their choices will lead to conclusions of their own making. It is a wonderful way of allowing children to realize the consequences of their choices, positive or negative, but in such a safe environment that rarely requires **Beverly's** discipline, instead she redirects in a subtle manner that allows each student to own up to their behavior. When someone is compelled to tattletale, **Beverly** says “I ask that the student give a ‘good’ report before they tattle. That means a compliment comes first.”

She further emphasizes ‘good’ choices by complimenting a student out loud for others to hear; this serves as a reminder to peers that positive choices reap positive social benefits. It seems neither rhyme nor reason, but rarely do you find any needing correction, at least not in a distracting sort of fashion. Rather, these children are incredibly focused and making tiny accomplishments all day long.

A center-based classroom, each student begins the day by drawing a picture along with sentences to explain in a daily journal. From there, students have four choices in center activities, while she remains in the Writ-

ing Center, assisting in handwriting, comprehension, and often assessing a student's improvements along the way. While at phonetics, others weren't patient enough for one youngster to supply a sentence, "give him 'think time' please" Beverly pointed out, diminishing the chatter on either side of her.

**Beverly** has favorite students in mind over the years which have brought gigantic personalities into her classroom and offered up many imaginings for their lives as adults. "I asked students to complete a compliment to their moms for Mother's Day, one boy decided his mom 'was as beautiful as...a mowed lawn'! I laughed so hard and asked why he chose that comparison. He said his mom couldn't stop talking about their 'beautiful' lawn when it was mowed once the entire summer! We kept that statement the same since she would understand!"

Her mission is to establish positive parental involvement in a child's education from the beginning, in order to enhance their lifelong learning. To encourage interaction, parents are invited in for weekly cooking days referred to as Wonderful Wednesdays. "I want parents to feel like the classroom is theirs as much as mine."

An effective tool for communication includes a weekly parent notebook that **Beverly** sends home with each student, parents can write back after she shares the week. "Many parents write back with enthusiasm. The kindergarten year is so important to set a positive relationship between parents and the school." She wants parents to feel comfortable at the school while actively engaged in their child's development.

As for supporting emerging Native teachers, **Beverly** welcomes any Education 102 students who need their practicum hours for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She wanted to become a teacher ever since **Dorothy Jordan** was her junior high teacher. "Seeing that positive role model in the community touched my life." **Bev** remembers **Dorothy** welcoming students into her house as soon as school was out for the day. "**Dorothy** didn't even get a break!"

Another Athabascan teacher had a positive influence on her life as well. **Lois Huntington** was an elementary teacher in Huslia when **Beverly** was a child. Situated on the Koyukuk River, Huslia is home to around



300 people. Later, **Beverly** moved to Nulato, where she lived with a Native teacher. "Living with **Victor** and **Edith Nicholas** was a positive experience—**Edith** was a very dedicated teacher. She rarely missed a day of work." Ultimately though, **Beverly's** parents taught her the value of working. **Lillian**, her mom, retired after 30 years as the Huslia postmaster.

Please support teachers everywhere. We have little knowledge of how they will positively impact the futures of our children. Further, **Beverly Simon Kokrine** is someone to be immensely proud of and a wonderful role model for anyone seeking a career in education.

<bkokrine@northstar.k12.ak.us>



## Class of 1987

**Kimberly Ansaknok ('87 Ft. Yukon)** "An exciting thing for my daughter **Lauren** is that she's decided to graduate a year early. She passed the high school exit exams last year and has worked out her class schedule with her counselor. By taking some correspondence classes, getting PE waivers for participating in track and field, and getting elective credit for having an after school job she'll graduate this year. Now all the senior year expenses are bumped up to this year. Wasn't expecting all the expenses until next year (pictures, SAT/ACT test exam fees, college application fees, class ring, cap and gown, etc). It's what **Lauren** really wants to do so I'll support her decision and help her make it happen as much as I can. Other than that, just living in Fairbanks and working to support my family of **Lauren**, myself, and **Ava (Lauren's dog)**. Oh, **Andrew Ansaknok ('94 Ft. Yukon)** is working a construction job out at Eielson AFB through the carpenters union." <kimberly.ansaknok@tananachiefs.org>

**Lisa (Thomas) Gavin ('87 Buckland)** sends greetings from Fairbanks where she is teaching 1st grade at Anne Wien Elementary School.

**Diane Molly (Paukan) Hale ('87 St. Mary's)** was in Anchorage for AFN as a delegate representing her village council.

**Kelly (Fredson) Lincoln ('87 Kipnuk)** and her husband **Gregory Lincoln ('86 Toksook Bay)** were featured in the *Delta Discovery* on April 17, 2008 as one of the Legislative Citations submitted by **Rep. Mary Nelson**. "**Kelly** and **Greg Lincoln** run the *Delta Discovery*, the weekly publication serving Bethel and the villages of the Y-K Delta. Alaska's largest independent

Native-owned and operated newspaper has received 32 awards from the Alaska Press Club. The **Lincolns'** extensive knowledge of Southwest Alaska has served our area well. The paper offers a good regional perspective with a variety of content, including letters, commentary and columns from people in the area. The **Lincolns'** editorial work is generally well-received and balanced. Thanks to **Greg** and **Kelly** and other contributors for their hard work!"

## Class of 1988

**Gail Alstrom ('88 St. Mary's)** "Wow, thanks **Lorraine** for that quick trip down memory lane... it was nice to see all of our '88 class names together again. I had forgotten how many of us there were in that class. I hope all of you that get this are doing fine... enjoying the beautiful fall weather (yeah its fall for us already down on the lower Yukon...first frost end of August!). Take care!" **Gail** is the Operation's Manager for the St. Mary's Sub-Regional Clinic. <gail\_alstrom@ykhc.org>

Baby boy **Keenan Thomas Barr** born to **Tom Barr ('88 Kotzebue)** and **Janet Amuktoolik ('95 Golovin)** on June 8, 2008. According to proud **Aana (Tom's mom)**, **Keenan** looks just like **Tom** did as a baby. He joins brother **Jadyn Carson Barr** and sister **Tatiana Chanar** at home. **Tom** and **Janet** plan to marry at the Nome Lutheran Church on November 29, 2008. Best wishes to you two.

**Verne (Seum) Boerner ('88 '89 Kiana)** "My family had a very unexpected opportunity to move to Cologne Germany! It happened very quickly and we moved with very little lead time. The good news is, I am in the process of applying for my advanced degree and hope to start the program in January! I will take online

courses through Oregon Health and Sciences University while here in Germany. We intend on being here for three to five years." <vfboerner@gmail.com>

**Stephanie (Alexander) Hinz ('88 Ft. Yukon)** "I am currently living in Charlottesville, Virginia where I am working as an Internet Marketing Specialist for a French company. We moved here in May of '07 and really enjoy living here. I've been running my own web & graphic design business on the side for the last year, but mostly I've been having fun traveling around the east coast with my family (D.C. is only two hours away and we have friends and family up and down the coast)." <stephaniehinz@hotmail.com>

We think **Darlene "Deena" Johnson ('88 Emmonak)** lives in Anchorage. Please provide RAHI with your current mailing address.

**Jennifer (Allred) Litera ('88 Nome)** "I am in my second year as Assistant Principal at Ipalook Elementary School in Barrow. There are 566 students in grades preschool through fifth grade. This is my fifteenth year in Barrow. My son, **Trevor**, is a senior in high school and he turned 18 at the end of August. My husband, **Lance**, works as a computer technician with the local government. A big hello to **Angie Jackson Vermillion** and **James Sears**." <arcticteacher@yahoo.com>

**Kathryn (John) Martin ('88 Mentasta Lake)** escorted her famous grandmother, **Katie John**, to AFN where **Katie** made a presentation to the AFN convention members.

**Lillie (Saccheus) Nylin ('88 Elim)** "Hi RAHI. I hope everyone is doing okay. I am a busy Mom. My husband and I have four boys. We recently moved in with my elderly mother, she was lonely

(cont. on page 13)

## Beaver students return from 10-day school trip to Tokyo, Japan

By **Mary Beth Smetzer**

Published by *Fairbanks Daily News Miner* on Tuesday, April 22, 2008

During the 50th anniversary of his death, the life of legendary Japanese Alaska pioneer **Kyosuke “Frank” Yasuda** is being commemorated in both his birthplace in Japan and in Beaver, the Yukon River community he founded with his Inupiat wife **Nevelo** in 1910.

The first portion of the international celebration returned home Monday evening from a trip of a lifetime. Toting luggage filled with Japanese mementos, eight schoolchildren and five adult chaperones from the Athabascan village of Beaver wearily debarked at Fairbanks International Airport on their next-to-last stop on the voyage home.



Charlene Fisher-Salmon and her father, Rev. Scott Fisher, and her children

A year of fundraising, gift-making, regalia-sewing and a semester and a half of Japanese lessons prepared the group for journey. But the excitement isn't done yet. The school trip was followed in August by a three-day potlatch in Beaver featuring 35 Japanese guests.

“We’re so grateful to have gone,” Beaver school Principal **Charleen Fisher-Salmon** (‘86 Beaver) said. Last year, **Fisher-Salmon** won a Teacher Dream Challenge Grant from the Aurora Foundation in California, which paid her way. Elders and others in the village were already making plans for the commemorative potlatch when **Fisher-Salmon** won the grant, and it served as a stimulus for others to make a trip to Japan.

Then began a flurry of fundraisers — raffles, cakewalks and spaghetti feeds. Help came from the Beaver Village Council, the village corporation, and the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. When school started last fall, the K-12 students started taking Japanese lessons with a long-distance instructor and preparing gifts and regalia and practicing songs in the Native language. The work and preparation, included learning proper Japanese etiquette, was worth it. “They treated us so kindly,” **Salmon-Fisher** said. “It was really exciting.”

**Ryo Satomi**, a frequent visitor to Beaver the past 15 years, researched **Yasuda’s** life and made all the contacts for the trip. Four days were spent participating in a multitude of planned activities in the seaside city of Ishinomaki (where **Yasuda** was born) and Sendai, both in Miyagi prefecture. The group cut the ribbon at a special **Yasuda** display at a university and viewed traditional dancing and drumming.

Other highlights of the trip were being greeted by the large Minato (Ishinomaki) Elementary School marching band, seeing cherry blossoms in bloom, participating in a Buddhist memorial ceremony for **Yasuda’s** ancestors and meeting the Ainu — an indigenous Japanese people — the governor and mayor. Many of the city experiences, especially in Tokyo, were firsts for the village children — taking trains and subways and walking through crowded streets.

“We are so glad we could share some of our Athabascan language and culture,” said **Paul Williams Jr.**, a language instructor for Beaver school, who enjoyed learning firsthand about Japanese culture and customs during the trip. “I liked seeing Tokyo, one of the huge cities of the world and all of the nice people.”

Second-grader **Allison Fisher-Salmon**, 7, said she liked Japanese snacks and popsicles, and also Tokyo. “It had lots of fun stuff,” she said.



Beaver children returning from Japan.

**Yasuda** came north as a cabin boy to **Capt. Frank Healy** on the *U.S. Revenue Cutter, “Bear,”* and took up residence in Barrow in 1893, where he eventually married. At the time, the whale population was nearly decimated by commercial whalers and the coastal people were hungry and suffering from disease brought by the newcomers. **Yasuda** later was called the “**Japanese Moses**” for leading his wife’s people across the Brooks Range from the northern coast of Alaska to the Yukon River. The **Yasudas** partnered with gold miners in the Chandalar area and established Beaver in 1910 as a supply center to supply the new mines in the region.





Lillie Nylin and family

(cont. from page 11)

and needs help. I am working as the Unit Manager of the Elim Boys and Girls Club. My head is full of children. Hi there to **Ada Chapman** and **Andrea Gregg Van Ravenswaay**. Take care and God bless everyone!!" <mrslnjnylin@yahoo.com>

**Dale Smith ('88 Mekoryuk)** was one of the coordinators of the *Discussion Series on Energy Crisis in Alaska* hosted by the First Alaskans Institute and Leadership Anchorage on May 14, 2008. <dalesmith@firstalaskans.org>

**Sharon (Nicholas) Susook ('88 Kaltag)** "Gee Gail (Alstrom), Good to hear from you! I run into RAHI classmates all the time since I moved to Anchorage. It always makes me happy! I am glad that you are doing well. Hi to everyone as well...Stay in touch." <sharonsusook@hotmail.com>

**Angela (Jackson) Vermillion ('88 Gakona)** is a busy mom with a five-year old boy and two-year old foster daughter, in addition to her duties as an Ahtna board member. She freely admits that she is an advocate for RAHI to the Ahtna region students. She can be reached at <angela@gulkanaak.net>

## Class of 1989

**Bent Sorenson ('89 Greenland)** "I just want to say hello. I am living in Greenland, Nuuk and work for The Home Rule Government as a Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Industry, Labour, Vocational Educ. & Training." <bens@gh.gl>

## Class of 1990

**Erik Brandt ('90 Greenland)** recently moved to Anchorage with his family. He works in Barrow (2on/2off). He and his kids stopped by the RAHI booth at AFN. <brandt\_nome@yahoo.com>

**Douglas Kernak "Piciryaratgun Calritllerkaq" ('90 Tuntutuliak)** "My wife **Julia** and I celebrated our 12th wedding anniversary on September 2. We have three children whose names are **Stacey**, **Christian** and **Martha**. For the past 3 1/2 years I have been employed with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research (CANHR) of the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a village field research assistant. We have a Health Promotion Project that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has funded and we started some activities to help our community with their health. Some of the activities include the 10,000

step program, traditional foods potlucks, organized a walking club, elder meals once a month, and a support group for families without a designated hunter. During summer months I am busy with commercial and subsistence fishing, so all through out the year there is not a boring day except when it gets very cold. I still live in my hometown of Tuntutuliak. I have served three years on the Tuntutuliak Traditional Council, and am currently serving three more years with the electric company TCSA (Tuntutuliak Community Services Association). I would like to say a big hello to everyone. I still do remember each and everyone of the 1990 RAHI alum and would love to hear from all of you." <fndlk2@uaf.edu> or <d\_kernak@yahoo.com>

**Jessie (Downey) Omnik ('90 Pt. Hope)** "This bear is soooo darn big, my husband is on his 3rd day pilaqtuq (he's skinning it). I guess when he was out on the point he said the polar bear was asleep atop the seals he caught a few days earlier. He tupaaq (was surprised) because all of a sudden he saw the head of the bear...my dad noted how much bigger the head of the bear is compared to **James** ...anyway I am thankful for this one cuz now I have my hubby back at home, at least till they go out whaling ...well, just wanted to share with you all. Thanks for all your prayers, **John's** OK doc says. ASKING ALL THOSE WHO CARE~PLEASE KEEP **JOHN** IN YOUR PRAYER. **Alfred James** has scored an 8th grade math level on his test scores~he is only in the 4th grade, what a scholar!! As for **Peter**, well, he's singing "low, low, low" (Applebottom jeans)" <bunn\_jessie@yahoo.com>. See picture on page 14.

**Michelle (Schaeffer) Flood ('90 '91 Kotzebue)** is working on the slope.



**Hazel (Thompson) Munoz ('90 Kaktovik)** is busy with work and family in Anchorage, and expecting baby #3 in April.

**Amber (Bowen) Scott ('90 Tanana)** "It's been a long time since I checked in, so I thought I'd say hello. I have been back in Fairbanks for almost three years now, and can't believe how time flies. I work at Denali State Bank as an Executive Administrative Assistant and love my job. I get to organize a lot of our community involvement campaigns and fundraising events, so it's fun and meaningful work and I'm happy to be a party of a great team. My daughter **Michael** is 14 and just got her driver's permit. My son **Jerren** is 11 and we spend M-F for two hours a night at the football field watching him practice. Go Redskins! We had season tickets to the Grizzlies games this year and win or lose we had a good time cheering them on. The other new addition to our family is a 3-year old Shih Tzu named **Rosie**, she's awfully cute. My family and I were on a vacation to LA, San Diego & Laguna Beach and we had a great time in the sand and sun. I rode every major roller coaster in Southern California (and I'm afraid of heights!) but the beach was definitely the highlight of the trip for me. I'm still chipping away at my degree, one class at a time, but life is good! I love reading the RAHI newsletter and getting updates on everyone. Wishing you all peace, joy, love and happiness in whatever journey life leads you on." <ascott@denalystatebank.com>.

### **Class of 1991**

**Renee Southerland ('91 Angoon)** lives in Juneau with her three young sons. Her oldest son is a freshman in high school. <ak\_tlingit\_gal@yahoo.com>



Jessie Omnik's husband with his catch.

### **For immediate release**

September 12, 2008

### **UA Foundation 2009-10 Scholarships**

The University of Alaska Foundation announces the availability of scholarships available to students attending any campus of the University of Alaska (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southeast and all community campuses) during the 2009-10 academic year. The UA Foundation has 58 scholarships offering awards from \$500 to \$8,000. Requirements vary. Please visit our website for the specifics, at

<<http://www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/>>.

Interested students who submit an online application via UAOnline are considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible. Since most scholarships are awarded early in the spring of each academic year, applications must be received by Feb. 16, 2009, to be considered for most fall 2009-spring 2010 scholarships. Applications received through Aug. 15, 2009, will be used for any late-awarded scholarships or any new scholarship that may open up. Applications received after the August date will be disqualified.

For more information contact: University of Alaska Foundation, Attn: Dory Straight, 910 Yukon Drive, Suite 206, PO Box 755080, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5080, 907-450-8030 phone, 907-450-8031 fax, [dory.straight@alaska.edu](mailto:dory.straight@alaska.edu). Applications are available at [UAOnline.alaska.edu](http://UAOnline.alaska.edu) or visit our website at <[www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/](http://www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/)>.

## Class of 1992

**Grete Lisbeth Bergman ('92 '93 Ft. Yukon)** "I am still working for UAF as Program Assistant for the Alaska Tribal Technical Assistance Center. This job takes me all over the state as well as the Lower 48 and I really enjoy it. I am also working on my M.A. in Rural Development. I would love to hear updates from 92-93 RAHI'ers. I'm available by email <gretelynn@yahoo.com>, Myspace, and Facebook."

**Charlotte (Alexander) Endicott ('92 Ft. Yukon)** "Hi everyone! I am currently working as a second grade teacher in Fort Yukon. My husband **Nate** works as the junior high math and gym teacher. We have two boys, **Magnus** (3) and **Braun** (1). We are about to build a house, **Nate** has milled the lumber with my brother **Dacho**. I have been taking a few classes. I made some high bush cranberry jelly this fall. Life is pretty low key for me. Hi to everyone from RAHI '92, especially **Alberta, Grete, Ginger, Marilyn, Michael, and Matt.**" <charlottealphonsie@yahoo.com>

**Alberta Laktonen ('92 Kodiak)** is a doctor of general medicine at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

**Lulu Swan ('92 Kivalina)** works for WH Pacific in Anchorage as a receptionist/assistant.

**Debbie (Mekiana) Toopetlook ('92 '93 Anaktuvuk Pass)** "I want to say hi to all RAHI alums and I want to hear from all '92 and '93 alums because I have lost contact with many of them. We just celebrated my child's 9th birthday. I feel old!! Contact info: cell 388-2985 (I love to text), can use yahoo email, check me out on myspace and facebook." <dtoopetlook@yahoo.com>  
Debbie Toopetlook

Rural Student Services Director  
P.O. Box 756320  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
(907) 474-6618 or 474-7871  
fax: (907) 474-6619  
1-888-478-1452 AK only

## Class of 1993

**Edward Alexander ('93 '94 Ft. Yukon)** "The school year is off to a great start in Arctic Village, should be a pretty exciting year." This is **Ed's** first year of teaching at Arctic Village. He did a wonderful job as the inspirational speaker at the RAHI graduation this summer. Thank you, **Ed.** <alexander\_edward@hotmail.com>

**Desiree (Lincoln-Moses) Forbes ('93 Toksook Bay)** sends her greetings from Fort Bragg, North Carolina where her husband is stationed after a 2 ½ year stint in Germany. <qirr.forbes@yahoo.com>

**Jaylene Wheeler ('93 '94 Nome)** attended the AFN Convention.

## Class of 1994

**Davina (Carl) Alexie ('94 Kipnuk/'07 RAHI staff)** "*Waqaa* (Greetings) from the southwest corner of Alaska and warm hello's to everyone from RAHI past and present! *Quyana cakneq* (Thank you very much) **Denise** for all the wonderful work you have provided to enhance the lives of scholars near and far, especially during times we most needed your help. High 5 to that! You've made our lives much more meaningful and yearning to make positive changes for those that need an extra hand wherever we tread in our academic and professional lives. I'm married, have two children (one in 3rd grade, and the other in 4th). Wishing everyone unending success and a wonderful rest of the year! Hearts to all!" <reichicka@yahoo.com>

**Starr (Sensmeier) Jensen ('94 Yakutat)** "Gosh, I can't believe it has been 14 years since RAHI... Wow, time flies. Anyway, I am currently working as the Lead Teacher for Yakutat Head Start. I've been working here for the past four years. I started when I enrolled my daughter in the program. She is now seven years old and will be starting the 2nd grade. I also married her dad and we just celebrated our 4th anniversary. I'm taking courses via distance delivery so one day I'll have my degree in Child Development... Slowly but surely. My sisters are doing well... **Violet ('97)** is living in Montana and taking some courses at the university in Missoula. **Lillian Sensmeier ('06 Yakutat)** returned to UAF this fall to complete her Certificate in Culinary Arts. Just wanna say hi to my best friend **Madeline Gallahorn ('94 Pt. Hope)** who just recently graduated from UAF! She's my inspiration... Hope everyone else from '94 is well." <starrsss@yahoo.com>

**Andrew Suligak Kakoon ('94 Shishmaref)** "Hey everyone from 1994 RAHI. How is everyone doing? A lot must be happening in each individual lives. As for me, I have been busy here in Nome, Alaska. I have been working for Alaska Gold Company as the mill control room operator for nine months now. I have a wonderful soon to be wife (January 23, 2009 wedding date) and we have two beautiful boys **Gary Andrew Evans**-19 months and **Carter Davey Allen**-4 months. I would like to hear from all the '94 Rahiers and any other Rahiers. It would be nice to keep in contact once in a while. Anyone wanna email me, feel free at alocko14@yahoo.com. My address is PO Box 1734, Nome, AK 99762 and phone number 907-443 4829."



## Peace Corps Project

by Sarah Sherry ('96 Anchorage)

*Hello olgeta, olsem wanum?* (Hello everyone, how are you?)

Since then, I've now returned to Vanuatu. I returned to rain, rain, and more rain! I spent two weeks back in Tongariki and then I boarded that wonder that is the *M.V. Brooklyn* for a 10-hour trip back to Vila. I boarded at Tongariki at about 4:30 pm - we stopped at Buninga and Makira (Makira hemi tuff tumas!) and arrived in Vila about 2:30 am.

Because of a recent crime increase in Vila, and because all the crew of the *Brooklyn* are from Tongariki and I know all of them - I decided it was safer to spend the night on the ship with the crew and with Susie (a teacher from Lewaima who also rode in yesterday for a training here in Vila) rather than try and make my way to the hotel at 2:30 in the morning... a time when all public transport has closed for the night. I slept with Susie under a blanket of stars as we tried to ignore the fuel fumes and rubbish aromas...

Then at 6 o'clock this morning I caught a bus to the Hotel Formule, showered and wandered here to the Peace Corps Resource room - where I'm happily reaching out to all of you.

I have been serving in the Peace Corps for just about a year now. Ask any volunteer, and they'll tell you that in the Corps, no two days are the same, no two volunteer experiences are the same, and that the quality of your service can depend on the work you do, where you are placed at, the culture you're integrated into, and the people you meet.

A lot of people join the Peace Corps for a million different reasons - an altruistic nature, a desire to travel, to see new places, to experience something different somewhere else - somewhere new and foreign and exotic. Some volunteers want to break down barriers, some want to learn new skills, some want to learn about a new culture. Through being in the Peace Corps, wherever you are placed, you will learn new languages, you will become a better communicator, you will become more patient, you will become a fuller and more balanced you.

In the Peace Corps, like anywhere else, you will have your good days - maybe the best days of your life - and you'll have your bad days - those days where you have never felt more challenged by your



circumstances. Some projects are failures and others - well, maybe they're successes even if they aren't exactly what you thought they might be - but if they are successes - then they are more relevant and needed than what you first imagined the project to be.

With all of this said, let me tell you a little more about my personal experience. I'm Alaska Native and proud. I'm Lower Tanana Athabascan and my mother is from a small village in Alaska's Interior. Minto, Alaska has about 250 people, three churches, a store, a post office, a clinic, a K-12 school and a lodge that houses the tribal offices. Most people from Minto are proud of our songs and dances and culture. This is where I come from; Alaska is, and has been, and always will be my home.

But in the last year I have found a new home in the most unlikely of places. And the home has come with a new culture, a new language and new family members. In Vanuatu, they would say I have become "One Woman Shepards."



Erata Village is one of five small villages located on Tongariki Island. Tongariki is about 2 kilometers by 4 kilometers. The population of the island is about 350 people. There are 3 “stores,” in which you can purchase kerosene, batteries, peanut butter, cigarettes, rice and sugar – and when the ship is running steadily you might be able to buy some cookies or other sweet snacks. There are 3 churches, a K-8th grade school, and a local clinic, but there is no post office or bank, and the only truck they ever had broke down in 1987. My father, visiting from Alaska, was the very first tourist in Tongariki – and so why would there be a lodge?

Both villages face similar challenges in terms of “development.” Both suffer from brain drain and urban migration, and both suffer from unique geographical challenges and remoteness, and as such, suffer from high prices of fuel costs. Amongst all the differences in cultures, personalities, songs, dances, languages, and lifestyles, we, all of us in the world, can always find some common ground; find ways to better understand each other.

Tongariki is a small, small island in the South Pacific. It is part of an archipelago known as the Republic of Vanuatu, if you are in Alaska; just head south to Hawaii, and keep heading south. Indeed, many Vanuatu maps might not even include Tongariki on the map. You might just see a spattering of land masses known as the Shepards Islands groups. But from the top of Tongariki, you have a 360 degree view of Tongoa, Falea, Ewose, Epi, Emai, Pele, Nguna, Efate, Makira, Mataso, Amour, and Buninga Islands. These are the islands that make up Shefa Province. It’s an amazing view, the deep rolling ocean blues, the shale grey of rock jutting out of the ocean, white sand beaches, the lush green foliage that provides bananas, mangoes, papayas, manioc, taro, yam, coconut and other local organic fruits and vegetables. The sea, too, yields its share of shellfish, fish, octopus and crab.

The people on Tongariki are generous, with a great capacity for laughter. They work hard to maintain their gardens, and are anxious for development. They absorb every magazine, newspaper, photos and articles sent from home. In many ways, the people from Tongariki are situated on a cusp of change. Maybe in the way Minto was situated 50 or 100 years ago.

Then, in Alaska, we had not yet come across statehood, the Alaska Native Land Claims Act, the discovery of oil, or the pipeline. Then, in Alaska, we weren’t even really a part of the great nation that is America.

Now in Vanuatu, we see the march of development: cell phone towers rising from the ground, the promise of running water and electricity, laptops and computers in schools.

But with development and globalization moving forward, Ni-Vanuatu people and communities are struggling mightily to strike a balance between new kinds of infrastructure and the changes to the homogeneous culture that has kept them strong for thousands of years.

But that is an internal struggle. In the mean time, they toil away in their gardens, or fishing, or in their work with the church or school or woman’s club. They love to socialize and they love to hear about Alaska. Is it cold? The surprise washes across their face when I tell them it’s colder than the inside of a refrigerator during certain months. Is it dark? Again, amazement at the fact that sometimes the sun refuses to set, and sometimes it refuses to rise.

If I take the effort to explain to them that my heritage is such that my mother’s family was settled in long before the American government or the missionaries arrived – they find a certain kinship in my heritage. And if I tell them my father arrived in Alaska himself as a volunteer – they can understand the connection between that and my own ambiguous reasons for making the decision I did to serve in the Peace Corps.

In my work as a Community Health Facilitator I spend time helping to develop the health committee and the management of the local clinic. I also teach health classes in the school and make health education workshops throughout the island. Currently I’m working with other health volunteers to develop a survey for the Province that will give us some baseline data; data that will tell us where to expend our efforts and to help us measure our progress.

I have fundraisers with donated articles sent from home, pens and pencils, bubble gum, bras and kilts (underwear), t-shirts, skirts, markers and teaching supplies, earrings, necklaces, and nail polish. Locals tear through the sale goods like Christmas morning spending precious vatu for a chance at something new. The vatu (local currency) goes towards the repair of the dispensary and puts money into the hands of the health committee.

These projects are fulfilling, slow-going, challenging – its progress at the grassroots level. Sometimes, I don’t know what I’m doing; and what I know then is that I’m working with the islanders to work our way through the challenges together in

order to “mekem rod blong yumi everiwan stret (to make the path ahead straight for everyone)”.

A typical Peace Corps experience includes 3 months of pre-service training, in which you are introduced to place, culture, language and an outline of the work that is expected of you. As a volunteer, you alone are required to fill in the details of your work – incorporating Peace Corps goals, community needs, and your own aspirations. After pre-service training you swear-in as an official volunteer and you begin the next two years of your life.

I am midway through my two-year service now. And after a year, I find myself still grappling with the concept of “sustainable development,” even though it’s been a concept rural Alaska has been grappling with for ages now. And after a year, I find myself still coming to new understandings about the culture here in Vanuatu, in all of its nuances.

A year has passed by so quickly and yet there were days that passed by so slowly, even time had seemed to disappear into the deep abyss of the ocean. But even so, rural village Alaska, if not Peace Corps Vanuatu, has taught me that all things will come to pass in their own time. And, even if I am only a small speck on the wave of history, I will never undermine my own capability to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Even if it’s only found

in the smile of my host mama, in the fact that my host brother washed his hands, or in the fact that you, the reader, has taken the time to appreciate the wondrous resources around you and the diversity of culture that’s found in this world.

You can view all my blogs and photos at: [myspace.com/sarahgirlsherry](http://myspace.com/sarahgirlsherry)

You can view more photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/62703431@N00/>

AND MOST IMPORTANT!!! My snail mail address is:

Sarah Sherry, PCV  
Peace Corps Vanuatu  
PMB 9097  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu South Pacific





**Charles Kirk ('94 Buckland)** is the health aide in Buckland.

### Class of 1995

Marriage License - **Michael Wilson** and **Katie Hardesty ('95 Fairbanks)**, both of Fairbanks. When is/was the big day?

**Van Madros ('95 Nulato)** works for the water and sewer project in Hughes.

**Herman W. Polty ('95 Pilot Station)** "I moved from San Diego, CA to the Washington D.C. area in July. I've been making a lot of great friends here and still making more. It's a bit hot and humid, but I'll live. I would like to say a big "Hello" to all of the RAHI '95er's!!" <behrhuntr@yahoo.com>

**Samantha Smith ('95 Northway)** "I received my B.S. Biochemistry degree in May 2008 from UAF. I just started my 1st professional year at the University of New Mexico's School of Pharmacy." <samjensmi@yahoo.com>

### Class of 1996

**Rebecca Agnes ('96 Nulato)** "I am a sales associate at Bailey's Furniture, not what I expected myself doing but actually loving it. I am a single mom to two handsome boys (**Devin** 8 yrs. and **Gabriel** 1yr). Hi to all 96 RAHI attendees." <beckierose@yahoo.com>

**Alexander Robert Bergman Jr.**, 7 lbs. 13 oz., born June 17, 2008 to **Cheryl Simon ('96 Allakaket)**

and **Alexander Bergman Sr.** of Fairbanks.

**Waylon Koutchak ('96 Unalakleet)** has moved to Anchorage with his family and works as a Business System Analyst for Schroeder Consulting Service. <wkoutchak@totemsoftware.com>

### Class of 1997

**Sam Alexander ('97 Ft. Yukon)** is officially a Green Beret.

**Garrett Demit ('97 Northway)** "I have been serving in the United States ARMY since 1998. I have served in Germany for seven years. I was deployed to Iraq for the initial invasion, returned home safely. I am currently stationed in Ft. Bliss, TX. I am an instructor for my military specialty (PATRIOT fire enhanced operator/maintainer). I take new soldiers enlisting in the ARMY through 19 weeks of classroom and hands-on training. I have been doing fine. I enjoy being an instructor and enjoy serving our country. I plan on retiring in another 10 years. Good luck to the new class of RAHI students. Please keep those fighting for our country in your prayers. We are here for you. I have seen the last *RAHI Review*, check up on the program over the internet from time to time. I have not had too much contact with anybody since I joined the military, been overseas for most of the last 10 years. It would be nice to hear from old friends and anybody that is interested in joining the military. I am not a recruiter but

like to talk about what the military has to offer, even just a short contract can get people a large amount of money for schooling. Also helps build a young person to learn responsibility and self-discipline. I enjoy the military and plan on staying until I retire at 20 years in service. Retirement at age 38 is not a bad deal." <garrett.demit@us.army.mil>

**Crystal (Swetzof) Dushkin ('97 Atka)** stopped by the RAHI booth during AFN with her husband. She was due with her baby that very day, but hoped the baby would wait to be born until after she performed with her dance group that night at Qujana. Crystal, send us a photo of your baby!



Violet Sensmeier and her family

### CONDOLENCES TO THE DAYTON FAMILY

RAHI gives condolences to the family of **D. Joe Dayton ('97 Koyukuk)** who passed away this past summer. May God Bless and be with the family.

**Heather Manumik ('97 Bethel)**

"I am teaching the transition/4th grade classroom for the 6th year. I have 18 students and have moved into the newly built teacher housing. I had a fun summer traveling to Fairbanks with my Dad, Denali with my step dad, and Homer with my best friend. I also attended an arts institute in beautiful Juneau where I learned how to bring more art into my classroom. I am planning to be in Eek for another two years and then I will apply to teach overseas." <Immamak@hotmail.com>

**Sara Rearden ('97 '98 Bethel)** is teaching in Napaskiak and sends greetings to her RAHI friends. <sara\_rearden@lksd.org>

**Violet Sensmeier ('97 Yakutat)** "Hello RAHI Alumni!! Just want to send a big hug and hello from Missoula, MT. **Amiah Grace** and I are loving it here and we are both in school :) She is also in gymnastics and having a blast!

A special hello to RAHI 1997 (wow...are we getting old?) haha. A little family update for my friends, **I AM GETTING MARRIED!!!** No date set just yet, but I couldn't be happier and life is good. By the next newsletter, **Amiah** will be 8 years old and I will be 29! I wish all of you a great year and so much happiness. I can't forget to say hi to **Jim**, best wishes to you and your family :) hugs and smiles from **Violet and Amiah Grace.**" <vsensmeier@yahoo.com> See photo on page 19.

**Class of 1998**

**Alicia Active ('98 Togiak)** "I had a baby girl July 5 at 4:38am at ANMC. Her name is **Maari Dawn Active**, she weighed 7lbs. 10.4ozs. and was 21 1/4 inches long at birth." <aliciaactive@yahoo.com> See photo to the right.

**Israel Archuletta ('98 Willow)** "Wow, ten years since graduating from RAHI! I finally returned from a 15-month deployment to Iraq this year and right now am still in Texas. I am scheduled to complete my Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Intelligence Studies from American Military University on September 30, 2008. After I get out of the Army this November, my family and I

are looking for a new job in either Colorado or Alaska. If anyone has an opening, feel free to let me know. :) I have been running all year long training for the Army 10-miler Race in Washington, D.C. this October. I made the Ft. Hood Team and they send the top 11 male runners (and 7 females) to D.C. to compete against the other 26,000 runners in the race. Last



Alicia Active and her children

year our team got first place; this year we should be near the top again." <archulettai@yahoo.com>

**Percy Avugiak ('98 Cheforkak)** "I would like to let everyone know that I've completed a commissioned painting this summer for the Target Store that will be opened this October. My abstract painting was on display at the grand opening of the new Target Store at Wasilla October 7th. I will also have a *First Friday Event* for November at the Midnight Sun Cafe downtown in Anchorage. One of my paintings is on the front cover of the *First Alaskans* magazine in the March/April 2008 issue, and a few are for sale at the Alaska House Art Gallery in New York that just opened this fall. I had a crafts table during the AFN convention in October with some new comical/teasing masks, and original paintings. I hope you all have a chance to see my artwork." <percyavugiak@yahoo.com>

Update on **Mariah Bowen ('98 Tanana)** from sister Amber. "My sister **Mariah** and her family relocated from Maryland to (cont. on page 21)



Top: Israel Archuletta and his family  
Bottom: Israel in uniform, with his brother



(cont. from page 20)

Minnesota. They are house hunting and getting settled. Her daughters **Zeya** and **Anya** (ages 4 and 2) are beautiful and sweet and lots of fun."

**Brice Alan Qiyaisuk Eningowuk ('98 Shishmaref)** "I am still working for the Native Village of Shishmaref as the Shishmaref Environmental Program Manager. Love what I have been doing, I went to Boston in early June for a week on Eco-Municipality training on how to plan for self-sustainable muni's. Right now I am working on a couple projects that will help improve the community. I am still taking classes, I am registered for 12 credits and I have a couple more years to go yet. Hi to all alumni past and future." <bricealan@hotmail.com>



Samantha Jackson's baby

**Samantha Jackson ('98 Kwethluk)** "I have a daughter named **Ambrea Lacey Jackson** born December 2006. I am currently working for Lower Kuskokwim School District as an Accounts Payable Clerk, I have been with LKSD going on three years now. I am getting closer to having my A.A. degree, just have a few more classes to take. I will get a degree soon." <mengquj@yahoo.com>

## Class of 1999

**Yodean Armour ('99 Klawock)** sends greetings from Klawock. <armo9447@pacificu.edu>

Marriage License – **Chad Yates**, Fort Wainwright, and **Marganna Avugiak ('99 Chefornak)**, Fairbanks. When's the big day!!

**Rose Fitka ('99 Marshall)** "I'm living in Marshall with my boyfriend **Maurice** and our two year old son **Joshua** (born July 2005). We finally moved into our own place this year. We also found out that I'm pregnant again and due in December 2008! I've been working for Maserculiq, Inc. for about five years. I worked my way from a substitute bookkeeper to the full-time bookkeeper. I also handle a lot of other tasks here in the office that keep me busy pretty much year round. I just wanted to let you all know what's been going on in my life. I enjoy receiving the *RAHI Review* and hope to read more about '99ers. Take care. <r\_lynn\_fitka@yahoo.com>

**Deanna (Beans) Heckman ('99 Mountain Village)** "I am currently living in Pilot Station. I am married to **Art Heckman Jr.** for six years now. We have a five year old son, **Art Heckman III**, but we call him **Weeman**. I graduated from Alaska Pacific University August 2006 with two B.A. degrees, Psychology and Education. I currently work for the Lower Yukon School District as the district wide Attendance Specialist. I cover 11 villages through out the Yukon River. So I am always traveling. But I enjoy it. My husband is a commercial pilot for Frontier Alaska (Hageland) and flies out of St. Mary's and Bethel. My son is in 1st grade this year....and is very excited. I plan on going back to school to finish off my master's degree in School Psychology, I have about a year and a half left. I AM SO EXCITED. Then we



Rose Fitka's son

plan on moving back to the city, not sure which one but we want the best education for our son, he is VERY excited to be in school. I would like to say hello to all my RAHI buddies...I sure miss you all...keep in touch. <dheckman@loweryukon.org> or add me on yahoo messenger <deanna\_beans\_heckman00@yahoo.com>"

**Halen James Nield**, 7 lbs. 15 oz., born May 6, 2008, to **Andrea Durny ('99 Nulato)** and **Christopher Nield** of Fairbanks.

**Paul Pletnikoff ('99 Dillingham)** sends greetings from Anchorage. <pplet@yahoo.com>

**Angela Totemoff ('99 '00 Tatitlek)** "After graduating from UAF with a Computer Science degree in May 2007, things have been in full swing since I moved to Anchorage. I'm currently enrolled in two Master's Programs at Alaska Pacific University. In April 2010, I will graduate with an Executive M.B.A. in Information and

(cont. on page 22)



Front Row L to R: Deanna (Strunk) Latham, Angela Totemoff, and Karah Vial (in the white shirt and green skirt) dancing.

## REMEMBERING KARAH VIAL

February 7, 1983 to September 5, 2008

**Karah Vial ('00 Togiak)** passed away while attending college at MT, such a beautiful young woman....  
**Deanna (Strunk) Latham** and **Angela Totemoff** remembering **Karah**:

"First, we'd like to offer our condolences to **Karah's** family and friends. She was truly a beautiful person inside and out and will be missed dearly. **Karah** was a 2000 RAHI Alum. She always has a smile on her face and her laugh could be heard day and night in the MacIntosh Hall. She never had a dull or sad moment and was always there to chat and laugh with. We remember her being the most daring of the three of us but kept us laughing with her sharp, witty humor."

(cont. from page 21)

Communication Technology, and a Master's in Global Finance. This summer my boyfriend, **Tomas Andersen**, proposed! So we're planning a wedding for next July. Currently, I'm working for Chenega Technology Services Corp. as a Management Intern and loving it. So this year has been busy and full of wonderful surprises. I'd like to say hello to all '99 and '00 RAHI Alum. Hope all is well with you! Send me an email to say hello." <miss\_totemoff@yahoo.com>

**Herschel Warner Jr. ('99 Yakutat)** sends greetings from Petoskey, Michigan.  
 <khans\_1@yahoo.com>

### Class of 2000

**Brenda (White) Christensen ('00 Metlakatla)** "I am officially **Brenda A. Christensen**. It took me a while to change my name over to his. My husband and I and our three children are living in Metlakatla. We are both employed at the Annette Island Service Unit as Substance Abuse Counselors. I am currently attending Ashford

University online and working towards my B.A. in Psychology. My children are growing fast, and we are all doing great. Just wanted to say hello to all my RAHI Alumni friends. Haven't heard from anyone in a while! **Allyson White**" <metlakatla\_chic@yahoo.com>

**Deanna (Strunk) Latham ('00 Quinhagak)** "Hello fellow Rahiers! **Brent** and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary on the 11th of August. We have moved to Bethel where I now work for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health

(cont. on page 23)



(cont. from page 22)

Corporation as their Capital Projects Director working on building and renovating clinics in our region. I'm really excited about starting a new chapter in my life and I'm REALLY happy to be closer to home and my family. I want to send a big hello to **Kim Curtis, Vanessa Lincoln, Crystal Flores, Kristen Smith, and Angela Totemoff** from 2000, and to all of my students in 2003 and 2005." <dea.strunk@yahoo.com>

**John O'Neil ('00 '01 Hydaburg)** is in the electrician apprenticeship program in Anchorage, and loving it. <jgo2k@hotmail.com>

**April Pelkey ('00 Akutan)**  
"What's going on fellow RAHI '00! I recently had a court marriage on August 14, 2008 to my longtime boyfriend **Demetri "Boy" Tcheripanoff, Jr!** We will have a big wedding where we will send out invitations on the same date in 2010! I am waiting for my niece/godchild **Kadance Williams** daughter of my sister **Shannon (Guthrie) Williams ('94 '95 Akutan)**, and my new baby niece who's due next month from my younger sister **Ivy Pelkey** to be a little older so they can be flower girls! We will have the wedding here in Akutan! Please

email or contact me with your current mailing address, so I can be sure not to forget anyone! I hope all is going great with everyone! I currently work for the Akutan Corporation, PLMR for the USPS, and CLO for APICDA, my husband works as a longshoreman for Horizon Lines LLC and does miscellaneous jobs for the city. We have two dogs, **Tug** (3 yr. old Lab) and **Roscoe** (a little chihuahua that will be one in December). We are planning on trying to get pregnant this winter and have a baby sometime next year! Going on a honeymoon to Los Angeles and driving over to Vegas end of this year, we can't wait! Well I can't wait to hear from everyone! Take care and keep in touch!" <lollipop\_2001licks@hotmail.com>

**Sherman Richard ('00 Wales)**  
"Hello, I don't think I've ever put anything in the *Review*, but I do have news now! I will have a two year-old daughter come September 30th and my wife and I are expecting our second child in mid January. I've been the Postmaster in Wales for a year and a half. The end of August here in Wales was our 9th Annual *Kingikmiut Dance Festival* where

we invite villages from around the area and up North. We also had a large group come over from the other side of the *Date Line* one year. Big huge hello to everyone from 2000!!! Good Luck and have fun everyone!!!" <ak\_edwin@hotmail.com>

**Kristen Smith ('00 Kotzebue)**  
"I finally have interesting news for you! :) I just received my Associates in Business Administration from the Colorado Technical University online. I am currently working on my Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management and will be done next Christmas. I just bought my first house with my boyfriend. We live in Kotzebue, and both work at the hospital. Instead of having children, we have dogs. My little baby is a toy schnauzer, and his name is **Milo**. He came from Arkansas, and I had to fly all the way down there to pick him up (it was actually a lot cheaper using miles than shipping him up here alone). He just recently turned 1 year old. Our other dog is an

(cont. on page 24)



L: Tess Christiansen with family and friends.  
R: Tess at her graduation.



(cont. from page 23)

Australian Cattle dog and her name is **Dixie**. She was a rescue dog, and is 5 years old. That's about it! I am a full-time student and I work full-time at Maniilaq, and when I'm not in school or at work I am remodeling our new house. :)" <kotzebuekristen@hotmail.com>

## Class of 2001

**Aleta Alstrom ('01 Alakanuk)** is working at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage per professor **George Charles**, past RAHI Alaska Native Studies instructor.

**Tess Christiansen ('01 Old Harbor)** "I moved back to Alaska July 2008. I graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Hawaii. I am currently working at as a Clinical Associate. I am in the process of applying to Teach English as a Foreign Language overseas and I am working on my graduate school application for a Master's Degree in Counseling." <tessc17@hotmail.com> See photos on page 23.

**Denise Coopchiak ('01 Togiak)** sends her greetings. <dcoopchiak@togiak.swrsd.schoolaccess.net>

**Miley Linda Gust**, 8 lbs., born Oct. 12, 2008, to **Esther Edwards-Gust ('01 New Stuyahok)** and **Demitri Gust** of Fairbanks.

**Dora Hadley ('01 Buckland)** is an instructional aide at the school in Buckland, along with being a mom to two young children.

**Krystal Henry McIntyre ('01 Akiachak)** "I work for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel since 2006. I work for two departments: as the Risk Management Specialist, handling all risk responsibilities for each department in YKHC, and as Clinical Services Admin. Assistant,

arranging TDY-hospital locums, residents and students, travel, housing, and hospital/community orientation. **Michael** and I were married on September 20, 2008, and are expecting our second child in December. **Mikah**, our first child, is two years old. Want to say Hi to everyone I went to RAHI with (class of 2001!!!) and keep in touch, <krystal.irene77@gmail.com>.



Krystal Henry's wedding

We think **Jacinthe LeCornu ('01 Hydaburg)** is attending art school in New Mexico. Please provide RAHI with your current address, **Jacinthe**.

**Ricky Lind Jr. ('01 Dillingham)** thanks BBNC for helping with his education: "The BBNC Education Foundation scholarship helped immensely because in combination with (other) scholarships I was able to complete college without taking any students loans. I... teach K-12 Music Education in Dillingham City Schools...." <rickylind@hotmail.com>

**Robert Vanderpool ('01 Red Devil)** is busy flying his own plane. Way to go, **Robert**!

## Class of 2002

**Yvonne "Galsy" Ashenfelter ('02 White Mountain)** "I completed an A.A. in General Studies from the University of Alaska Anchorage in May 2008. My mom, **Luann Ashenfelter ('86 White Mountain)**, also received her A.A. from UAF's Northwest Campus in May. I am currently going for a certificate in Office Digital Media. I still live in Anchorage and work for Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, one of the six CDQ groups in Western Alaska. I'd like to send a big Hello to the class of 2002!" <galsy14@hotmail.com>

**Arlo Beetus ('02 Hughes)** sends his greetings from Hughes. <assimilatedindian@hotmail.com>

**Patricia Campbell ('02 Fairbanks)** "Greetings from Portland, I made it! Thanks for the support everyone. Here's a little of what it took and what's been happening. Leaving Sitka was pretty tough, there were a lot of goodbyes to be said that I didn't want to say. I'm afraid that towards the end I lost steam and courage and became rather like a hermit. Thanks to **Kristine** and **Jaquette** I had a nice little going away dinner. One thing is sure, nothing will ever replace Sitka and the wonderful people there. I made it to my apartment with overpacked bags, a smile and no small but of awe and disbelief. I have been writing more than I have in the past. Its been a driving urge every since I got here, almost to the point that its painful if I don't. I'm thinking about entering a poetry slam, but who can say with my tendency to speak softly and have stage fright. I've made a couple

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Colleen Aluska's wedding and children

(cont. from page 24)

of coffee shops a regular stopping place, one of them, the Portland Coffee House having the best coffee I've tasted in a long time, with the ever-growing hip and popular Stumptown being a runner up. I've applied for some jobs, but no luck yet, hopefully something will turn up before the dividend money dries up. I've made a couple of casual acquaintances which is encouraging. It seems to be a friendly town, but also full of people looking to meet new people. The people working for Children's International have become familiar faces, they're pretty determined

and seemed to have the strategy of engage and keep entertained until you have them hooked and signed up. They even offered me a job, but somehow I don't see myself hassling strangers. Life is pretty full, Portland sure is an amazing place, but I'm still homesick at times and miss you all terribly. Keep in touch, and I'll make attempts to do the same. Best Wishes, **Patricia.**" <pcampbell907@gmail.com>

**Mary Beth Hiratsuka ('02 Dillingham)** is working with the North Star Group in Washington, D.C. as a management associate. <mary.e.hiratsuka@gmail.com>

**Angelina Lott ('02 Tuluksak/ Palmer)** "I've been working for the Alaska Railroad for 4.5 years." <angelina2\_15@yahoo.com>

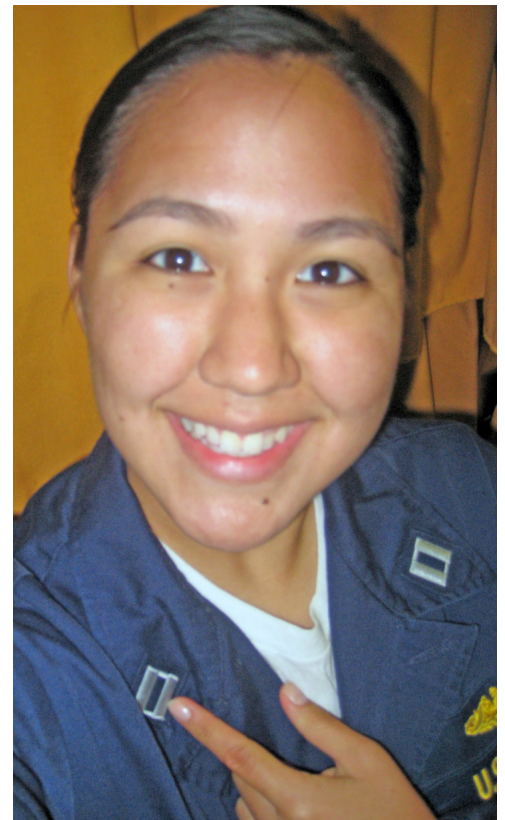
### Class of 2003

**Colleen Aluska ('03 Tooksook Bay)** "Hello to RAHI 2003! I am currently living in beautiful Bethel working for AVCP Regional Housing Authority. I married my husband **Nick** on 08/08/08. We have two beautiful babies - our son **Zachery** is 2 yrs old, and our daughter **Aaliyah** is 5 months old." <islander\_gurl\_25@yahoo.com>

**K Rae Fancher ('03 Bethel)** "I am now beginning my 3rd year at the Naval Academy... still majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Funny, the classes are getting easier? How does that work? So far, I've had an amazing time in the Navy. Yes there are ups and downs just as there are in life, but it's still an experience of a lifetime. Not everyone can say they've swam next to a nuclear submarine and crawled down its torpedo tubes (on that note, the *USS Montpelier* has my name written in one of its torpedo tubes). I've been up in Navy and Marine

Corps helicopters, drove the amphibious assault vehicles (those are platforms that drive on both land and in the water), driven numerous Navy ships, fast-roped out of a helicopter, played war games with the Marines... and so many more things. I've been to the other side of the world and back - I even caught a foreign disease from a third world country to top it off. By no means am I trying to brag about everything I've done, I'm simply saying that I've done and seen so many things I would have never dreamed of doing. I've met amazing people, and am working with the best of the best. Right now I'm in a training position - I am charged with the professional development of plebes in my company. I have three plebes I am directly responsible for, and so far things are going pretty well. I've had to yell at them only a handful of times. Hopefully in two years, I'll be in training for flying MH-53s (helicopters) for the Marines:) The photo attached is one that

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K Rae Fancher

## BBNC 2008-2009 Scholarship Recipients

### RAHIers who received scholarships:

Virginia Anderson	2006	Port Heiden
Jessica Bartman	2003	Manokotak
Rebecca Church	2004	Quinhagak
Wassiliisia Gumlickpuk	2001	New Stuyahok
Colynn Isaacson	2004	Togiak
Jordan Jeffery	2006	Barrow
Nolan Lind	2006	Dillingham
Sarah Tunguing	2004	Koliganek
Shelley Woods	2002	Dillingham

CONGRATULATIONS! Have a productive year.

## 2007-2008 BBNC College Graduates

### RAHIers who graduated:

Ricky Lind Jr.	2001	Dillingham
Sarah McCarr	2003	New Stuyahok
Jadelyn Gloko	2003	Manokotak

CONGRATULATIONS! Wishing you the best in the future.

## A Year of Growth

by **Ralph Sinnok**  
(‘07 Shismaref)

I am **Ralph Sinnok** from Shishmaref, Alaska. 2007-08 was my first year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It was a year of accomplishments. Just as I went through RAHI, I held the same mentality during college by putting school first. RAHI had a lot to do with my accomplishments. It was the beginning of a group of individuals with the idea of truth and knowledge, education and family, community, and culture. Not only did I hang out with my RAHI classmates, I grew with the individuals who believed in the idea of knowledge. Where would this idea take us?

Over the summer after my first year at UAF, I knew what would come of the idea. The idea of knowledge was broadcasted throughout the world. It was broadcasted as Traditional Knowledge of the Inuit. I had the opportunity to travel to Canada. My trip to Canada was through the Schools on Board program, which allowed me to travel with Traditional Knowledge of my people, the Inupiaq of Shishmaref. In that program there were Inuit students from Canada, Greenland, and Russia who all shared their Traditional Knowledge from their people. Traditional Knowledge cannot be put into words. However, Traditional Knowledge is the very life you live. All of the Inuit students connected without a hint of doubt. It was because we live through Traditional Knowledge that we were so easily related. The opportunity occurred only because of that idea, the idea of Traditional knowledge. I’m proud to say that my Traditional Knowledge took me places; I’m proud to say it is what guides me to this very day, a day in my second year at UAF.

### Financial Aid for Students

Go to <<http://murkowski.senate.gov/finadi.cfm>  
for a student guide for locating and applying for financial aid; and repaying student loans.



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was taken on the submarine, July 2008. I was borrowing an LT's poop suit because mine was soaked. So that's what I'll look like with officer bars! Hope all is well...!" <katherinerae22@hotmail.com>



**Jessica "Ciga" Hunt ('03 Emmonak)** was featured in the April UAF *Sunstar* as an outstanding Rural Student for the UAF Leadership Program. Ciga is attending UAA fall semester 2008. <ciga\_34@hotmail.com>

**Joel Hunt ('03 Emmonak)** received a \$5000 scholarship from EPSCoR at the University of Alaska Fairbanks for the 2008-2009 academic year. <jhunt\_04@hotmail.com>

**Lisa Kangas ('03 Ruby/Fairbanks)** is a senior at UAF majoring in marine biology. <lisa\_kangas@hotmail.com>

**Cherish Maldenado ('03 North Pole)** sends her greetings from Ohio. <cherish85@yahoo.com>

**Sarah McCarr ('03 New Stuyahok)** received her B.A. in



Business Administration with emphasis in Finance in August 2008. She was also featured in the April UAF *Sunstar* as an outstanding graduating orientation leader for the UAF Leadership Program. <seiksuh\_03@hotmail.com>

**Sam Otton ('03 Koyuk)** "I joined an apprenticeship program in Fairbanks for carpentry and have finished my classes for the first year." <c\_omputer@yahoo.com>

**Billy Pfeifer, Jr. ('03 Ketchikan)** "I am enrolled in Purdue University's Graduate Program and will be working towards my Master's in the Computer Science beginning the fall of 2008. I received my Bachelors of Science in Computer Science May 2008 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks along with two NSA certifications. This summer I worked for IBM Research at the TJ Watson Research Center in New York. I have worked for IBM at various departments and geographical locations. I have also led software development teams as the lead software engineer for the Geophysical Institute in Northern Alaska, creating an Aurora Borealis tracking application and web front end." **Billy** is the 2008 recipient of the UAF Joel Wiegert Award, which recognizes the outstanding graduating senior man. Among his accomplishments, **Billy** served as a tutor for the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) and ministered through the Campus Catholic Ministry. <wpfeifer@purdue.edu>

**Jed Smith ('03 Whale Pass)** "I just graduated in Spring 2008 with a B.A. from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington with an emphasis in Animation, Photography and Media Studies. I am currently working freelance motion graphics and film and video jobs, on an approximately two-year

long endeavor to acquire worldly experience before applying to graduate school in pursuit of a Masters in Media Studies. RAHI served as an extremely important formative experience in my growth from an isolated, ignorant, and shy resident of a tiny and remote community, into an enthusiastic, self-motivated, and above-average student with a ravenous thirst for knowledge. That thirst hasn't subsided a bit, even now that I'm a college graduate. Thanks for your wonderful program, and I hope it continues to operate many years into the future, giving students the knowledge and abilities they need to succeed at whatever drives their interest." <jedypod@gmail.com>. Thanks for the kind words **Jed** - from **Denise**, RAHI program coordinator.

## Class of 2004

**Allison Huntington ('04 Galena)** was an intern for the First Alaskans Institute summer internship program this summer. She did her internship at the Yukon River Drainage Association.

**Charlene Nicolos ('04 Barrow)** "I received my B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Alaska Native Studies from UAF in May 2008. My plan after graduation was to move to Barrow to work for a few years. I did the whole move and everything and was up there for a month before I had to come to California (had to have knee surgery plus six weeks of physical therapy). I stayed in California until mid-October and then moved back to Fairbanks afterwards." <kidiaka\_odesea@hotmail.com>

**Tommy Stasenko ('04 Shishmaref)** and **Kinka Parker ('04 Togiak)** stopped by at the RAHI booth during AFN with their new baby girl to say Hi. They are presently living in Togiak, and send greetings to their RAHI friends.

**Gladys J. Woods ('04 Kotzebue)** and **Robert T. Swanson Jr.**, of Kotzebue, announce the birth of their daughter, **McKenzie Paradise Swanson**, at 8:30 p.m. on June 4, 2008, at the Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue. **McKenzie** weighed 6 lbs. 12.8 oz. and measured 20 ½ inches. She joins sibling, **Bryden Tyler Sampson**.

## Class of 2005

**Megan Richards ('05 Kankik River)** and **Jenna Schmidt ('06 '07 Nome)** were both orientation leaders at UAF this past fall, where they welcomed new students to campus.

**Rami Totemoff ('05 Tatitlek)** is attending AVTEC in Seward, majoring in information technology, and loving it. When finished, she will have Microsoft certification in several areas of computer information.

## Class of 2006

Marriage license: **Aaron Kowalski ('06 Kotzebue)** and **Karine Hogue**, both of Fairbanks.

**Nolan Lind ('06 Dillingham)** "After graduating from RAHI, I graduated from Dillingham High School in May 2007. I took a job working at Dillingham's hospital in the medical records department. I worked full-time during the summer and over Christmas break when I'm home. I have training in file clerking, Release of Information, outpatient records analysis, ICD-9 diagnosis coding and data entry. Last holiday break I also specialized in auditing charts for misfiles. I started my second year of attendance at UAF, aiming for a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance. My main instrument is French horn, but I also signed up for flute and piano lessons this year. After a Bachelor's in

Music Performance, I hope to start working towards a Master's in Composition--with that, I hope to make music for movies one day. Looking forward to another year at UAF. :) I can be found on Facebook and MySpace. Not sure what my direct URL is on Facebook, but my MySpace URL is [myspace.com/nolanlind](http://myspace.com/nolanlind). :)" <nolanlind@yahoo.com>

**Derek Oktollik ('06 Pt. Hope)** was an intern for the First Alaskans Institute summer internship program this summer. He did his internship at the UAF Institute of Northern Engineering.

**Leann Sommer ('06 Galena)** is attending Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO.

**Allen Ulroan ('06 Chevak)** "Hoorah! Well I'm doing well here in San Diego. I've met people from Alaska who are also in the Navy, which is like finding a needle in a haystack about the size of a two football fields. So far I am enjoying my time in the service and seeing places that I never thought I would go to. I just got off a West Pac in Southeast Asia. I've been to Guam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. Also I met another RAHI Alum from Nome and is the brother of my fellow RAHIER of 2006 **Staci Homelvig, Tyler Homelvig**. To all the RAHIERS, HOORAH RAHI." <ulroana@ffg48.navy.mil> SHSN ULROAN, ALLEN, M. USS Vandegrift FFG 48 S-3 DIV FPO AP 96682-1502

## Class of 2007

**Angelia Alstrom ('07 St. Mary's)** was featured in the March 2008 issue of *The Story knife* during her senior class trip to the Calista Corporation offices in Anchorage. "Dear Calista: Thank you for allowing my senior class and I to

tour the building. When **Matthew Nicolai** (President and CEO) and all the other people spoke to my class

I felt motivated to want to get a higher education, so I can benefit my community and corporation. I was not only motivated, but I felt confidence in myself and now realize I am a possible future leader. Thank you once again and I am looking forward to becoming a shareholder."

**Hannah Brower ('07 Haines)**

"I am currently attending my freshman year at Northern Arizona University after graduating from high school. My major is astronomy. Not much else is different." <scarletharrypotter@yahoo.com>

**Ashley Burgett ('07 Galena)** "I'm going to school at UAA this year, entering the pre-nursing program." **Ashley** was one of the 20 high school students who were awarded scholarships by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. ranging from \$3000 to \$5000. <ashley\_lynn89@hotmail.com>

**Samantha Grimes ('07 Barrow)**

"Hi, I was Co-Valedictorian 2007 summer at RAHI. Since RAHI, I was also a Co-Valedictorian at Barrow High School (class of 2008). I am currently a freshman attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, majoring in business. I auditioned and made the UNLV Dance Team known as the "Rebel Girls." We perform at football and basketball events, as well as compete nationally." <sgrimes\_890@hotmail.com>



Angelia Alstrom



## **35th Annual Bilingual Multicultural Education/Equity Conference**

January 28-30, 2009  
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel

This year, in honor of Alaska statehood and diversity we are honoring all heritage languages including English.

For More Information contact: Visions Meeting Management, 999 E. Tudor Road, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-786-0130, Fax: 907-562-2016  
Register online at: <<http://events.SignUp4.com/BMEEC09>>

### **Protect The Poles Protect The Planet**

by **Cori Eide ('07'08 Nome)**

During the 2008 RAHI summer program, I applied for a full scholarship to a nonprofit organization called *Students on Ice (SOI)* that has been leading expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic since 2000. Only 75 students were picked from 10 different countries for the August 1-17 expedition.

It took me three weeks to apply because I was already extremely busy doing a research project and studying for finals at RAHI. It was a little nerve racking because I sent the application the day it was due and had to get all the way to Canada by the time they had made their selection. Fortunately, of the 12 people who received this scholarship from a grateful anonymous donor, I was one of them. I was the only Alaska representative and 1 of 12 U.S citizens.

This summer alone I traveled on 20 different flights. I did not find out about my acceptance until three weeks before hand. The problem was I was in Arizona without a passport! I live in Nome and that is where my social security card, and birth certificate were, which I needed to apply for the passport. But just my luck, I got my passport in less than two weeks.

I then flew back home to switch wardrobes from summery hot 115 degree weather for weather that would range from -10 to 10 degrees. I was very excited and I knew I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in this expedition.

*Students On Ice* is an award-winning organization offering unique educational expeditions to the Antarctic and the Arctic. They do their best to provide students, educators, and scientists from around the world with inspiring educational opportunities at the ends of Earth, and in doing so, help them foster a new understanding and respect for the planet. I had no idea that I would learn so much about the Arctic coming from Alaska.

I most definitely value my culture and land more than I ever have. SOI has most definitely changed my point of view of the planet and gave me the chance to meet many people around the world that also want to help sustain what the polar regions are now. Not many people realize that if the poles melt, there will be a 6 meter rise in water levels. People in the lower 48 who currently live in land will have waterfront houses by 2050 at the pace the ice is melting. But what is worse is my own town, Nome, will be underwater!

I plan to help take some sort of action to help slow the warming of the Earth but it can't happen all at once. It is all a step by step process and right now I am just working on finishing high school and choosing a future college. But currently I am getting the community aware of the issue so that hopefully action will be taken and would be awesome if it would happen statewide. Videos and pictures are posted on the SOI website, check it out! <<http://www.studentsonice.com>>

*See photos next page.*



Cori Eide at the Peace Tower in Ottawa



Cori with Friends!



Cori on a hike!



L: Cori getting ready to ship out with the crew!



**Carrie “Shaina” Gallahorn ('07 Anchorage)** “Since RAHI I graduated from Mt. Edgumbe High School. I worked as a summer intern at NANA Colt Engineering. I am currently in Durango, Colorado attending Fort Lewis College.” <c\_shaina\_g@hotmail.com>

**Kehaunie Kennedy-Williams ('07 Klawock)** “I am starting college this fall and I am pursuing a bachelor of arts degree.” <kehaunie\_williams08@hotmail.com>

**Deven Lisac ('07 Dillingham)** “I am attending UAF this year!!! I am so excited. I went to ANSEP this year. I had an intern through NOAA. I was sent to Sitka, and Juneau. I was doing a study on out migrating juvenile chum salmon, I was looking at the health condition between them in two different locations, and why. I helped receive and deploy light traps to collect krill, to see what humpback whales were eating. I helped get pictures of humpback whales' tails, to study the migrational patterns of the humpback whale. Then I was in Anchorage for four weeks taking a math class. When I came home I packed got ready for college.” <drlisac@hotmail.com>

**Tara Schmidt ('07 Nome)** is a freshman at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA.

**Ralph Sinnok ('07 Shishmaref)** was an intern for the First Alaskans Institute summer internship program this summer. He did his internship at Kawerak, Inc. <skip\_72071@yahoo.com>

**Sirena Soots ('07 Bethel)** “I started Rural Human Services (RHS) classes at the end of September. It's one week a month for two years, and when I'm done I will almost have my A.A. degree. Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is paying for my classes. The classes are usually for ICWA workers, but exceptions were made to a few other businesses. I have my own apartment with my boyfriend and we've been living here in Bethel since March.” <sirena\_2007@yahoo.com>

slope as well as coaching a junior high basketball team. I am living with a high school English teacher **Paulette Ponick**. I am working on becoming an assistant coach for the men's college basketball team. I am still adapting to the extremely warm weather, different types of



Top: Riza's new baby  
Bottom: Riza Yatchmeneff & family



Luava Tagarook

**Luava Tagarook ('07 Wainwright)** I am currently attending University of Wisconsin-Barron County taking general classes. It's a junior college. My plan is to graduate from UW-Barron County with an Associate's degree and start my B.A. degree in education at UAF and become a middle school teacher on the

foods and working on getting used to “Wisconsin time.” I am making new friends, exploring new places, meeting new people and having a good time. Find me on Facebook, people. **LuLu**” <luava\_tagarook@hotmail.com>

**Riza Yatchmeneff ('07 King Cove)** “I have been engaged for a year now, to **Gunther Bendixen** and we have a baby girl, **Tatiana Dolly Bendixen**, born September 29, 2008.” <yatchmeneff@yahoo.com>. See photos above.

# Employee Spotlight: Rosalie Kairaiuak



Rosalie (Rose) Kairaiuak (former RAHI staff), a Calista Shareholder, was born and raised in Chefnak. She is the seventh of 10 children born to Hilary and Maria Kairaiuak. Several years after graduating from Caputnguag (Chefnak) High School, Rose attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where she obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in business management.

Beginning her career with Calista in 1998, Rose's first position within the company was Assistant Shareholder Records Manager. She is now the Shareholder Records Manager, assisting village corporations with various areas of shareholder records, researching and gathering data for stock transfer cases, and working with the other Shareholder Records staff. She is able to communicate with elders and others in Yup'ik when assisting them with Shareholder Records related paperwork -- a valuable asset for the corporation.

Rose is also involved with the Calista Scholarship Fund (CSF) as a volunteer and has helped administrate the fund in the past. She says that donating time to CSF makes a difference in the futures of promising college students and individuals going through training.

Rose says that her position in the Shareholder Records Department is very rewarding. Her most recent highlight was working in this year's dividend -- the first distribution to all Shareholders since the 1980's. Rose says that another benefit of working within her own corporation is the chance she has to work directly with people from the region, since she no longer lives in rural Alaska.

Taken from August/September 2008 issue of *The Story Knife*, the voice of Calista,

## Class of 2008

### Yvonne Bell ('08 Hooper Bay)

"As of September 1, I am taking a few college classes while still attending high school. Planning to graduate from high school this year. I am looking into some colleges, and applying for scholarships." <von\_bell32@yahoo.com>

### Andrea "Tan" Joseph ('08

**Tuntutuliak)** "I've just been babysitting, hanging out with friends and going to school lately. I am now a senior this school year and it's going great." <yupik\_gurla05@yahoo.com>

## RAHI Staff and Faculty

**Bill Abbott (former RAHI staff)**, his wife **Maria**, and four kids

live in Juneau. **Bill** is the Human Resource Manager at Gold Belt.

### Phillip Charette (former RAHI

**staff)** "I have a new line of note cards, bags, hats, tee shirts, coffee mugs, mouse pads, coasters, etc. that have three of my favorite art pieces printed on them available through Café Press. The three art pieces available on these products include: *Amikuk* that is on permanent display at the Portland Art Museum, *Qucillgaq* that won the prestigious Artists Choice Award at the Santa Fe Indian Art Market, and North Wind spirit masks which were on a national tour with the *Changing Hands 2 Exhibition*. These affordable items are way cool and make great gifts. The site is still under construction so not all of the images are available yet but will be soon. Check it out at <<http://www.cafepress.com/yupikmask>>, show your support of my work, and take advantage of your bragging rights. All the best"

Alaskan Native Fine Art  
**Phillip John Charette**, Ed. M.  
"Aarnaquq"

3415 Carter Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814, 541.523.7563 home, 541.519.2635 mobile  
<<http://www.yupikmask.com/>>  
<[phillip@spiritone.com](mailto:phillip@spiritone.com)>  
<http://www.myspace.com/phillipcharette> (my music) and [yupikmask](http://www.cafepress.com/yupikmask) (my art)  
<http://www.cafepress.com/yupikmask> (coffee mugs, hats, cards, etc.)  
<http://www.squidoo.com/alaskanart> (Squidoo information page)  
<http://www.youtube.com/phillipcharette> (you tube)  
All featured work on my online gallery is for sale. Yupikmask.  
(cont. on page 33)



(cont. from page 32)

com accepts the following forms of payment -- Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover.

**Teresa Flores (former RAHI staff)** is now a faculty member of the MEDEX Northwest Program in Seattle, WA. She was previously a primary care provider in Bethel.

**Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley (former RAHI faculty member)** receives award for indigenous education studies. **Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley**, retired associate professor of education, was awarded the *Mike Charleston Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in*

*Indigenous Education*. The award is presented annually to an individual who has dedicated a substantial portion of his or her professional career to the study of indigenous education.

**Sally Samson (former RAHI secretary)** is a teacher in the Yup'ik Immersion School in Bethel.

#### LATE UPDATES:

**Callie Angelique Dayton**, 8 lbs. 1 oz., born Nov. 15, 2008 to **Rebecca Derendoff ('87 Huslia)** of Huslia/Koyukuk and **Jonathan Dayton** of Koyukuk/Huslia.

**Dawn Wilson-Frank ('89 Unalakleet)** "I'm still living in Idaho raising my 4 busy kids and trying to buy a house (hopefully closing soon). Would love to hear from you all." <dawn\_frank@hotmail.com>

Marriage License for **Al Yatlin Jr. ('94 Huslia)** and **Louise Williams**, Tanana. When is the big day?

**Howard Darling III ('96 Nulato)** is the General Manager of DNH Fuels, LLC in Fairbanks. <hdarling@dnhfuels.com>

### 2009 Student Artist Competition Deadline for Entry is January 16, 2009

2009 SAC logo <<http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=artistcircle.cfm>>. We at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education are excited that the 2009 Native American Student Artist Competition (SAC) is underway! We want to remind everyone that all artwork and essays must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 16, 2009 and provide you with an overview of what you can find on the website.

Instructions for entering the SAC – Everything you need to know to enter the competition is in one convenient place. For instructions, rules, and forms, check out the 2009 SAC Instructions <[http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC\\_instructions.html](http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC_instructions.html)>.

SAC Registration – All students are required to register their entry online <<https://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=register.cfm>> or by calling our toll-free number 1-866-259-0060. New this year: teachers can register groups of students with their own registration form, and writers can upload their essay instead of mailing it in.

Previous winners – Check out the Art Gallery <[http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=sac\\_gallery.html](http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=sac_gallery.html)> and Essay Collection <<http://www.indianeducation.org/sac/writing/>> to view winners from the competition's previous 4 years.

Art and writing tips – Need some help getting started on your essay? Ever wonder how to keep colors from bleeding when working with watercolors? Visit the Art Tips <[http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC\\_about\\_kids.html](http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC_about_kids.html)> section of the website for these topics and much more.

Exhibit – The 2008 exhibit is still traveling around the country to schools, museums, and galleries. To find a location near you, check out the exhibit schedule <[http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC\\_exhibit.html](http://kids.indianeducation.org/index.cfm?page=SAC_exhibit.html)>. If you are interested in hosting the 2009 exhibit, please contact us <<mailto:rganuelas@kauffmaninc.com?subject=Hosting%20the%202009%20SAC%20exhibit>>.

Questions? Contact Rayanne Ganuelas at [rganuelas@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:rganuelas@kauffmaninc.com) or 1-866-259-0060.

## 2008 RAHI Summer Program Pictures



Christopher Liu, Zachary Rohan, Austen Erickson, and Lloyd Pikok



2008 RAHI II: Next Step students  
sponsored by Alaska INBRE



2008 RAHI Denali Rafting trip



2008 RAHI Well Fargo Business Class students



## 2008 RAHI Summer Program Pictures



2008 RAHI Summer program hiking trip



2008 RAHI Alyeska Petroleum Engineering class students

## 2008 RAHI Reunion a Success

The RAHI Reunion was held on Thursday, October 23, 2008, at the Westmark Anchorage Hotel, during the Alaska Federation of Natives annual convention.

RAHI alum, their family, and friends in attendance include:

Denise Wartes	Colville Village/Fairbanks	1989-present program director
Lorraine David	Hughes/Fairbanks	2007-present program assistant
Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez	Huslia	1991
Chubbs Myers	Pilot Station	2008 tutor counselor
Andrea Van Ravenswaay	Kotzebue	1988
Ulric Ulroan	Chevak	1994
Brice Eningowuk	Shishmaref	1998
Jolene Firmin	Fort Yukon	2001
Charlotte (Alexander) Endicott	Fort Yukon	1992
Nick Kailukiak	Toksook Bay	1995
Eva Burk	Nenana	1998
Don Isaacson	Togiak	1998
Angela Totemoff	Tatitlek	1999-2000
Russell Darling	Nulato	1994-95
Avaiyak Aamodt	Barrow	2005
Kenneth Mills	Noatak	1992-93
Michael James	Gambell	1998
Larry Kairaiuk	Chefnak	former RAHI tutor counselor
Dr. Liz Ross	Orlando/Unalakleet	2007-8 RAHI instructor
Wayne Buckles Jr.	Chefnak	1985
Donna Long	Barrow	1991
Gloria (Turner) Rhodes	Holy Cross	1983
John O'Neil	Hydaburg	2000-01
Donene Stein	Kotzebue	1988
Waylon Koutchak	Unalakleet	1996
Kyan Olanna	Shishmaref	1993-94
Nadia (Gumlickpuk) Sifsof	New Stuyahok	1998
Percy Avugiak	Chefnak	1998

Photos were taken of all of those in attendance, and then presented to everyone as a memory of the reunion.

Many thanks to the RAHI Reunion Planning Committee consisting of: **Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez**, 1991 Huslia, **Eva Burk**, 1998 Nenana, **Kimberly Curtis**, 2000 Toksook Bay, **Kenny Mills**, 1992-93 Noatak, **Larry Kairaiuk**, RAHI T/C, **Andrea Gregg Van Ravenswaay**, 1988 Kotzebue, with special thanks to **Angela** and **Eva** for their extra help both before and at the reunion.

Thanks also the businesses who donated door prizes:

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
 Bristol Bay Native Corporation  
 Calista Corporation  
 Doyon, Limited  
 KNBA 90.3 FM  
 RurAL CAP  
 Wells Fargo



## 2008 RAHI Reunion Pictures



Eva Burk and  
daughter Mikkiah



Angela Gonzalez & Denise Wartes



Brice Eningowuk



Angela w/ parents Al & Eleanor Yatlin



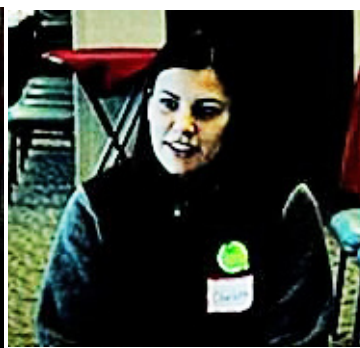
Jolene Firmin



Greg Owens & Sean Kennedy



Mary & Ulric Ulroan w/ baby



Charlotte Endicott



Russell Darling & Waylon Koutchak



Andrea Gregg Vanravenswaay  
and daughter Kaleah



Gloria Rhodes



Donna Long & Avaiyak Aamodt



## 2008 RAHI Reunion Pictures



Angela Totemoff



Lorraine David & Eleanor Yatlin



Denise Wartes & Andrea Vanravenswaay



Sisters Cheryl Demientieff & Gloria Rhodes



Donene Stein



Don Isaacson & Family



Wayne Buckles & Family



Eddie Abraham



Lorraine David



## RAHI My Space Pictures



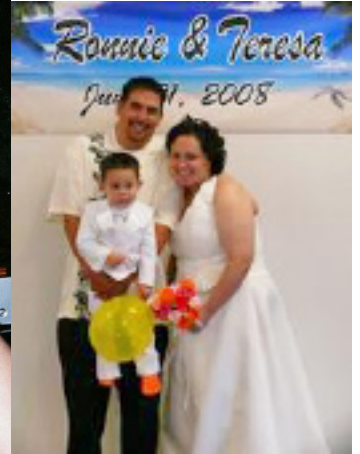
Desiree (Lincoln) Forbes ('93 Toksook Bay) & Family



Samantha "Sam" Smith ('95 Northway)



Debra Denali Malinowski ('02 Chitina)



Theresa Kato-Fairbanks ('97 Klawock) & Family



Sisters Vanessa ('00) & Desiree (Lincoln) Forbes ('93) Toksook Bay



Christina "CJ" Aloralrea ('07 Chevak)



Jaclyn Hoover & daughter ('05 Kasigluk)



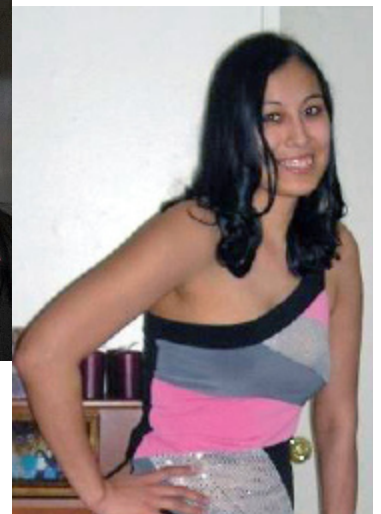
Dawn Jackson ('88 Kake)



Sensmeier Sisters from Yakutat: Violet ('97), Lillian ('06), and Starr Jensen ('94)



Carrie "Shaina" Gallahorn ('07 Anchorage)



Stacey Demoski ('97 Nulato)

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