

THE RAHI REVIEW

XXII No. III

staying connected

October 2012

To All Who Receive This Newsletter

Challenge Yourself

Carefully read ALL of this RAHI Review; you may be in it!



2012 RAHI Graduates

photo by Todd Paris

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Alaska Honors Institute honored RAHI students at a graduation ceremony on Wednesday July 11, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Schaible Auditorium with a public reception following.

The 60 graduates came from 31 Alaska communities. Among them are seven second generation RAHI graduates, meaning one or both of their parents also went through the program.

The graduates spent six weeks living in UAF residence halls, building their academic skills and learning firsthand about college life. They earned up to 10 college credits.

Organized in 1983 at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives, RAHI aims to help increase college success for rural and Alaska Native students. Hundreds of RAHI graduates have gone on to earn graduate, baccalaureate and associate degrees. Many have joined Alaska's professional workforce and many more are pursuing postsecondary education.

This year's graduation keynote speaker, Sarah (Sherry) Obed was a 1996 RAHI alumna from Minto and Fairbanks. She is Government Relations Director at Doyon Limited. She earned a bachelor's degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Washington and a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

RAHI sponsors include several UAF departments, New York Life, Wells Fargo, the National Institutes of Health-funded Alaska BioPrep and INBRE programs, the Department of Education's Future Educators of Alaska, the National Science Foundation-funded Alaska EPSCoR program and the Boeing Corporation.

RAHI DEGREES as of 5/23/2012

Medical Doctor	1
Doctor of Pharmancy	2
Doctor of Physical Therapy	2
Law Degrees	8
Ph.D.	2
CPA Certification	1
Masters Degrees	63
Baccalaureate Degrees	318
Associate Degrees	157
Certificates	85
TOTAL	639

Published by the Rural Alaska Honors Institute

- The RAHI Review is produced twice yearly
- Editor: Denise Wartes and Tim Murphrey
- Production and Layout: Renee Pike and Denise Wartes
- Photos: RAHI Alumni unless other wise noted
- Rural Alaska Honors Institute
- PO Box 756305, UAF
- Fairbanks, AK 996775
- Phone:
- In Fairbanks: 474-5876
- Outside Fairbanks: 1-800-478-6886
- Fax: 907-474-5624
- E-mail: rahi@alaska.edu
- Visit our Web Site at:
- www.uaf.edu/rahi

RAHI SPONSORS

College of Rural & Community Development
University of Alaska Fairbanks
New York Life, Wells Fargo
Alaska INBRE, EPSCoR
BioPREP, Boeing
National Institutes of Health
Future Educators of Alaska
National Science Foundation
Workforce Development



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



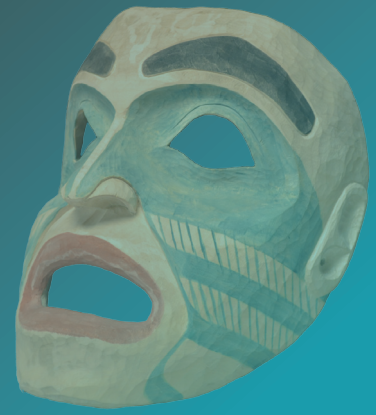
Join RAHI on and Facebook!

Denise & Tim are managing the RAHI Facebook website. Any suggestions and assistance are greatly appreciated. To date, there are 859 RAHI alum who have joined RAHI Facebook. If you are an alum student or staff, please join us on Facebook. Please join us on the RAHI Facebook (RAHI UAF)

Contact rahi@alaska.edu to join.



Rural Alaska Honors Institute *Values*



30 Years of Successful Vision



Academic Excellence



Dedication to Success



Personal and Cultural Identity



Leadership

Mission

The UAF Rural Alaska Honors Institute, known as RAHI, was founded at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1982 and was established to prepare rural Alaska Native high school students for academic excellence and college success.



www.uaf.edu/rahi • 1-800-478-6886

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. Mask by Eric Hamar.

RAHI 2012 Graduation Class and Villages

Natalia Ballard	Hooper Bay	Joe Martelle	Barrow
Darlon Barr	Deering	Rebekah Miller	Nome
Elena Beans	Mt. Village	Reanna Moses	Fairbanks
Christopher Beans	Pilot Station	Francis Nicholai	Napaskiak
Paige Bowen	Barrow	Isaac Peacock	Kotzebue
Ryanne Braselton	Fairbanks	Jasmine Ruckman	Unalaska
Abigail Brooks	Fairbanks	Kyran Ruerup	Fairbanks
Thomas Brower	Barrow	Jennifer Ruiz	Dutch Harbor
Thomas Brown	Kipnuk	Paulianne Schaeffer	Kotzebue
Zechariah Chaliak	Nunapitchuk	*Olivia Shields	Bethel/Anch
Kenna Contreras	Nome	Laura Smith	Selawik
Colin Corsetti	Unalakleet	*Pamela Tocktoo	Nome
Krissa Davis	Petersburg	Revie Tony	Nightmute
Peter Demientieff	Anchorage	Claudine Tungul	Unalaska
*Phylicia Don	Chugiak	*Aaron Ulroan	Chevak
Rey Estrada	Kodiak	Liliane Ulukivaiola	Anchorage
Sheila Evan	Goodnews Bay	Laura VanAmburg	Noatak
*Shelby Fisher-Salmon	Beaver	Sarah VanAmburg	Noatak
Kristina Gibson	Sitka	Miriah Valerio	Kodiak
Brianna Gilmore	Fairbanks	Brittany Wilcox	Sitka
Aubrey Gosuk	Togiak		
Rachel Gulanes	Dutch Harbor	* Parent attended RAHI	
+Ivik Henry	Kotzebue	+Both Parents attended RAHI	
Elizabeth Himschoot	Dillingham		
Aurora Hoefflerle	Dillingham		
Jacob Howell	Anchorage		
Peter Imgalrea	Chevak		
Shannon Isaac	Dot Lake		
Ashley Johnson	Bethel		
Amber Jones	Chevak		
Anastasia Kalugin	Fritz Creek		
Nelson Kanuk	Kipnuk		
Jennie Katchatag	Unalakleet		
Justice Kippi	Barrow		
Brianna Kirk	Noatak		
Jesse Klejka	Bethel		
*Justin Kokrine	Fairbanks		
Natalie Landlord	Mt. Village		
Carlene Liskey	Tuluksak		
Gary Lose	Fairbanks		



Bernice Joseph honored for contributions to Fairbanks community by Mary Beth Smetzer Fairbanks Daily News Miner, May 04, 2012

The Farthest North Girl Scout Council honored, **Bernice Joseph** Thursday, May 3, 2012, as the 2012 Woman of Distinction. Sam Harrel/News-Miner

Bernice is a past RAHI Instructor and Vice Chancellor of College of Rural Community Development, the college which RAHI is a part of..

Born in Tanana and raised in Nulato, Joseph lost her father at age 5, and witnessed her mother, **Edith**, raising her family of seven on her own while earning university degrees to become a teacher.

With her mother as a role model, education and contributing to the community also became a passion for Joseph. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and is nearing completion of her doctoral dissertation through the University of South Australia, Adelaide.

When invited to be recognized by the Girl Scouts, Joseph, in her quiet way, talked it over with her husband of 27 years, **Stewart Joseph**, before accepting.

Joseph compared the award to the Girl Scout mission of building courage, confidence and character in girls to make the world a better place.

Joseph has been exemplifying those attributes over the course of many years, especially in the field of education, while raising her family of two children, developing and leading a vast number of positions and service projects, commissions, committees, boards and foundations.

Today, at UAF she serves as executive dean of College of Rural and Community Development and Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education.

But every summer, Joseph and her family return to their Koyukon roots, going by boat to Nulato on the Yukon River and fishing.

Young fishermen struggle to break into industry

March 30th 1:19 pm | Hannah Heimbuch Arctic Sounder



Timothy Nick (Napaskiak, 2009) with father Victor Nick (Email - timothy.nick@facebook.com)

A few years ago, just out of high school and headed to UAF to study engineering, Timothy Nick wasn't sure he wanted to make fishing his business. He'd been setnetting with his father Victor

since he was 15, and saw first-hand the weight of responsibility required of an owner and operator.

"When I first started fishing, I thought about watching my dad struggle with the payments," he said. "See, we didn't take out any loans."

Timothy thought if he were to get into the family business, being young and without any credit to speak of, he'd be stuck in an endless struggle to make ends meet in an industry that didn't come with any guarantees. He was wary. And rightly so.

Victor Nick, Tim's father, bought his permit in 2003, after moving his family from the Kuskokwim River region (where he grew up fishing) to Dillingham. He worked hard, first as a crewman, until he could purchase a setnet operation off of Coffee Point in the Nushagak district.

"With the cost of living, it's pretty difficult to get into the fishing business," said Victor, who also works as an orthodox priest in Dillingham.

That exact sentiment is being echoed across the state — from legislative hearings to living rooms — as Alaska watches a cost-driven, so-called "graying of the fleet."

Timothy took advantage of another relatively new resource this January when he attended the Young Fishermen's Summit. Held in Juneau by the Marine Advisory Program, the summit seeks to bolster the industry's younger generation with knowledge of fisheries politics, science, business and technology. "I thought that the information could help me become a better fisherman," Timothy said. "There were questions I didn't know how to ask, and the summit answered a lot of those."

The Nicks' story isn't exactly the norm, but they do showcase the increasing need for ingenuity and business sense when approaching a future in fisheries.

Whether it's snowmachine parts or a loan to tide one over through winter, he said the collateral of a permit gives families the financial edge they need to remain stable. The same can be said for the rest of Alaska.

Jessie Uses Her Education To Benefit Her Community!

Huna Totem Headlines March 2012

Jessie Dybdahl's Tlingit name is Saawdo.oo. She is of the Eagle moiety. Chookaneidi clan. Her father is a lifelong Hoonah resident, **Paul Dybdahl** of the Taakw. Aaneidi clan of Klawock. Her mother is **Sally (Godfrey) Dybdahl**, a retired Hoonah City schools teacher from Tacoma, Washington. Jessie's parents pushed her to find a balance between cultural and western knowledge. She is constantly thriving to continue her education and provide opportunities for herself. Through the support from Huna Heritage Foundation, Jessie completed her Bachelor's degree in Rural Development, with a Concentration in Land, Resources, and Environmental Management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fall 2011. She will now begin coursework towards a Master's degree in Rural Development through UAF. Jessie has a long term goal of obtaining a Ph.D in Indigenous Studies.

Jessie relocated to Hoonah in Fall 2011 and began a new job as the Environmental Coordinator at the Hoonah Indian Association in December 2011. She is very excited to be living at home and working for her tribe. The development of an Environmental Programs underway at HIA and Jessie is working hard to implement her education to benefit the community of Hoonah and the tribal members of HIA. Jessie would like to encourage all Huna Totem Shareholders and Descendants to take advantage of all available resources and financial support to further their education – whether it be through a university or vocational school. She would also like to say thankyou to Huna Heritage Foundation, as well as many other organizations and individuals who made her educational success possible.



Jessie Dybdahl (Hoonah '05)

Position of privilege

Story by Diana Campbell, photos by **Diana Campbell** and **Greg Lincoln**/The Delta Discovery



Teresa Flores
(Former RAHI Staff)

Inside the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, home to the Bethel Public Library, a museum and multipurpose rooms, Teresa Flores, '03, studies her small group of would-be cake decorators. It is their final class, and she has instructed the five students to create a themed cake.

Flores, 33, is a cake decorating and sewing instructor in her free time. During work hours the UAF alumna is a physician assistant at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital.

The 50-bed hospital is operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp. and is one of Bethel's major employers.

Balancing act

Flores is not afraid to deal with tough issues.

One of her duties is as a sexual assault forensic examiner for the YKHC, meaning she is called on to conduct official interviews, provide medical examinations, collect evidence, and offer treatment and referrals for further care to rape and molestation victims. Her co-workers at YKHC say she has the right temperament for such a job.

"She listens," says Melinda Norwood, a nurse in the Bethel hospital's emergency room. "She asks for clarification. She shows empathy as well as compassion."

It's a privilege to do so, Flores says.

"I remind them they are still human," she says. "If I remind them of that, then I've done so much."

Flores admits she doesn't really like the job, because of the reason she has to do it. But she balances that with the knowledge she is caring for someone going through a difficult time. She often will continue treatment with those people at the clinic where she is a PA.

"On one hand it's really hard to see that part of humanity," Flores says. "On the other hand, at least I know what I'm doing there can help somebody who's gone through this, to help them know they can have a life again."

To Read the complete article please go to: <http://www.uaf.edu/aurora/archives/spring-2012/alumnus/>

Noorvik's Zibell voted top boys 2A coach Arctic Sounder March 29, 2012



PHOTO PROVIDED

Noorvik boys basketball coach Darren Zibell [black kuspuk] celebrates with his team after the Bears won the ASAA Class 2A State Championships. The title was twice as nice for Zibell, who was named 2A Coach of the Year before the tournament started.

Darren Zibell (Noorvik, 2002) was born to coach. More specifically, he was born to coach the Noorvik Bears.

His dad Bill coached the team. His uncle **Mike Zibell** (Former RAHI Staff) did. And now he does. Here is another family tradition: winning coach-of-the-year honors. Zibell was voted 2012 Alaska Media LLC/AABC Class 2A Coach of the Year, winning the same award his uncle Mike won in 2006 and 2007.

"I feel very humbled and honored," the young buck said. "I am nowhere near the caliber of coach that my uncle is but I think it's absolutely cool that we both have that honor."

Zibell was raised on Noorvik basketball. It was the talk at the dinner table. It was a source of pride for the family.

"As a young kid I think one of the biggest influences that helped me develop a basketball mind was listening to my dad and Mike talk about basketball. I used to eavesdrop on conversations they would have and just try to absorb everything," Zibell said.

"Now I get to bounce ideas off the both of them regarding my team. We discuss everything and it really has helped in my development as a coach because they are still far superior to me in regards their knowledge of basketball. "I like the discipline I see in his boys, and the way they've grown as basketball players through the season and since last year. I thought that the ability to stick to the plan to hold for the last shot in the championship game, despite a couple of open drive

Story Knife -
The Voice of the Region Yaaruin
June 2012

Michael Ulroan (Chevak 2005)

AHEAD OF THE PACK

CALISTA REGION COLLEGE STUDENT HONORED WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Whether it's exercising his legs or his brain, 23-year-old Michael Ulroan of Chevak lives a fast-paced life that most people can't even begin to keep up with. This civil engineering major at the University of Alaska Anchorage juggles his jam-packed course load, between leading an after-school Alaska Native engineering club and living his passion for fitness.

"Running teaches you mentally and physically how to keep going when it's tough, you keep looking forward, never look back, even when you're tired," Michael said.

It's that drive that keeps him pounding the pavement during long-distance runs and his head in the books. Engineering is a tough major and last semester he routinely studied from 8 a.m. until 1 a.m. He's also the President of the UAA American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) and at the 2012 National AISES conference in Las Vegas Michael received the prestigious "Outstanding Leader Award."


"To meet students with the same goals from all over the country, it's like being in a room full of executives," Michael said.

Being recognized by his peers inspired Michael to encourage other Alaska Natives to pursue higher education. Michael's parents and all four siblings attended college and he wants to show other Calista Region Youth seeking higher education is possible.

"I'm not getting this education for just myself, it's to prove to rural students that they can seek this dream."

Michael has two years of school left, and on the days when he begins to run on empty, he reminds himself that he's forging an important path for others.

Always ahead of the pack, and that's right where Michael is supposed to be.





AISES NATIONAL CONFERENCE



ADAPTABILITY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | NOVEMBER 1-3, 2012

We're gearing up for an amazing National Conference in beautiful Anchorage, Alaska. The Local Volunteer Committee (LVC) is forming right now! If you currently reside in Alaska or will be in town the weeks before the event and would like to play a pivotal role in preparing for the event, please contact Sheryl Wilkeson: (505) 765-1052 x 108.

Story Knife -
The Voice of the Region Yaaruin
January/February 2012

Agatha "Gusty" John-Shields (Toksook Bay 1986)

LEADERS OF THE REGION

Generations of the John's family have been providing opportunities for students to practice the Yup'ik language and learn about Yup'ik ways of knowing. Paul and Martina John, from Toksook Bay, are survived by their nine children and three of the siblings have emerged as cultural torch bearers, maintaining and sustaining Yup'ik language and culture. Dr. Theresa Arevgaq John, Mark Miisaq John and Agatha Panigkaq John-Shields have made it their career to pass on the heritage and values of the Calista Region.

Dr. Theresa Arevgaq John has been an advocate for traditional models of Alaska Native education for years and her latest distinguished recognition came from President Barack Obama in April with an appointment to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. She is the first Alaska Native to receive this prestigious appointment.

Mark Miisaq John has served on the Calista Elder's Council (now working under the umbrella of the Calista Heritage Foundation) for 14 years, leading the documentation of traditional knowledge and teaching youth participants Yup'ik and Cup'ik cultural skills, history and values. He's also provided students with opportunities to practice leadership roles and stewardship, while learning how to protect and respect the environment and what it has offered to sustain their communities.

Agatha Panigkaq John-Shields is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is currently developing a culturally responsive educational leadership master's program for Alaska Native teachers. She was recently honored with the President's Award for Education from the Association of Village Council Presidents and the Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education Award from the Alaska Federation of Natives. Both awards recognize an Alaska Native who has demonstrated strong commitment, competence and sensitivity in the education field, and whose accomplishments have improved educational opportunities for Alaska Natives.

Calista Corporation thanks the John family for touching the lives of many Calista Shareholders and Descendants with their passion for lifelong learning and care of culture.



(left to right) Dr. Theresa Arevgaq John, Mark Miisaq John and Agatha Panigkaq John-Shields

Healy Lake Dig 2012

The Rural Alaska Honors Institute was fortunate enough to partner with Tanana Chiefs Conference this year through an NSF grant to experience an



archeology field school in the village of Healy Lake. 11 RAHI students from 2012 were fortunate in receiving this scholarship opportunity, and continued their summer study experience after the RAHI graduation. Students and TCs were shuttled out to the Dry Creek airstrip,

where they were seen off, 4 at a time on a bush plane, by RAHI assistant manager and instructor Tim Murphrey. The 11 lucky students lived in a tent city at the periphery of Healy Lake, and worked with TCC archeologists Tom Gillespie and Bob Saddler, learning fieldwork methods (the fun dirt work) as well as documentation (the less-fun paper work). If these RAHIers thought that the six weeks in the dorm brought them together, these 14 days of

intensive archeological field work, tent living, and lake bathing made them a seamless unit! In addition, students were able to help out with a funeral potlatch that coincided with their visit to the village. They helped in preparation of the tribal hall, and even

sang and danced for the people of Healy Lake, under Naaq's keen instruction. When the two-week stint was up, as promised, Murphrey was waiting faithfully at the airstrip with a case full of sandwiches and snacks, and a van to shuttle them back to running water, which was greatly appreciated. TCC archeologist Tom Gillespie said that the program couldn't have run any smoother, and that he is anxious for next year's endeavor!



Student Participants:

Olivia Shields
Natalie Landlord
Shannon Isaac
Thomas Brown
Isaac Peacock
Rachel Gulanes
Rebekah Miller
Jacob Howell
Anastasia Kalugin
Gary Lose
Elizabeth Himschoot



GeoFORCE Alaska 9th Grade Academy (July 21 – 28, 2012)

2012 GeoFORCE Alaska Students in Anchorage

"With geology professors from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Texas at Austin, the 16 students traveled 1,018 miles by bus to visit the Permafrost Tunnel in Fox, the Healy coal deposits, Denali National Park, Portage Glacier, Matanuska Glacier and the Denali Fault." Read the rest of the Fairbanks Daily Newsminer article at (<http://newsminer.com/bookmark/19616214-GeoFORCE-program-introduces-students-to-Alaska-geology>)

We would like to thank our 2012 Sponsors:

The University of Texas at Austin: Jackson School of Geosciences | Great Bear Petroleum LLC | Arctic Slope Regional Corporation | SolstenXP | Exxon Mobil | Shell | Denise Butler | Halliburton | Lynden Logistics



Maya Salganek, UAF Assistant Professor

If you had a point to a single location as the nexus of the film world in Fairbanks, and arguably Alaska, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more fitting place than Maya Salganek's office. You'll know it by the steady stream of students coming to 'talk shop' and check out specialty equipment.

In less than a year, Salganek, assistant professor of digital performance media, and her colleagues in the Journalism, English, and Theatre Departments have brought the new bachelor of arts degree in film from a dream to a highly popular first-of-its-kind-in-Alaska program. Students now have a place to gain the education, credentials and experience needed to become active participants in the newly burgeoning film industry in Alaska. Maya has also been working on the RAHI 30th year film project that will be presented at the 2012 AFN on Oct. 19th.



NAECC MEANS FAMILY. A PLACE TO GO TO RELAX, SOCIALIZE AND HAVE FUN AS WELL AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DAILY STRESS. GET SUPPORT, WHETHER ACADEMIC OR OTHERWISE.

BILL PFEIFER
M.S. COMPUTER SCIENCE
TLINGIT TRIBE IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

PRIDE OF PLACE

Focusing on American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous cultures throughout the world, NAECC provides a multitude of resources to encourage learning and empowerment.

Students, faculty and staff are welcomed to take advantage of a wide range of resources.

MEDIA COLLECTION

- BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND EDUCATIONAL DVDS.

FACILITIES

- COMPUTER LAB WITH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AND WI-FI CAPABILITY.
- STUDENT LOUNGE AREA.
- CONFERENCE ROOM, AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS.
- SPACIOUS LAWN, FOR INFORMAL EVENTS.

INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- EXPERIENCE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, THEIR CULTURE AND WORLDVIEW THROUGH TRAVEL ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES.



Learn about grants and scholarships at www.purdue.edu/naecc/internships.html.

Bill Pfeifer (Ketchikan '03) Email-bill.pfeifer.jr@facebook.com

1983



Emily (Brawer) Roseberry (Barrow '83)

Graduated in June 2012 M.Ed in Education Leadership with Administrative Certification from UAS. She also earned a degree in May 2010 M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from UAF.

She is presently working for Umiag as the Science Logistics Manager. All three of my children are attending UAF this Fall. Son **MJ** (Barrow '07) is in his 4th yr Petroleum Engineering program; Daughter **Katie** (Barrow '09) is in her

3rd yr at UAF and declared a major in Biology; Son **Aaron** is in his first year taking General Studies.

(Email - emily.roseberry.14@facebook.com)

1985



Mae Pitka (Russian Mission 1985)

Waqaa RAHI alumni and a biggest shout out to the '85'ers. I am teaching Kindergarten and First Grade in my hometown of Russian Mission. I can't believe I am starting my 19th year of teaching. In the spring of 2010 I received my master's degree in Applied Linguistics from UAF. I owe all my studying skills and motto, "challenge yourself" to the RAHI program. Thank you very

much for the opportunities to experience college for high school students all around the state. Have a wonderful year everyone and good luck in all your adventures



Beverly Simon Kokrine (Nulato 1985)

Is currently starting her 16th year of teaching for FNSBSD. She loves teaching kindergarten. Beverly co-taught the UAF Ed 195 class for RAHI this past summer. As a true believer of RAHI, don't get her started in that conversation or be ready to listen for a long time! Beverly says, "It is quite amazing to see my own kids and my friend's kids in RAHI! Where has the time gone?" Good

luck to all the RAHI alumni who are taking college classes. Taking one class is one step forward. Keep up the good work to the RAHI alumni!!! (Email - bev.kokrine@facebook.com)



Deborah (Vent) Kokrine (Huslia, '85)

I am currently working as a care coordinator at Chief Andrew Isaac Clinic (CAIHC). We will be moving into our brand new facility in December. I am thrilled with my grandson, Randy. My daughter, Ashley is expecting again in October. I can't wait. Love to spoil them rotten. My husband and I will celebrate our 23rd

anniversary on September 23rd. My baby Ron is now a freshman in high school at EKCS. He is taking an Athabascan language class with my aunt, Lorraine David. He will teach me as he learns. (Email - deborah.kokrine@facebook.com)

1986



Rosa Peter (Nulato 1986)

I, Rosa Peter, RAHI 1986 and daughter **Daphne Williams** (Nulato '11) will be attending UAF this Fall as full-time students. I am working toward my A.A.S. in Applied Accounting. I have worked for the Nulato Tribal Council as Clerk/Accountant since August 1995. I'd like to say hello to all my family and friends out there. (Email - rosa.peter.94@facebook.com)

1987



Jerry Miller (Aniak '87)

Working past few years in Kenai area at a processing plant that makes Salmon Fish Oil!! I operate the machinery and supervise several individuals to make the product out of normally discarded fish heads from several processors in the area. Alaska Salmon are the richest source of Omega 3 Fatty Acids!! Work for Alaska Marine Nutrition

also known as Scientific Fisheries. I have also been working on laptops and computer repair as a hobby and back up job. Work on Military Aircraft Electronics when available, this has brought me as far as Okinawa Japan and several cities on the east coast. Currently live in Anchorage. (Email - akjrbear@facebook.com)



Debi (Coffey) McAlister (Stebbins 1987) and daughter **Kya McAlister** Hello RAHI family! My name is Debi (Coffey) McAlister and I am an '87 RAHI Alumni originally from Stebbins, Alaska. Currently, I am semi-retired and living in Medford, Oregon with my children and husband since 2008. I have three children ages: 17, 15, and 14. My eldest daughter just

recently graduated from Phoenix High School and is attending the United States Naval Academy (GO NAVY!). My husband and I are business partners in Southern Oregon. During my service as an educator throughout Alaska I obtained my Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (2008) and my Special Education endorsement from the University of Alaska Anchorage (2002). Following RAHI, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1998) and then taught for 13 years. RAHI was certainly one of the most instrumental "building blocks" in my pursuing an education which contributed to my family success. At this time -I am focusing on my family and supporting my children and their education. (Email - debi.mcalister@facebook.com)



1988



Elsie (Melton-Alward) Todd (Kotzebue '88)

I lost my first husband in Dec. 2010. He was a remarkable guy. I have since re-married. My husband, **Edward Todd**, is a very kind and considerate person. We are very, very happy together. We live in Hatcher Pass, just outside of Palmer. I am working at Turner's Corner, a very convenient place, as it is

almost across the street from where we live. Living life and loving it! (Email - elsie.todd.12@facebook.com)

Richard Dickens (Unalakleet '88)

I'm married living in Unalakleet since 2002 working for the school district in the technology dept. My wife and I have 3 kids **Brady Elvis** (6), **Emily Laura** (2) and a newborn **Jack Robert**. (Email - rscottdickens@facebook.com)

Thomas Barr (Kotzebue, '88)

I am doing fine with my family, my wife Janet and i are busy with our four children, Jadyn almost 6 years old, Keanan 4 years old, Denah 1 year old and Harry who is almost one month old already, Janet's oldest Tatiana who is almost 14 is also going to school around here"



Sharon Nicholas Susook, (Kaltag '88) - I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Alaska Pacific University with my BA in Health Service Administration in December 2010. I am enrolled for the Masters program at APU and will continue until I complete it. I work for Arctic Slope Native Association in Barrow, AK now. I started on June 1, 2012. Eventually, I will transition into the Human Resources Director position in about a year. Currently,

I am recruiting medical and non-medical staff for the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital and other workforce development projects.

We both love living in Barrow and our children like it here too. My second oldest **Dion** is enrolled at the local Ilisagvik College in the Electrical Trades program. We have 3 other children with us, **Jonathan** - 14, **Aaron** - 11, and **Raeanne** - 6. Our oldest, **Sharla** decided to live and work in Anchorage for now. She is also a parent and made us grandparents with her beautiful baby, **Anna-Lee**.

(Email - sharon.susook@facebook.com)

1989



Daniel "Danny" Susook, (Point Lay '89) - He is working for Utpeagvik Inupiat Corporation as Maintenance for the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital. He is good at what he does and it has been a good career move for him to transfer to facilities back in 1992. He has worked for Kali School, Alaska Native Medical Center, Cook Inlet Housing, Providence Hospital, and now Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital.

We both love living in Barrow and our children like it here too. My second oldest **Dion** is enrolled at the local Ilisagvik College in the Electrical Trades program. We have 3 other children with us, **Jonathan** - 14, **Aaron** - 11, and **Raeanne** - 6. Our oldest, **Sharla** decided to live and work in Anchorage for now. She is also a parent and made us grandparents with her beautiful baby, **Anna-Lee**. (Email - sharon.susook@facebook.com)



Sharon Thompson (Kaktovik 1989)
I'm enrolled for full time classes at UAF and will be getting married to my long time sweetheart of 15 years **Wesley Lord**. I have 3 children, **Athena** age 22, **Ryan** age 6 and **Sady** age 4. I am even a grandmother to **Ariana** age 3 who started pre-school this year! When I went to RAHI we used to run at 6:00 am every morning and we had a 10 page term paper to complete. I remember my aunt **Carol**

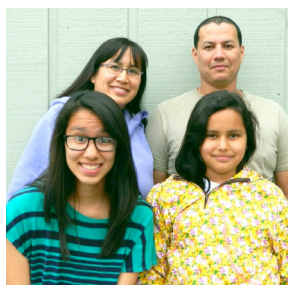
Lee Gho (RAHI Faculty) was my trigonometry teacher and what I learned in that class greatly helped me with my senior year of Trigonometry at Mt Edgecumbe. I am still dear friends with the friends I made at RAHI and love attending UAF. Mind you, I attended University of Hawaii Hilo from 1991-1995. In the interim I worked as an ICWA Social Worker for 8 years and as a Case Manager for severely emotionally damaged children for a year and a half at Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health Center. My fiancé works for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and currently I am enjoying the challenge of being a stay at home flag football/gymnastics mom during the summer and a full time student during the winter. My goal is to be accepted into UAF's Masters of Public Administration program. My hobbies are sewing, cooking, baking and enjoying the journey of being a mom and grand-mom and soon to be wife. (Email - fairbanksgirl@facebook.com)



Verné Börner (Kiana '89)
Hello, all's well here in Germany! My big news, I believe I already shared with RAHIers: I completed my Masters of Public Health! I would like to encourage others who don't want to leave home to consider an online Master's program. I went through Oregon Health and Sciences University. Their program is excellent and very challenging, but also very supportive. I was also able to afford to go by applying for

a fellowship from a Native American Research Centers on Health (NARCH) program, also an excellent program. I studied completely in Germany from home. It would be great for those who do not want to leave home. If you are at all considering an advanced degree, I encourage you all to consider these study and funding options. We are looking to return to the US in August of next year. We're crossing our fingers we find work! :)

1991



Angela, Sarbelio, Janessa and Ermelina Gonzalez

Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez, (Bettles 1991)
Happy 30th Anniversary RAHI! Currently, I am working as a communications coordinator for RurAL CAP. My husband, **Sarbelio**, and I have two daughters, **Janessa** (14) and **Ermelina** (9). My oldest is now in high school. Time flies by quickly! On my free time, I enjoy taking pictures, blogging and playing outdoors

with my family. I also serve on the board of the Alaska Native Professional Association (ANPA - www.anpa.net). I have run into a lot of RAHI grads over the years and have had the pleasure of working with some of them. I would like to give a shout out to **Angela Totemoff** (Tatitlek '99 & '00) who also serves on the ANPA board with me. You can reach me at ayatlin@hotmail.com or [ayatlin](#) on Twitter.



Joyce Ekamrak, former RAHI staff (Akiachak, '89)
Is a registered nurse in the OB Unit at the Bethel Hospital.



Angela Gonzales, Willie Hensley, and Angela Totemoff - at the ANPA gathering



Stan Swetzof, (Atka '91) I'm a Police Officer in North Pole, AK and am in my 6th year with the City of North Pole. I volunteer with the Fire Dept when I have time and just recently finally got my EMT 1 certificate.



LaVern Katchatag (Togiak, '91)

I'm still working as a health aid for 14 years now. Relocating to my husbands hometown of Unalakleet. I have 6 kids of my own with 5 girls and 1 boy and just recently adopted my foster child in March of this year. I'm so excited to move.
(Email - lavern.katchatag@facebook.com)

1993



Joel Titus (Minto, '93, 94)

I wanted to let everyone know that I am engaged now to **Adrienne Blatchford** of Unalakleet and will be getting married soon. Watch for updates on facebook.
(Email - joeltitus4tccpres@facebook.com)

1994



Davina Alexie, (Kipnuk, 1994)

I just recently moved to Bethel from Anchorage after working for UAF - Department of Alaska Native Studies & Rural Development for nearly a year. My kids enjoy going to school in Bethel, so initially my heart belongs in Bethel, hence my move here. Working for the Lower-Kuskokwim School District as an Education Specialist/Instructional

Coach began the Monday after my final day with DANSRD (Friday prior). Looking forward to coaching Yup'ik teachers & working with the dual language program. If you know me from RAHI 1994 or 2007 please feel free to contact me.

(Email - reichicka@yahoo.com)



Edward Alexander (Fort Yukon, '94)

On July 3, 2012 **Ed** and wife **Alisa** celebrated their one year anniversary with their new daughter **Ch'eelil**, who was born Easter Sunday, and son **K'aihinjik**. They still reside in Fort Yukon, though they took some interesting extended trips last year to Nova Scotia, Australia, and New Zealand. He also saw his dad receive the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House in October

2011 with his brother **Sam** (1996) sister **Stephanie** (1988), his brother Magistrate **Dacho Alexander**, and his mom **Ginny**, from **President Barack Obama** (Ed says, "four more years for Barack! "Barack the Vote"!"). His sister **Charlotte** watched the festivities online. Ed currently serves as the Gwich'in Language Coordinator for the Yukon Flats School district, he organized a language institute this year of fluent Gwich'in speakers at which over 30 children's books were translated into Gwich'in. 15 of these have been made into narrated video form and are available via YouTube. He also assisted in the digitization of the Gwich'in collection of materials at the Alaska Native Language Archive, scanning and cataloging hundreds of thousands of Gwich'in language documents and teaching materials, the entire Gwich'in collection is now almost entirely complete and available online at www.uaf.edu/anla. He still serves as the 2nd Chief for Fort Yukon which keeps him pretty busy. Mostly he likes to tend to his garden with his daughter (she fusses if not included), and to the woodyard with his son (ditto). He looks forward to another great year with Alisa at home, though they are planning a trip to Europe in the spring. He, as always, says "hello to all of my old RAHI buddies, especially **Kit, Jack, Matthew Berlin, Travis Epperson, Nathan McGowan, Lydia, and Rainey!**"

1995



Samantha (Smith) Ervine (Northway '95)

2012 - I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a doctor of pharmacy degree in May. I was also married to **Bruce Ervin** in May. Our families ventured to Las Vegas to have the ceremony and we all traveled to Albuquerque for my graduation. We moved back to Alaska and I started working as a pharmacist for Southcentral

Foundation the end of July. I am so happy to be back in Alaska! (Email - samantha.ervin.92@facebook.com)

1997

Shawnte Beck (Willow, '97)

lives in New York and works as a psychometrist for a Traumatic Brain Injury clinic



Stacey Demoski (Nulato, '97)

Hi I'm living in North Pole Alaska! Going back to school this semester after a long break! Just starting out taking 2 online classes so I can continue to work. I currently work for Doyon doing security.

Excited about finishing up school so I can get out of my current field (been working for Doyon for a total of 11 years!). Been married for the past 4 years to my hubby **David**. We have two sons **Collin** (3 years) and **Bentley** (11 months), and one wild lab named Rango (1 year). :) (Email - stacey.demoski@facebook.com)

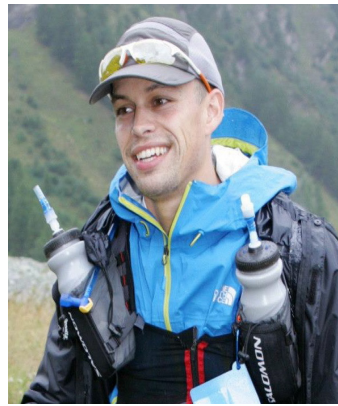
1998



Percy Avugiak (Chefnak '98)

I will be part of the 2012 UA Museum of the North Artisan Expo & Sale. Less than two months left, Oct. 12 & 13. Then a week later, will be the AFN arts and crafts event.

(Email - percy.avugiak@facebook.com)



Isreal Archuleta (Willow, '98)

I'm free. Thus closes an 8 year chapter. 4 years active, 4 inactive. 1 year 3 months in Iraq. I'm done. Can't get called back.

8 years ago today I was a fat truck driver, college dropout, sleeping in my car, no place of residence, \$30,000 in debt, single and all that.

Now - blessed beyond belief, family, house, job, university degree, been to war,

international athlete, 3 beautiful kids, debt free, 45 lbs lighter, leader, runner, writer, author, computer & IT professional, intelligence analyst, strategic thinker and have seen so much of the world even past explorers would be jealous.

Massive respect to those who still serve our country in the Armed Forces like my brother **Jedidiah** who's been in Afghanistan since before Christmas, sister **Johannah** serving in the Air Force, sister **Maranatha** who served her time in the Army, and brother **Danny** about to serve in the Navy.

My time in the Army is officially history, complete, have plenty of stories for my grandchildren and the History Channel when they want after 2050:) (Email - archulettai@facebook.com)

1999

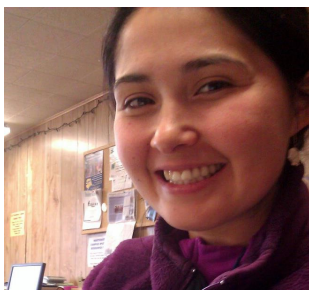


Melody Dawn Shangin (Atka '99)

I still work at Alyeska in the Design Engineering as an Electrical Engineer. Preparing for the AISES national conference.

Sonya (Ash) Selanoff (Nanwalek, '99)

I am in my 4th year of teaching and am currently here in Nanwalek now teaching 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. I have also been going to school for my Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction through UAF. I hope to be finished soon! My daughters are growing so fast, **Lucy** who is 8 and **Olivia** who is 6. My husband and I will also be celebrating nine years of marriage on August 29th. Life and time have truly been flying by. I think of all my RAHI friends of 1999 often and hope life is well for you!



Stacey (Stasenko) Paniptchuk
(Shishmaref '99)

I am student teaching the 3rd grade in Shishmaref. I am going to school full time and am a very busy momma with **Stefan** and **Seth** who are 9 months and 3 ½ years old. We are all excited to have **Silas** in Shishmaref with us this year.

(Email - stacey.paniptchuk@facebook.com)

2000



William on left and Brandon on right.

April Pelkey (Akutan, '00)

Well I've been taking Distance Ed courses thru UAF's CDE program, feels good to be a part-time student again. I live in my home village of Akutan and I currently work full time as the

Manager of the Akutan Corporation, I am the Community Liaison Officer for the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association and PMLR (Post Master Leave Relief) for the USPS. My family and I just welcomed twin boys on March 11, 2012!!

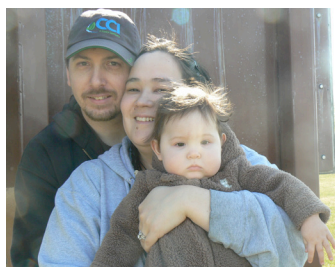
Brandon Blaze was 6lbs 4 oz, 18 inches tall and **William Hugh** was 8lbs 1oz and 20 inches tall born via c-section at ANMC in Anchorage, they join their big sister **Veronika Raelene**, 2yrs old. So we're a family of 5 now and so far no plans on expanding our family anytime soon. We are happy, enjoying life at home - working hard and trying to play harder! I miss all my RAHI 2000 alum and I'm happy to have kept in close touch with those of you I could find on Facebook!!! I can't believe how fast 12 years have gone by already!!

Miss you RAHI, the summer of 2000 still ranks as one of the best summers of my life!!!! I thank you for all the great opportunities RAHI offers the students of our great state who apply to this awesome program!! I try

my best to recruit kids from my village and tell them all about the program. I'm always pressuring the kids about the importance of their education and point out that 10 years later I'm still taking classes and that they hold the key to their future! I'm grateful for the experiences I gained from my summer at RAHI!!! Thank you for offering such a great program to our students!! I would love to hear from everyone!! Take care and keep in touch RAHI-ers!!! (Email - lollipop_2001licks@hotmail.com Cell # (907) 359 - 3070)



Front to back: Brandon, William, Veronika



Ramona (Akelkok) Carpenter (Bettles, '00)

A big HEY to all the 2000er's! Life is going pretty fine; I've been married the last five years to a wonderful man named **Neil** and we have a beautiful one year old daughter,

Isabella. I am a stay at home wife and mom which is very nice and I feel privileged to be one. My husband currently works at a security installation company. (Email - ramona.carpenter.94@facebook.com)

2001



Jackie (Byrne) Bennis
(Koliganek, '01)

Hello. I can't believe it's already been 11 years since I graduated from RAHI. I'm married to **John** and we're going to celebrate our 4th wedding anniversary later this month. We have three kids - **Jewel** 10, **John Patrick** 3, and **Janeva** 1. We moved to Wasilla from Dillingham last year and we love it. I want to say "hi" to the Class of

2001 and hope everyone is doing well.

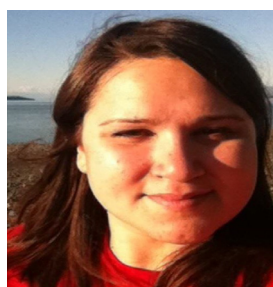
(Email - jackie.bennis@facebook.com)



Shannon Haggitt (Eek '01)

I began my second and final year at the Brown School of Social Work at Washing University in St. Louis. Next May I will have my MSW degree with a concentration in Social and Economic Development. Although I am far away from home the school offers a wonderful Native community with their Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. For

those who may be seeking a MSW, I strongly recommend this program. When I look back and see all the connections and accomplishments I've made, I am truly grateful for RAHI to be that starting point. And the long-lasting positive impacts the program has made, from friendships, educational, and career opportunities I have today. Best wishes to all RAHI alumni and future students! (Email - shannon.rose.16752@facebook.com)



Latanya Odden Semones (Willow, '01)

I live in Anchorage and work at Southcentral Foundation as the Manager of Public Relations. I am excited to be back in Alaska and would welcome opportunities to catch up with RAHI alum! (Email - latanya.odden@facebook.com)



Ricky Lind

(Dillingham '01)

Just received tenure (5 years) at Dillingham City School District for teaching K-12 Music. Homeowner for 3 years, adopted Tuffet, my shih tzu (who's 7) two years ago, & recently purchased a '07 Honda Ridgeline. Best vehicle I've had so far. Lost my Gram last February to a

stroke, but fulfilled her wish by commercial fishing with my aunt Katie, at her set net site in Ekuk last summer. Last May, my dad conquered prostate cancer. Home improvement is a hobby of mine. I created Lind, Inc. this year, due to the high volume of fundraising I do for entities in DCSD. The main event for us, is the Halloween Carnival & Beaver Round-Up (Dillingham's own Fur Rondi). Started UAA's CAN-LEAD program, designed for Alaska Native teachers who are looking to become principals or administrators later. (Email - ricky.lind@facebook.com)



Jonathan Richar (Trapper Creek '02)

Working on my Ph.D in Fisheries at the Lena Point Lab in Juneau, and traveling whenever possible, with the most recent trip being to central Europe—the Czech Republic is highly recommended to anyone looking for a fun destination. (Email - jonathan.richar@facebook.com)



Cheryl (Foster) Brantley (Kotzebue, '02)

Hi RAHI Alumni! I live in Kotzebue, Alaska and work as a Caseworker II with Maniilaq's Employment & Training. I plan to attend the University of Phoenix

online to finish my major in Education K-8. I have three beautiful children now, **Thea** 5 (which will soon start Kindergarten), **TirzahBelle** almost 2, and **Corban Jacob** who is 3 months. I am now happily married to their dad **Victor Brantley**. I often wonder about my fellow RAHI friends :D (Email - cheryl.brantley.7@facebook.com)



Patrick Brown (Sand Point '01)

I am living in Sand Point, AK, salmon fishing on my boat the **F/V Melinda Rae II**, enjoying simple living. I got engaged last fall to my fiancé **Elizabeth Chebetnoy**. I adopted two dogs this spring, one is a 4 month old lab/ husky mix named Brutus and the other one is a 6 year old "cockapoo" named Kiko.

(Email - patrick.brown.96199@facebook.com)



Shelley (Woods) Cotton (Dillingham, '02)

Hi! I am an alum from 2002. My name changed in November when I married **Nigel Cotton**. This semester I graduated with my Master of Science in Fisheries at UAF. My project is titled Subsistence Use and Knowledge of Beaufort Sea Salmon. I am moving to North Dakota in December and am looking forward to a new chapter in life. I am grateful for

my experience at RAHI as I believe that summer helped shape the direction of my life. I am a proud alum, especially since the program is turning 30 and is still going strong. Qu yana RAHI!



Aleta (Alstrom) Wilson (Alakanuk '01)

I am now married and live in Wasilla, AK. I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and I now work as a Program Manager for Akeela, Inc. in Anchorage, AK.

(Email - aleta.wilson.39@facebook.com)



Mariecris (Hernandez) Gowin

(Barrow 2002) & **Zachary Gowin** announce the birth of their twins. **Eliana Cristine Gowin** (5lb15oz, 2:32pm) & **Joshua Stephen Gowin** (6lb11oz, 2:31pm) July 1, 2012!!

(Email - mariecris.gowin@facebook.com)

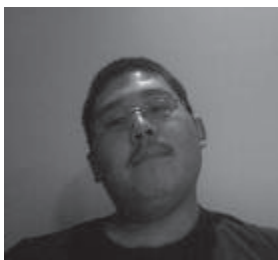
2002



Denali Van Kampen-Lewis (Chitna '02)

I moved to temple Texas and am teaching 6th grade. I am also coaching middle school and high school volleyball. (Email - denali.vankampenlewis@facebook.com)

2003



Samuel Otton (Koyuk, '03)

I have been working as a Bicultural Aide in Koyuk for the past two years, and the prior year as a Special Education Aide. I started work there thinking that working with children wasn't for me. After subbing I found I really enjoyed the work and became a permanent worker at our school. I

am nearing the half waypoint of earning the degree. I have been taking long distance courses during the winter and attending summer sessions at the University of Alaska Fairbanks during the summer. Our school district has been sending paraprofessionals to Fairbanks through a grant from the federal government. Hopefully, within the next five years I will become a certified teacher and teach future generations the values of our people and work toward success in life. (Email - samuel.otton@facebook.com)



Kendri Cesar (Juneau, 2003)
Graduation @ Yale with Law Degree
(Email - kmmcesar@gmail.com)



Ali Sheikh (St. Mary's '03) is married to **Tanya Tuzova** on September 7, 2012
(email - ali.h.sheikh@facebook.com)



Yvonne (Galsy) Ashenfelter (White Mountain, '03)

In January I started taking distant courses through UAF and am working toward a degree in Rural Development. May marked 5 years working with NSEDC, my region's CDQ group. I recently got engaged to **Howard Gregg III** of Anchorage and we are expecting our first child at the end of January 2013. We plan to get married after the baby is born. I'd

like to send a big HI to the RAHI class of 2003!
(Email - galsy@facebook.com)



2004

Gwen (Strunk) Andrew (Quinhagak '04)

My little family and I moved back home to Quinhagak last February. I'm now working with our tribe at the Housing Department and I'm loving it. My kids love the freedom they have in the village and I'm glad they're getting the similar experience I had as a kid. Hello

to all my fellow RAHIers of 2004! (Email - gwendolynnaatiit.andrew@facebook.com)



Nathan Ayotte (Valdez, '03)

I'm currently working for Chevron as a Petroleum Engineer, but recently received a promotion in July. I'm the new Global Thermal UWT (Upstream Workflow Transformation) Project Lead. I'm very much enjoying my new position as a project manager with a very strong, innovative, and enthused team. I'm also the creator of the Property Evaluation Tool (PET). The PET Tool is an Excel based program that helps users evaluate real estate property. You can

visit my website at: www.PETevaluation.com. Life has been awesome! Many new adventures to explore, and experiences to enjoy :) (Email - nathan.ayotte.18@facebook.com)



Louise Kangas (Fairbanks, '05)

I graduated from UAA with a Bachelors in Nursing Science in August 2011. I've been working at the Alaska Native Medical Center since November 2011 and I'm loving my experience there, especially being able to work with various Alaska Native cultures. Aside from that, I've been taking advantage of my new freedom without school by traveling and spending time with my family.

(Email - louweaz@facebook.com)

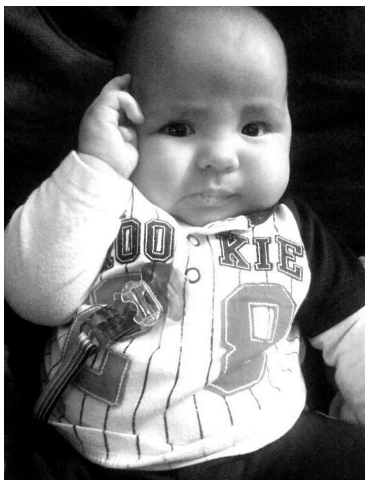
2005



Dental Health Aide Therapist, **Phylicia Wilde**, left, and Dental Assistant, **Brentina Lincoln**, (Toksook Bay, '05) right, with patient **Alissa John** at the Toksook Bay Subregional Clinic.



Natalie (Pfeifer) Bodziony (Ketchikan, 2006) with husband **Michael Bodziony**



Jennal Burgett (Galena 2005) & **Derrick Esmailka** of Galena announce the birth of their son **Chad Lee Burgett-Esmailka** 9lbs 1oz, born Feb 10-2012

2007



Carolyn (Zibell) Walker (Noorvik, 2007) – married **Matthew Walker** on August 2012
(Email - carolyn.c1217@facebook.com)

2006



LeAnn Bifelt (Huslia '06)
I am attending UAF part-time this fall majoring in Psychology but planning on changing my major to Rural Development. I am a proud mom of my 2-year-old son, **Andrei**, and am also expecting a baby girl in October! Hello to all of the '06 grads!
(Email - leann.bifelt@facebook.com)



Amanda Carroll (Circle, '07)
I am engaged to a wonderful, caring guy that loves me truly and his name is **Jormah Pope**. We have a 2 year old son and his name is **Nahtryah Pope** (Nahtryah meaning Wolverine in Gwich'in). We

are expecting our second child, a girl, in early December 2012. I just completed my Phlebotomy training In July and I am working on getting a job at the new Chief Andrews Isaac Health Center when it opens. We plan to move to the Circle at some point in the next two years, but for now we are enjoying life with each other in Fairbanks. (Email - gwichinmomma907@facebook.com)



Lilly (Sensmeier) Jackson (Yakutat 2006)
Married **Shea Bones Jackson** on June 16, 2012



Katya Wassillie (White Mountain, '07)
Right now I'm taking a year off from school and working a summer job as a flagger on a road construction project out of Council, AK. I just spent the last semester of my senior

year as an undergrad in Juneau doing an internship with the State Legislature in the office of **Senator Bettye Davis**. I've attached a picture of her and I with an award she presented me with for my work organizing an event she sponsored in March honoring all the women who have served in the Alaska Legislature, from territorial times through the present, in recognition of National Women's History Month. After my internship was over this past May, I graduated from UAF with my B.A. in Political Science. Next fall I'm planning to start my Master's degree in Rural Development, but in the meantime my boyfriend, Hunter Gray, our dog, Jace, and I will be moving to Hawaii for some sun and freedom on my year off. (Email - katya.wassillie@facebook.com)

2009



Haley Brown (Venetie, 2009) attending the Engineering Delegation in Beijing, China



Undergraduate **Ben Renshaw** (Healy, '09) worked for parts of two years in the research laboratory of Dr. Karsten Hueffer. He then worked with two PhD students who are also veterinarians, Dr. Nina Hansen and Dr. Renee Rember. Ben has received an INBRE undergraduate Student Project Support (USPS) for his proposal "Microsatellite loci among rabies host Arctic and red fox in Alaska".

Ben has been a pleasure to work with for the last 3 years. Ben is now attending UAA in the WAMI program (Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho)



Samantha Foss (Pedro Bay, '09)

Hey RAHI-ers, TCs, teachers, and faculty! I attended UAF for the 2010-2011 school year, I came back home (Pedro Bay) and worked at our village council.

I took a few online classes, but didn't succeed. I figured college isn't for me right now and I decided to leave my small village and get some bigger life experiences. (Something that is

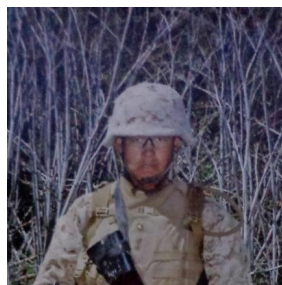
difficult to experience in a 20-something population village;) After deciding I'm not going back to college anytime this year, I started thinking about what else is available for me. My friend and I started talking and discussing our plans for this winter, we decided to leave the cold Alaskan winter and move to L.A.. I will be there in October, possibly for a year or so. I'm absolutely excited to be starting something new and making new memories.

2010



Tiana Elkins (Barrow, '10-'11)

Currently I am attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a major in English and a double minor in History and Secondary Education. I am working as a Resident Assistant in Moore, and am also working as a grant editor for the North Slope Borough School District. I'm one semester away from becoming a junior, and plan to graduate in roughly two years. (Email - tiana.elkins@facebook.com)



Vaughn Agwiak (Mountain Village, 2010)

"motivating rifleman."— at School Of Infantry - Camp Pendleton.



Deanna (Strunk) Latham (Quinhagak 2000 and brother Lonny Strunk (Quinhagak 2010) with family



Ana Otton (Koyuk '11)
I'm here at Chicago majoring in creative writing: non-fiction along with Early Childhood Education (thanks to my experience at RAHI, I might want to become a teacher). I came here with my best friend, but because of the expenses, I will definitely transfer to UAF or UAA next year. (Email - ana.otton@facebook.com)



Bridget Westlock (Emmonak 2010) and **David Johnson** announce the birth of their son **Brock Emmett Johnson** born June 25, 2012 6 lbs. 12 oz. 20 in. (Email - qiuryuq@facebook.com)



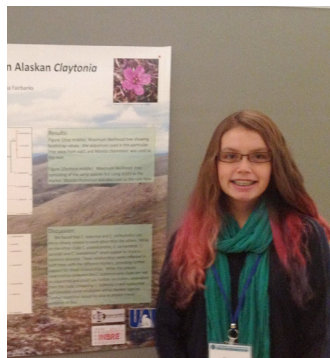
Chelsea Lake (Chevak, 2010) & **Hank Uttereyuk** announce the birth of their daughter **Dakota Rae Lake** born Feb 6, 2012 9lbs 14.8oz and 20 ¾ inches long. (Email - cukcupagaq@facebook.com)

2011



Daphne Williams (Nulato, '11)
My mother **Rosa Peter**, RAHI 1986 and I will be attending UAF this Fall as full-time students. (Email - daphne.rose.758@facebook.com)

2012



Brianna Gilmore (Fairbanks, '12)

There's nothing more intimidating than walking into a roomful of adults, especially when they're speaking the language of business and science. As I walked into the ballroom I saw dozens of posters, each one filled with months of research and new knowledge. There were probably close to a hundred people in the room, many of them were college professors and medical researchers. It was fascinating to see all the places these people had come from. There were many from here in Fairbanks, but there were also a large amount from places such as Russia and Canada.

It was a joy to get to speak with them and hear their opinions on all of the projects. But I would have to say my favorite part of the poster session was seeing people's reactions as they walked down the aisle my poster was located in. My poster was surrounded by posters on Tuberculosis and other diseases, and as they would walk by they would all get a very confused and surprised look on their face to see a poster on a little arctic flower. Of course they all found it rather unorthodox and interesting, since they were used to seeing poster's on microbes and other such topics, they had endless questions on how I had studied the flower, Spring Beauty, and how a sixteen year old girl was able to get into a poster session at an international conference. I had even had one man say that even though he was a professor at a university and had been for twenty years, he had yet to be able to present at an international conference. I must say, it was an honor to be able to be able to meet with such esteemed scientists and have gotten so much encouragement to continue what I'm doing and follow my dreams. (Email - brianna.gilmore.754@facebook.com)

Nanooks women's hoops sign two more recruits

by Danny Martin

May 09, 2012



FAIRBANKS—Noatak guard **Brianna Kirk** (Noatak '12), the reigning Alaska 2A Girls Player of the Year, and junior-college transfer Kristen Swim signed National Letters of Intent with the Alaska Nanooks women's basketball team, according to a University of Alaska Fairbanks press release on Tuesday.

Kirk, the first in-state recruit this offseason for Nanooks head coach **Cody Burgess**, led Noatak during the regular season and in the state tournament in Anchorage, where it placed sixth.

The 5-foot-8 guard averaged 30 points per game during the regular season. She poured in 51 points in the first game of the regional tournament and averaged 39 points during the next four contests to help the Lady Lynx qualify for the state tournament for the first time since 1998.

"She averaged an obscene number of points and is an all-around go-getter," Burgess said in the release. "She's a competitor and we're really excited to have her here."

Kirk contributed 60 points, 22 rebounds, 15 steals and 11 assists for Noatak in the Class 2A girls state tournament. She delivered 31 points in a 52-29 win over Togiak in a consolation game.

Swim, a 5-9 guard from Portland, Ore., comes from Umpqua Community College in Winchester, Ore., where fellow Nanooks recruit Samantha Thornton also played.

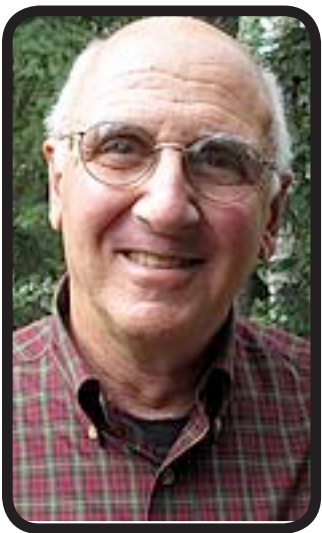
Swim recorded double figures in 18 of 29 games this past season, and she finished as Umpqua's third-leading scorer with 11.1 points per game. She contributed seven rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.5 steals per contest.

Swim also was selected to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Sophomore All-Star Showcase.

FORMER RAHI STAFF

Alumni Achievement Award for University Support went to UAF

Tony Gasbarro, '79 (Former RAHI Staff)



Tony Gasbarro received his bachelor's degree in forestry from Colorado State University in 1962 and a master's degree in land resources from the University of Alaska in 1979.

He has devoted his life to the well-being of the world's forests, serving as a forestry advisor in the Peace Corps, a forester at Sequoia National Forest in California and administering forestry projects in South and Central America for the United Nations before moving to Alaska in 1972. For the next 24 years, Tony studied and protected Alaska's forests, combining a teaching career in forestry at the University of Alaska with work as a researcher in forestry land use and regional development, as an investigator developing a statewide forestry extension program and, during the

decade that followed, as an extension forestry specialist. In 1996, Tony rejoined the Peace Corps for two years of tending to the forests of El Salvador, and upon his return to the University of Alaska, Tony expanded his teaching portfolio to include Spanish conversation, environmental ethics and international development, while also taking on responsibility for UAF's Peace Corps Master's international Program.

He continues his connection with El Salvador as a member of the board of Project Salvador, which provides assistance and scholarships to support the education and empowerment of women in that country.

In 2003, he received the Lillian Carter Award from former President Jimmy Carter. In 2006, he received the national Kennedy Award for outstanding service to the Peace Corps and dedication to the values it fosters and in April 2011 he was recognized as one of the Distinguished Alumni at Classical High School in Providence, R.I.



Patt (Fitzhugh) Garrett
(Former RAHI Staff)

All are doing well. Mom is doing well.

We are saying hi from the McCarthy Cabin.



Michael Lamb II
(Former RAHI Staff)

I am currently a local actor in NC, who had the fortunate opportunity to be casted as a Capitol Citizen extra in the film "The Hunger Games". If interested in a picture, please email me. I can be found on facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/EntertainerLamb>

2012 College Graduates



University of Alaska Fairbanks
Class of 2012

Jenna Celine Schmidt

Sunday, May 13, 2012
1:30 p.m.

The Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Honors Graduation Ceremony:

Saturday, May 12, 2012

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Schaible Auditorium, Bunnell Building



*The Board of Regents, the Faculty
and the Graduating Class
of*

*The University of Arizona
announce that*

*Sharayah Jacqueline Foster
is a candidate for the degree of
Master of Public Health*

Friday, December sixteenth

Two Thousand Eleven

two o'clock in the afternoon

Du Val Auditorium

Arizona Health Sciences Center



Storyknife The Voice of the Region Yaaruin August 2012

INSIDE AN INTERNSHIP

By Kelsey Wallace, Calista Intern

The Calista summer intern program is a great opportunity for college students to learn firsthand about Calista Corporation, to gain work experience and to network within a professional corporate setting. As interns, we came to orientation with high expectations and since then, Calista and its employees have set a standard for us to meet. One of the main things we admire, as a group, is how Calista welcomes new interns and creates a positive work environment. As young people, it is important to feel supported and encouraged to achieve our goals and aspirations in life. This internship program supports young adults with decision making, career goals and helps shape our vision for the future. We are provided with an opportunity to gain work experience with the people of our region.

The tasks we are assigned by our supervisors give us insight into Calista Corporation and a sneak-peek at its operations. Interns are placed in different departments throughout the corporation including the subsidiaries based in the state of Alabama. For the nine interns working within the Anchorage area, we are given the opportunity to meet people from different workforces and departments within the corporation.

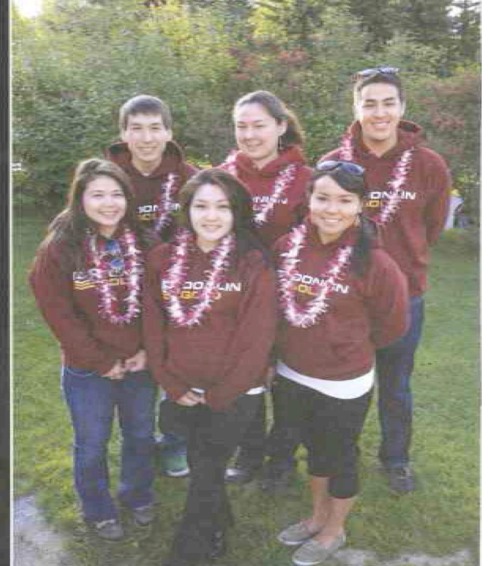
"The internship gives me a better understanding of how Information

Technology is crucial to a business setting," said Lonny Strunk of Quinhagak, one of 14 interns selected for the 10-week-long program.

As interns, the dedication and hard work of Calista employees sets a standard for us to meet within our career field of interest. Having the opportunity to work for Calista Corporation also encourages us to pursue our post high school education whether it's through vocational training or college. The program motivates us to make our parents and our Region proud, and most of all, it makes us as individuals proud to know that we are continuing to support our corporation.

This internship not only gives us work experience but real-life experiences outside of the office as well. Coming from smaller rural communities, we are able to experience everything from learning how to budget our money and wake up early to arrive to work on time, to moving from one place to another in a busy city life. Some of us have even improved our cooking skills, something we thought we would never master. Some people may see living in the city as challenging but our internship family is also our support family as we learn to live and work away from our rural communities. This network of support establishes a lifetime of friendship.

Without the Calista internship program, we would not have gained these work and life



Lonny Strunk (Quinhagak, '10)
back row on left

2012 Summer interns at the Calista Heritage Foundation Golf Classic

experiences outside our rural communities. The 2012 Calista summer interns would like to extend our utmost gratitude to Calista Corporation for providing us with these opportunities as well as committing the time and effort to make sure the internship program is a successful experience for us.

Wangkuta intern-ani quyaviksugarput
Calista Corporation-aaq calistai-llu
ikayurluta yuungnaqlemteni ayagyuani.

New things are happening in RAHI



In 2012 RAHI was able to offer a new specialty class. RAHI teamed up with Workforce development and was able to offer the students a Process Technology class. The class was successful and we hope to offer it in the future. Our instructors were Brian Ellingson and Teresa Lantz. They did an awesome job with the students and were very impressed by how well the students learned the material very quickly.

RAHI Doyon Foundation Graduates 2012

Kathrin Jayde Huntington (Galena '11)

Hometown: Galena, Alaska

School: Sidney C. Huntington School

Degree received: High school diploma

Plans after graduation: To attend the University of Alaska Anchorage to obtain a degree as an ultrasound technician.

Norman Carlo (Tanana '07)

School: University of Alaska Fairbanks

Degree received: Bachelor's of science

Area of study: Process technology (pre-major electrical engineer)

Francine Kazenoff (former RAHI Staff)

Hometown: Fairbanks, Alaska

School: University of Alaska Fairbanks

Degree received: Master's degree

Area of study: Secondary education

Plans after graduation: Continue teaching in Fairbanks

Samantha Ervin (Northway '95)

Hometown: Northway, Alaska

School: University of New Mexico

Degree received: Doctor of pharmacy

Area of study: Pharmacy

Plans after graduation: I accepted a job offer at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage, Alaska. I will be working as a pharmacist.

UAF Spring 2012 RAHI Honor Students

Chancellor's List

Jennifer Martelle, Barrow
Yurly Koval, Delta Junction
Nathan Andrew, Dillingham
Shaun Bond, Fairbanks,
Crystal Martin, Fairbanks
Travis Olsen, Fairbanks
Benjamin Renshaw, Healy
Lonny Strunk, Quinhagak
Christopher Clement, Sitka
Paige Goneau, Tok

Dean's List

Yvonne Ashenfelter, Anchorage
Jerica Aamodt, Barrow
Timothy Nick, Dillingham
Florence Nukusuk, Fairbanks
Megan Richards, Fairbanks
Ralph Sinnok, Fairbanks
Jenna Schmidt, Nome

RAHI Staff

Deans List

Debra Dommek, Fairbanks

Koyukuk River Fish Camp Memories

Posted on 26 August 2012

Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez, (Bettles 1991)



I grew up in a village along the Koyukuk River in Alaska. We went to fish camp every summer from the time school got out to the time it started up again. When I was a kid, I missed playing with my friends in Huslia when I was in fish camp. As I look back, the summers spent at camp were some of my best memories. I had the most fun with my family and cousins.

Cousins in 1980 in fish camp. Photo by Eleanor Yatlin

We worked hard all summer on fishing. We set a fish net and checked it once or twice a day. My parents, aunts, uncles and older kids cut fish. The younger kids would also learn how to cut fish too. Younger kids helped by hanging fish, carrying water, and gathering wood. Cooking

was also a big part of being in camp. We all had to chip in to make sure everyone was fed.

We had to help take care of each other. Older kids took care of babies while the adults were cutting fish. We cut fish for the winter ahead. If we were lucky enough to get king salmon, my parents would be sure to bring some back for the Elders in Huslia. My dad was a dog musher, so we had to make sure to store plenty of fish for the dogs over the winter too.

We had to keep the camp clean and cut grass and brush. Cutting the grass helped to cut down on the mosquitos and gnats. We slept in

mosquito nets at night, ones made by my mom and grandmother. I loved the fabric and netting my mom used and remember daydreaming and reading under mosquito nets.

The summers were pretty hot in the interior. We didn't have refrigerators or freezers in camp. My late grandmother, Lydia Simon, kept a couple bags of frozen meat in the ground. We would replenish the supply every couple of weeks when we went to town. We stored food in a big wooden box to keep it dry and cool.



My late grandma, Lydia Simon, loved to play cards and hang out with her grandchildren. Pictured with her are Solomon, Johnnie and Josephine. Photo taken in fish camp in the early 1990s by Angela Gonzalez

Grandma would yell, "Who wants sookanee?!" We would all say, "Me, meeee!" Sookanee means pancakes or bread in Koyukon Athabascan. [I'm not sure how to spell it correctly. I know a lot of words in Athabascan, but not necessarily how to spell them.] My grandmother made the best sourdough pancakes and fry bread. In late July, we would start to pick high bush cranberries. We ate pancakes with syrup or high bush berry jam. We ate a lot of salmon and whitefish all summer.

We would get excited when we heard a boat or airplane and would compete to see who heard them first. We would yell in camp, "First one to hear boat!" or "First one to hear airplane!" Small distractions and games kept us busy. We played card games, dice and other games. My parents played cribbage in the late evenings after they settle down for the day.



My mother, Eleanor Yatlin, taught her kids, nieces and nephews how to cut fish over the past 40 years. Photo taken in 2011 by Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez

Everyone worked hard in camp and had a role. With the hard work, we also had a lot of fun. We washed the boat every two weeks on a nice day. We got to go swimming. Then, we would sometimes go for a boat ride. My dad would bring us on little adventures when we went for boat rides. We would get mountain water from down river and use it for coffee and tea.

We had visitors in camp every once awhile. They would spend a few hours or a few days with us. It was good to have visitors. We would hear the latest news from town and sometimes they brought us fresh food or new magazines or books.

I remember playing under the cut bank in the summer. My sisters and cousins made elaborate Barbie mansions out of mud and sand. We played for hours. We climbed trees. The boys had boats carved out of driftwood. The boat would be tied to a string and stick and they had fun making their boats "cruise" in the water.

My grandma made grass dolls and dresses out of grass heads and fabric. She would sew little clothes on them for us. She made a few more like this to sell. The clothes were made out of moose skin and beading. I think they were like \$400 or more each. We were lucky we got some to play with. She was a master sewer and beadworker.

We had a couple small cabins, and a couple tents that we stayed in. My parents had oil lamps that we used sparingly in the evening to get a little bit of reading time in. We took turns reading comics, books, and magazines. They were worn out by the end of the summer.

We listened to radio all summer. The song of one summer was "Abracadabra" by the Steve Miller Band. Everyone sang along when they heard that song and other popular ones. There was no TV in camp, so we relied on the radio for news. If there was an emergency or someone wanted to reach us from the village, they would send a message over the radio.

We did not go to town very often, and when we did, we took turns going. My parents made sure to bring us to town to spend the Fourth of July holiday in Huslia. There were all sorts of fun festivities for the Fourth of July. We got in all of the races and games for our age levels. After those few days, we headed back to camp.



My parents, Al and Eleanor Yatlin, spend as much time in fish camp with their grandchildren, nieces and nephews as possible. Photo taken in 2007 by Angela (Yatlin) Gonzalez

It wasn't an easy life, but summers spent in fish camp were some of the best times in my life. I learned how to work hard, to live off the land, and how to have fun. I treasure the stories my grandmother told us throughout the summer. I have a great appreciation for my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncle and wonder how they did it. I try to bring my family back to camp once a year. My oldest daughter spends the summers with her grandparents and gets to spend time in camp. I hope to teach my children some of the important lessons I learned along the Koyukuk River.

Leaders from the Region: Wayne Don

Stoiry Knife The Voice of the Region Yaaruin

September/October 2012

Very few career paths allow a person to pursue all of their passions, which is why **Wayne Don** decided to creat his own. Wayne is a Major in the Alaska Army National Guard, heads a program that trains soldiers from Mongolia and is the chairman of Nunivak Island Mekoryuk Alaska Village Corporation.



“My caree allows me to serve people in a number of ways,” Wayne said. He grew up on Nunivak Island and attended college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he was part of a Reserve Officer Training Corpss program. After college he enlisted in the U.S. Army and traveled the world as a soldier.

In 1995, at age 23, he was deployed to Bosnia. “I was in charge of about 30 plus soldiers. I walked away from that experience with the confidence that I have the capabilities to lead in all types of circumstances.”

Wayne went on to earn a master’s degree in business and joined the Alaska Army National Guard in 2005.

The guardsman was named to the ‘Native American 40 under 40’ during his 2009 deployment to Afghanistan. “My kids accepted the award on my behalf, that was really special,” Wayne said. Last year, he was recognized with the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship, an award that gave him the opportunity to travel to Europe to meet the leaders.

Wayne credits the military for many of his leadership skills, but he wants Youth to understand anyone can be a leader. “Not every student is going to go to college, but you can still be a leader in the community. Serve on your tribal or community council, or be the best fisherman around.”

Through Calista Corportation’s scholarship and internship program, Wayne says Youth have the oportunityies to achieve success. “We have the incredibly supportive Corporation. Sulturally it encourages Youth to participate and be involved. They are the future of the YK area and I hope to see kids get involved.”

Wayne lives with is wife and children in Eagle River, daughter **Phylicia**, 17, son **Gannon**, 14, daughter **Delaina**, 8, and wife **Alicia**.

July 12, 2012
Fairbanks News Miner

RURAL HONORS



Salgu Wissmath/News-Miner intern

Left: 2012 graduates of the Rural Alaska Honors Institute celebrate after their ceremony Wednesday at the UAF campus.

Below: Nelson Kanuk waves at the audience after receiving the Students' Choice Award. As recipient of the Students' Choice Award he received the Kyan Olanna and John Kakaruk scholarship for \$2,500.



Salgu Wissmath/News-Miner intern

Members of the RAHI Alaska Native dance class Jennie Katchatag, left, Thomas Brown, center, and Olivia Shields drum during the recessional Wednesday at the Rural Alaska Honors Institute 2012 graduation at Schaible Auditorium.



Rural Alaska Honors Institute 30th Anniversary



Celebration and DVD Documentary Premiere at the 2012 Alaska Federation of Natives Conference

Film premiere: Friday, October 19th 10:00 am
Dena'ina Center 600 W 7th Ave., Anchorage

Reception : Friday, October 19th 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Chart Room, Hilton Anchorage West Tower

The Rural Alaska Honors Institute invites you to join us in celebration of our 30th anniversary, and to see the premiere of our new documentary, chronicling three decades of preparing Alaska Native and rural Alaskan students for college success! The film will be shown at AFN, then again during a catered reception at the Hilton. Please join us as we celebrate our past and look to our future!

Film and event funded by:



RSVP to Renee Pike at
brpike@alaska.edu
(907) 474 - 5876

GETTING THINGS DONE! 2013 RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Recruitment!

AmeriCorps Members work to address needs in their communities, and receive a **living stipend**, an **education award**, **childcare benefits**, **on-the-job training** and more. RurAL CAP seeks BIRCH (Building Initiatives in Rural Community Health) and RAVEN (Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network) AmeriCorps Members.

To be eligible for the BIRCH AmeriCorps program, your community must be served by the Behavioral Health Aide Program.



Photo by Charlie Ess

2012 Marshall recycling project volunteers.

RurAL CAP

Toll-free phone:
(800) 478-7227

Visit our website
to download an
application and apply!

www.ruralcap.com

**Application deadline:
November 16, 2012**

**RURAL ALASKA HONORS INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
PO BOX 756305
FAIRBANKS, AK 99775-6305**

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Fairbanks, AK
Permit No. 2

Stay In Touch and Keep Challenging Yourself!!

*The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.
UAF is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and educational institution*