



RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Department of Alaska Native & Rural Development

RD Graduate Wins \$30,000 Alaska Marketplace Award

DIANA (RIEDEL) BURTON, a 2003 RD BA graduate, won a \$30,000 award in the Alaska Marketplace competition at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in October. The 61 finalists for the competition were selected from 300 applicants and competed for \$700,000 in prize money to enhance their businesses. According to the program's booklet, "The Alaska Marketplace is an initiative of the Alaska Federation of Natives that cultivates innovative ideas to promote new businesses and to stimulate economic development in rural Alaskan communities. It does so by incorporating traditional knowledge and cultural skills of Alaska's residents." Burton's Dineega Specialty Furs is a family-owned skin sewing business. Originally from Cordova, she currently resides in Sitka

and plans to use the award money for business expansion.

Annie Fritze of Dillingham, a 2004 RD BA graduate and current RD MA student, was also one of the 61 finalists. Her business is called The Art of Skin Sewing. Ulric Ulroan, a 2006 RD BA graduate, was a \$25,000 winner in 2006, the first year of the competition.

The theme of this year's competition was "Culture and Development."



Diana (Riedel) Burton



Shauna Hegna

Hegna named one of "Alaska's Top Forty Under 40"

RD MA GRADUATE

SHAUNA HEGNA (2004) was named as one of Alaska's "Top Forty Under 40" by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.

She is originally from Port Lions and currently serves as Deputy Director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP). The prestigious award was presented to her by Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich at a luncheon at the Egan Center in Anchorage on November 5. The program was created by the Anchorage

Chamber of Commerce and Alaska Journal of Commerce to recognize the state's top young professionals younger than age 40. (As one of the youngest award recipients, Hegna could have been in the "top 30 under thirty" category if there was one.) Award recipients have demonstrated professional excellence and a commitment to their community.

In a prepared statement

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Message from the Director

By GORDON L. PULLAR

THIS FALL SEMESTER we can look back on a significant year for the Rural Development Program. Last spring we had a total of 20 RD graduates, the most ever. There were 12 MA graduates and eight BA graduates. Congratulations to all of them! Our new student count for fall semester is 20, matching the graduation number.

We have some exciting changes taking place in the department. Professors Dixie Dayo, Theresa John and Miranda Wright have all begun Ph.D. programs at UAF. This has necessitated a cutback on their class time but it will be well worth it. A concerted effort is emerging within UAF to develop more Alaska Native Ph.Ds and when our three faculty members receive theirs it will nearly double the four Alaska Natives that have earned Ph.Ds at UAF thus far. As one of the approximately 30 Alaska Native Ph.Ds currently in existence

I am particularly excited and proud that our faculty members are taking on this challenge. The RD program will be stronger because of their efforts.

We have two new faculty members, both of whom are no strangers to the RD program. Professor JoAnn Ducharme has joined us in our Anchorage department office. Many know her for the years she spent as Director of Rural Student Services at UAF and as the Associate Dean for Enrollment Management in the College of Rural and Community Development. Dr. Tony Nakazawa joins our faculty in Anchorage after spending the past ten years as Director of Cooperative Extension Service. He will be working 51% time as a DANRD faculty member.

We are working on establishing new student opportunities through collaborations and partnerships. We are currently in discussions with the Resilience and Adaptation Program at UAF to co-sponsor a graduate level seminar at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be held at UN headquarters in New York next May. We also hope to secure funding for a student travel seminar to Greenland in August to attend the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences.

The Alaska Federation of Natives Convention was held in Fairbanks this year and was well attended by RD students and graduates. One of our BA graduates, Dianna (Riedel) Burton won a \$30,000 prize in the Alaska Marketplace competition for her business, Dineega Specialty Furs. MA student Annie Fritze of Dillingham was a finalist in the competition.

Finally, we are proud of the statistics that show that the Rural Development Program is doing very well in graduating Alaska Native students. Of the 38 RD MA graduates, 31 (or 81.6%) have been Alaska Natives. Over this same five-year period there were 73 total Alaska Native MA graduates representing only 6.7% of the total. The BA program has done well in this area also with 121 of 157 graduates being Alaska Native representing 77%.

We look forward to a successful 2008!

Student and Graduate Notes

BEVERLY MELOVIDOV, BA 2004 and MA 2007, has been hired as the new Director of Shareholder Affairs for the TDX Foundation in her home village of St. Paul Island.

APRIL LAKTONEN COUNCELLER, MA 2006, the Language Program Coordinator at the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak has started in the Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) Ph.D. program at UAF. This program is part of the UAF Interdisciplinary Program. Her doctorate will be in Language Policy and Planning. She received her BA in Anthropology from Brown University.



Class of 2007 Sets a Record for RD Grads

THE DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT awarded eight BA and 12 MA degrees in 2007, the highest number of degrees awarded by DANRD in a single year. The department has awarded 157 BA degrees since it was established in 1984. The graduate program began in 1999 and has awarded 38 degrees with the 2007 graduating class representing nearly a third of that total. DANRD is a substantial contributor to UAF's commitment to meet the educational needs of rural Alaska. Since 2002, we have been responsible for 42% of the master's degrees awarded to Alaska Natives at UAF and 18% of those awarded to Alaska Natives in the University of Alaska system as a whole. This year's graduates join a large number of DANRD alumni that can be found in leadership positions throughout Alaska.

BA graduates and their hometowns are: Albert Ames, Nenana; Jenny C. Bell-Jones (summa cum laude), Fairbanks; Crystal Frank, Arctic Village; Sonta M. Hamilton (cum laude), Shageluk; Dawson Hoover, Bethel; Hannah Loon, Selawik; Ronald H. Nalikak, Barrow/Anchorage and Mercedes Yanez, Togiak.

MA graduates include: Nicholas R. Charles, Jr., Bethel/Anchorage; Kelly Eningowuk, Shishmaref/Anchorage; Nina Heyano, Tanana/Anchorage; Joella Hogan, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada; Linda Joule, Kotzebue; James LaBelle, Kotzebue/Anchorage; Dorothy M. Larson, Dillingham/Anchorage; Daniel Lung, Anchorage; Beverly A. Melovidov, St. Paul Island; Shannon E. Oelkers, Fairbanks; Ayapaq George Owletuck, Marshall/Anchorage and David J. Parks, Wasilla.

Congratulations class of 2007!

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for the awards program, Hegna said, "I have been blessed with many mentors in my life who have helped me to become the person I am today. My father, Ivan Lukin, taught me the value of hard work, determination and the importance of subsistence. He showed me that if you put your mind to something, even if you have limited resources, you can make it happen. My older sister, Tanya Lukin-Linklater, taught me that every person can overcome immense obstacles in pursuit of their dreams. She told me never to accept things 'because that's the way they have always been' and to strive for success. Most importantly, she told me that I could be anything that I chose to be. Gordon

Pullar, director of UAF's Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development, also shaped who I am today. He encouraged me to go to graduate school and mentored me through many of my first jobs. David Hardenbergh, RurAL CAP's executive director, believes in my potential and expects me to excel at everything I do. No excuses, just results. It is his high level of expectation, and my own drive, that makes me strive for excellence in everything I do. These four people have largely shaped my life. They have given me strength and encouragement and sometimes a swift kick in the pants if I needed it. They have been my mentors and friends."



DANRD faculty and staff. Top row, left to right: Tony Nakazawa, Gordon Pullar, Gail Staudinger, Frances Bedel, Rick Knecht and Ralph Gabrielli. Bottom row, left to right: Dixie Dayo, Miranda Wright, JoAnn Ducharme and Theresa John.

Faculty Highlights

DIXIE MASAK DAYO, Fairbanks assistant professor, has begun working on a Ph.D. in the Resilience and Adaptation Program at UAF. This past summer she was elected president of the Bean Ridge Corporation, the ANCSA corporation for her home village of Manley Hot Springs. She co-authored the Alaska section in *The Indigenous World 2007*, published by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs in Denmark. She also won two awards—first place and class champion, for her Manley Hot Springs grape pie at the Tanana Valley State Fair.

MIRANDA WRIGHT, Fairbanks assistant professor, has stepped down from her position as academic program head to begin working on a Ph.D. in UAF's Resilience and Adaptation Program. She co-authored the Alaska section in *The Indigenous World 2007*, published by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs in Denmark. She continues to serve on the board of directors of Doyon, Ltd., her regional ANCSA corporation.

THERESA AREVGAQ JOHN, assistant professor in Bethel, has temporarily relocated to Fairbanks to begin work on a Ph.D. in the Secondary Language Acquisition and Teacher Education Program at UAF. She was reappointed by Governor Sarah Palin to the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The 11-member council is charged with encouraging the practice, enjoyment and support of the arts in Alaska and serve on panels which award grants to arts programs around the state.

RICK KNECHT, assistant professor in Anchorage, is DANRD's new academic program head. He recently co-authored a chapter in the upcoming book *The Aleutian Islands: Archaeology, Demography and Genetics* from the University of Utah Press. He will be co-chairing a seminar on indigenous archaeology entitled "The Masters" with Stephen Loring of the Smithsonian Institution at the upcoming World Archaeology Conference in Dublin. Knecht is also working with the Republic of Palau in Micronesia in planning a proposed U.S. National Park at the WWII battlefield at Peleliu.

Two New Faculty Join DANRD



JOANN (JOJO) DUCHARME is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of Montana and has been a resident of Alaska for 32 years. She first came to Fairbanks in 1975

as a senior transfer student from the University of Montana and enrolled in X-CED (Cross Cultural Education program) courses. According to JoAnn, "I was just going to take courses for one year and return to my reservation in Montana to teach, but then 'life' happened and I became a 'lifer'—one of the best decisions in my life so far." Professor Ducharme graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) with a B.Ed. ('77) and M.Ed. ('82) and worked for the Fairbanks Native Association, Fairbanks School District and as an adjunct faculty member with UAF's Alaska Native Studies and the School of Education. Before coming to DANRD, Joanne served for 14 years as the Director of Rural Student Services. Her son, Ben, is 27 years old and attending UAF and her life partner is David Sam from Sitka. Professor Ducharme summed up her reaction to her appointment: "I am thankful to continue serving Alaska Native and rural students through the Rural Development Department. It is truly a dream come true for me."

ANTHONY "TONY" TADASHI NAKAZAWA received an M.S. (1976) and Ph.D. (1979) in agriculture and resource economics from the University of California Berkeley. Currently he has a joint appointment as a professor of rural development with the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Rural and Community Development and professor of economics with the UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences/UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. He has lived in Arizona, California and Hawaii and has been a resident of Alaska since 1977.



From 1997 to 2007 Dr. Nakazawa served as the director of the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service overseeing the operation of the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service statewide system, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)—University of Alaska land grant partnership. From 1981 to 1997 he was an extension economist focusing on economic development and local government. His professional experience also includes appointments with the State of Alaska. From 1992 to 1995 he took leave from UAF to serve as the director of the Division of Community and Rural Development for the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA). And from January 2003 to 2007 he was a member of the Alaska Local Boundary Commission representing the Fourth Judicial District of the state. Professor Nakazawa's teaching, research and administrative interests include extension and outreach programs; community and rural economic development; Alaska state, local and regional government and rural education.

MIKE DAVIS, associate professor, Bristol Bay Campus, is on sabbatical for the 2007–2008 academic year and is working on a research project.

GORDON L. PULLAR, DANRD director, was elected to a sixth term as president of the Woody Island Tribal Council in April. Last February, while a guest of the National Museum of Greenland in Nuuk, he presented a paper titled, "Repatriation, Cultural Revitalization and Indigenous Healing in Alaska." He was

elected chairman of the Native American Advisory Group for the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in May. He was an invited speaker at an October seminar hosted by the Sámi Museum Siida in Inari, Finland called, "Recalling Ancestral Voices: Repatriation of Sámi Cultural Heritage." He was also a co-author of the Alaska section in *The Indigenous World 2007*. He currently serves on a UAF committee to seek ways to increase the number of Alaska Native Ph.D.s.

2007 RD Essay Contest Winner Announced

LAST SPRING DANRD ANNOUNCED its first annual Rural Development Essay Contest. Entrants were allowed 1,100 words to address the theme "How can we best sustain Alaska's rural communities in the future?" The winner of the 2007 contest and recipient of a \$500 cash prize was Hitomi Marsh. Judges found that Hitomi's essay exemplified the level of creative and scholarly writing that our department strives for.

Hitomi "Tomi" Marsh has more than 25 years experience in the Alaska fishing industry and is the owner and operator of the *F/V Savage* and co-owner of Sea Witch Seafood. She serves on the board of the Oceans Alaska Marine Science Center, Mariculture Research board, Rainforest Wild board and the Southeast Alaska Regional Marketing Group. Hitomi is a new student in DANRD's undergraduate program.



Tomi Marsh

Mariculture: A Vision for Alaskan Rural Coastal Communities

BY HITOMI MARSH, RURAL DEVELOPMENT STUDENT

COASTAL COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE share a common and unique bond with the marine environment. The harvest and subsistence from her seas is something integral to every indigenous coastal culture. Mariculture engenders these attributes and if done in an ecologically and economically sustainable fashion, mariculture can be an important rural, economic and social development tool throughout the world. "Aquaculture is defined as the farming of aquatic organisms including fish, mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants with some sort of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production" (FAO, 2006). Mariculture is marine culture/ocean culture and in the context for Alaska, mariculture applies only to shellfish and seaweed—finfish farming has been banned in Alaska since 1990 (AS 16.40.210). In China, aquaculture has a long history and has sustained rural communities for over 2,000 years. It is also an important food and economic source for rural areas throughout the world (Dey and Ahmad, 2005).

Aquaculture, like all agricultural production, can be environmentally and socially

harmful or environmentally and socially beneficial. One thing that will not change is that the population of the world is growing and it is more important than ever to carefully examine techniques of production and judge if they are environmentally, culturally and socially compatible. Vision, empathy and understanding are vital in creating a program that integrates indigenous cultures and traditions. In the face of climate change and environmental concerns, mariculture is an environmentally sustainable choice. Shellfish are the "canaries of the coastal eco-system" as it is not possible to sustain shellfish mariculture or communities in an unhealthy marine environment. In order to execute best management practices and to create a vision of healthy sustainable communities, public and community involvement is necessary from the beginning. If the infrastructure is not in place for public input, these institutions must be created in order to create a process that can include everyone. To implement vision, there must exist organizations to be the voice of the stakeholders and government policy addressing land use. In creating

healthy communities the input of the community, people, organizations and resources must be taken into account.

Alaska is home to many rural coastal communities. From the SE Panhandle to the Western Aleutians, communities have struggled to establish economic sustainability while maintaining their lifestyles and cultural traditions. Allocation of natural resources, public property rights, environmental health, subsistence, and cultural heritage are all issues that must be addressed in the quest to create strong eco-systems, communities, and cultural identity. Fishing and ocean harvesting are key fibers in the cultural and economic web of coastal people. Mariculture generates a link between tradition, economic/community health and expectations for future generations. Mariculture builds on the subsistence and aboriginal custom of gathering/harvesting seaweeds and shellfish. Mariculture also encourages an awareness of Native/coastal peoples close working ties with nature and promotes a healthy marine environment. As Alaska's coastal communities move into the future, the importance of pursuing an industry that is harmonious with traditions, environment and lifestyles is paramount.

Mariculture has long been discussed as a viable economic opportunity and rural solution in many different circles. For example, mariculture was considered as an economic prospect during the Tanana Chiefs Conference and it is referenced in article VIII of the Alaska Constitution (Granbinka, 1983). The Aquatic Farm Act of 1988 addresses the topic and defines terminology. Shellfish farming is seen as being an opportunity for cash income with small-scale infrastructure and fits well with Native subsistence lifestyles. Community policy and a strategic plan are necessary to help craft a viable approach for furthering mariculture in coastal communities. Each community, its environment, people and culture, is unique and care must be taken to tailor each project to fit. Each area may have distinctive or common issues of marketing, transportation, government regulations, cultural traditions, subsistence, environment and resource concerns. The importance of evaluating each individual community/environment is critical to the success of any mariculture project. Public process is key in encouraging input, ideas and different observations for exploring the vision of mariculture in Alaska.

Shellfish mariculture promotes economic, environmental and cultural sustainability for rural coastal communities as it incorporates

values respected by indigenous peoples. The main goals now are to establish a comprehensive set of regulations and a strategic plan that includes an awareness of social and environmental concerns, crafts a long term educational and research curriculum and builds a marketing program for these Alaskan products. By combining policy, diversity, understanding and empathy the future is open to create a vision for Alaskan and global community health.

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Student Updates

GEORGE OWLETUCK (M.A. Rural Development, 2007) had dual cause for celebration during graduation week this past spring when he was appointed as an assistant professor in the Alaska Native Studies Department at UAF. During the course of a single year George went from graduate student to alumnus to faculty colleague at UAF. Well done George!

DAVID J. PARKS (M.A. Rural Development, 2007) lives in Palmer and serves as the executive director of United Way of Mat-Su. He is a member of both the UAA and UAF Alumni Associations and currently serves as president of the UAA Board of Directors. David is actively engaged in the community and volunteers time on a variety of public policy and non-profit projects. He spent time fly fishing and golfing this summer and is looking forward to snow-machining and hunting this fall and building a log cabin in the spring.

ALAN SORUM (M.A. Rural Development, 2004) was recently hired as the city manager in Skagway. Alan writes, "The work I did in the RD Masters Program made a big difference with the council in the hiring decision . . . if there is anything I can do to help students or faculty in the RD program, please let me know!"

SOPHIE JENKINS (Rural Development student) addressed the International Conference on Indigenous Models for Behavioral Health in Anchorage. She spoke to more than 100 indigenous health care practitioners from around the world, saying "Healing should include the traditional practices of the communities in which we live". Sophie works for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. Her address was reported by the media including the *Tundra Drums*.

BA Grads



Ronald H. Nalikak, Barrow/
Anchorage



Dawson Hoover, Bethel



Crystal Frank, Arctic Village



Sonta Hamilton, Shageluk/
Fairbanks



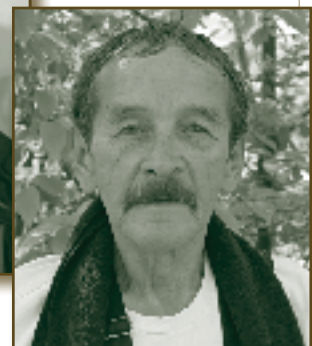
Mercedes Yanez, Togiak



Jenny Bell-Jones, Fairbanks



Hannah Loon, Selawik



Albert Ames, Nenana



Dorothy Larson, Dillingham/Anchorage; Nina Heyano, Tanana/Anchorage; Daniel Lung, Anchorage; Linda Joule, Kotzebue

MA Grads



Kelly Eningowuk, Shishmaref/Anchorage

RD 2007 Graduation



David Parks, Palmer



Beverly Melovidov, St. Paul Island/Fairbanks



Joella Hogan, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada



George Owletuck, Marshall/Anchorage



Nicholas (Bob) Charles, Bethel/Wasilla



Shannon Oelkers, Fairbanks



James LaBelle, Anchorage

Juneau Seminar



Student Patty Lekanoff-Gregory with Representative Anna Fairclough

LAST SPRING'S RD SEMINAR in Juneau gave students a unique glimpse into Alaska's government in a time of transition as the newly installed Palin administration took the reins of power. DANRD professor and former State Representative Mike Davis (1983–1990) guided seminar participants through all phases of the legislative process utilizing speakers from the top tiers of state government. The class heard from Senate Majority Leader Gary Stevens; Senate President Lyda Green; Senator Ben Stevens; House Speaker John Harris; Senator Lyman Hoffman from Senate Finance; Representative Mary Nelson of House Finance; Senator Albert Kookesh; Senator Gary Wilken and Representative Beth Kerttula.

The class was introduced in a session of the House of Representatives and also attended Senate meetings in progress. Members of the Alaska Supreme Court, the media and the director of the Office of Management and Budget also took time to meet with the class. Dr. Ralph Gabrielli instructed the analytical writing portion of the seminar and Dr. Clive Thomas was a guest instructor in Juneau. Another highlight was breakfast in the Governor's Mansion at the invitation of Governor Palin which was also attended by Assistant Chancellor Bernice Joseph.



Governor Sarah Palin (right), Vice Chancellor Bernice Joseph (second from right) and students



Senator Donald Olson and student Patuk Glenn



Student Leon Kiana, Representative Richard Foster and professor Mike Davis

The class was introduced in a session of the House of Representatives and also attended Senate meetings in progress.



Representative Bryce Edgmon and student Mercedes Yanez



Student Gail Dabaluz with Senate President Lyda Green

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Representative Don Young with students and faculty

DANRD Spring Seminar in Washington D.C.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) and the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development partnered once again in co-sponsoring a spring seminar, this time in Washington, D.C. This year NPS not only provided funding and staff expertise for the event, but also sent seminar participants from throughout the National Park system that joined 21 DANRD students in a busy week of presentations, meetings and specially guided tours inside of some of Washington's major institutions. The theme for this year's seminar was "Alaska Natives and Federal Relationships" and students learned firsthand about the resources, rights and responsibilities inherent in those relationships.

Students discussed issues with Senators Stevens and Murkowski as well as Representative Don Young in the Capitol building. Presentations by a variety of officials and experts also took place at the National Park Service Building, the Library of Congress, the National Science Foundation, the Hall of States Building and the Old Post Office Pavilion.

Students heard from an impressive number of experts in many fields. Willie Hensley discussed development and read excerpts from his upcoming autobiography. Historian David Nordlander explained how to access Alaska Collections from the Library of Congress. John Katz, director of the State of Alaska office, led a round-table discussion with students about state issues. Bambi Kraus of the National Asso-

ciation of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers met students and faculty at a reception hosted by the law firm Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld. Anna Kertulla, Arctic Social Sciences program director for the National Science Foundation and her staff talked about Polar science.

At NPS headquarters students met with Drue Pearce, senior advisor to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska Affairs, Georgie Reynolds from the US Corps of Engineers, Pat Parker head of the National Park Service's Indian Liaison Office, Martha Stewart, Director of Federal Relations for the University of Alaska. Another highlight was a tour of the Smithsonian's Museum Support Facility in Maryland, where curator Stephen Loring showed students rarely seen objects collected throughout Alaska. Students also saw artifacts and objects in the adjacent storage facility of the National Museum of the American Indian. NPS Park Ranger Michael Kelly provided a wonderful tour of the monuments scattered throughout the National Mall.

Dr. Ted Birkedal, always a mainstay in our spring seminars, went far beyond the call of duty as he helped both students and staff negotiate their way through the intricacies of the federal bureaucracies. By seminar's end, students were a little footsore but well informed and very glad for the experience. We appreciate the support of the National Park Service in co-sponsoring yet another spectacularly successful seminar.



Bob Charles meets the Answer Man on the National Mall



Carmaleeda Estrada and Patuk Glenn join the soup line at the FDR Memorial



Above: Students and Senator Ted Stevens



Above: Students at the National Science Foundation
Below: Dr. Stephen Loring (left) and students



At left: Professor Miranda Wright discusses issues with Senator Murkowski



Below l-r: Beverly Melovidov, Joella Hogan, Steve Williams, Debra Moore, Vanessa Norman, Patuk Glenn and Mercedes Yanez



Senator Stevens and Professor Dayo

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Dr. Ted Birkedal, National Park Service



NPS mall tour

Senior Project Used in Game Board Hearing

BY VERA WEBER

I WANT TO SHARE THIS GREAT NEWS with you. I just returned home to Anaktuvuk Pass from a trip to Bethel to represent our community at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, Nov 9–12, 2007. There were 12 local representatives from Anaktuvuk Pass and Barrow who traveled to testify and support our Proposal #55 which states, “Controlled use areas. Modify the boundary of the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area . . .” And with an amended RC #8 states “the area map consisting of a 25 mile radius in all directions from Anaktuvuk Pass within Unit 26 (Akp River Drainage)” to change to approximately 75 miles ranging a square mile coverage from west to east of Anaktuvuk Pass north to protect the traditional caribou gathering and migration route and hunting restriction by use of aircraft for caribou hunting.

In short summary, for many years the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass have been annoyingly upset with the aircraft usage north of Anaktuvuk Pass for sport hunting caribou during our traditional fall migration period. The meeting was to testify and support the controlled used area means “the area is closed to the use of

aircraft for hunting caribou, including the transportation of caribou hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of caribou from August 15–October 15 . . .” and our oral testimony applies to explain our traditional hunting methods, unwritten traditional laws of hunting, traditional migration route for over 400 years, and subsistence importance to the community from past to present and of course, supporting proposal #55 and RC #8 to the Board of Game.

For the past couple days of this settlement, the first day was an introduction of proposal #55, two days of Public and Advisory Committee oral testimonies (we had Northwest area and Bethel people who testified in support of proposal #55), a day and a half of compromising the amended RC #8, and the final day of Board deliberation of the proposal. For days of this process and intensive compromising and awaiting the Board deliberation, **WE WON!** It was a great learning experience of how the Board of Game process and the system works against or for the Alaska people, especially for the subsistence users!

I want to also share that Taqulik Hepa, Director of Wildlife Department of North Slope Borough, used my senior project (RC #9) Nunamiut History of Anaktuvuk Pass 1949–2004 for the Board of Game to read as additional informational document to support the Proposal #55! It was great and I was honored that my senior project was made to good use for our people! I got to see Joli Morgan— he dropped by the meeting to say hello.

Circumpolar Leadership Symposium Held in October

TWENTY-ONE STUDENTS spent seven days together in Anchorage October 6–12 to participate in the annual RD 600 class, Circumpolar Indigenous Leadership Symposium. While the makeup of the class was overwhelmingly RD graduate students there were five RD undergraduate students participating as well.

The week was highlighted by having three “elders in residence” who participated the entire week offering wisdom and feedback on the various presenters and taking part in student discussions. The three were former Sealaska President and ANCSA architect, John Borbridge, former state Senator John Sackett, and UAF honorary Ph.D. holder Catherine Attla. Dr. Walter Soboleff, a month away from his 99th birthday offered warmth and wisdom to the class.

In keeping with the circumpolar theme of the class, Pekka Aikio, the president of the Sami Parliament of Finland was a featured speaker. President Aikio shared a wealth of information on reindeer herding. He comes from a Sami reindeer herding family and has conducted scientific research on reindeer as well.

The seminar began with a welcome from Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich and Eklutna Village President Dorothy Cook. Mayor Begich set a tone for those following him by commenting on the topic of leadership saying, “At the end of the day it’s about getting things done.”

Senator Sackett recounted his early career when at the age of 21 he became the youngest ever member of the Alaska State Legislature. He told the students to recognize their opportunities. “Always take advantage of those opportunities,” he said.

John Borbridge advised the students, “Never jump ahead of the people you are representing.” In reminiscing about his life, he said, “It’s been a privilege to have worked with people on some of the most pressing issues of our times.”

Eighty-year-old Koyukon Athabascan, Catherine Attla of Huslia, who was honored by UAF with an honorary doctorate last spring, told the students, “Whatever I learn, I pass it

on. I want others to pass it on too.” She also expressed another of her personal values, saying, “I try to be on the good side of people, no matter where, no matter when.”

Dr. Walter Soboleff, a Tlingit from Tenakee Springs, expressed some of the wisdom he has gained from living nearly a century. His ability to communicate with his audience reflected his decades of serving as minister. “Come November I will be 99 years old. I have seen much. I have heard much,” he said. In demonstrating that one is never too old to learn he said, “In a week or so I will be going to school to learn how to use a computer.”

In preparing to be a leader, Dr. Soboleff said, “Choose a model. My model is Abraham Lincoln and also Booker T. Washington. Choose a model. Choose a model.” He advised, “Give

yourself a chance. When the opportunity comes, when the door opens: enter . . . enter.”

Each student prepared a 20-minute personal presentation, including individual leadership philosophies. Other presenters included Tracy Snow, who facilitated a day-long session on “Leading From Within.” Among other presenters were former State Senators, Al Adams and Willie Hensley; UAF Vice Chancellor Bernice Joseph; UAA Professor Edgar Blatchford; Charles Edwardsen, Jr. (Etok); Susan Herman, Director of UAF’s Northern Leadership Center; RD MA graduate Sarah Lukin, Director of External Relations for Afognak Native Corporation (ANC); Emil Notti, Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; and Tom Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer of Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC). The students were able to conduct site visits to BBNC and ANC.

Faculty members Ralph Gabrielli, Miranda Wright, Dixie Dayo and Gordon Pullar facilitated the seminar and also gave individual presentations.

“ Whatever I learn, I pass it on. I want others to pass it on too. ”

—Elder Catherine Attla



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