RAHI 2012
Yearbook
The Best RAHI Yet (Again)!

Compiled and Edited by
Rey Estrada and Jesse Klejka

With assistance from
All of the T/Cs
Most

Most Alaskan

Most Creative

Most Likely To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse

Most Likely To Win

The Funniest

Most Likely To Get Married
Likely

Biggest Flirt

The Chosen Ones

Most Likely To Be Abducted By Aliens

Most Likely To Win The Hunger Games

Most Business Like
“Never give up, whatever life gives you, never give up” is Ralph’s life motto. Ralph Pungalook Elook is from the fine village of Buckland, AK. This is his first year at RAHI. He taught at Upward Bound for 5 years, and is currently teaching at East High School, where he has taught for 12 years. Ralph went to Sheldon Jackson College for 1 year and then went on to UAF were he graduated with a BA. He likes all kinds of music but his favorite is hard rock. Ralph’s hobbies include fishing, hunting, camping, chess, and driving a sno-go for many miles. He also used to run a dog team. His favorite dog is the Siberian Husky because of their blue eyes and because they get along with children well. One of Ralph’s many interests include sci-fi. He once spent 24 hours straight watching Star Wars and Star Trek. His favorite food is Nigiapaq (native food). If Ralph could have any super power he wants it to be super hearing.

As interviewed by Laura VanAmburg
Tutor Counselor

Naaqtuuq Dommek

This has been Naaq's second year at RAHI as a T/C, and also her second year of teaching Native dance with the program. She is from Kotzebue, but has been studying at UAS and UAF since 2007. She has recently been working at the UAF pub, and loves it. What she loves more than work and everything else is Native dance. She has been dancing for twelve years and plans on teaching a class this coming school year to UAF students. Naaq is majoring in Alaska Native studies and Inupiaq and plans to minor in film. She finds that these things can make life, rare, rich, and more than just a job. In her future she plans on teaching, filmmaking, and dancing. With these things she plans to, 'scratch her Native itch'.

As interviewed by Brittany Wilcox
Jessica "Girla" Friend's hometown is Bethel and she was born on July 25, 1986. She went to Kwig, from preschool to high school graduation. She went to UAF for four years and is planning on interning to become a teacher this fall. She is a RAHI alumni and this is her first year working for RAHI. She loves being at home with family. She might treat herself to cookie dough ice cream and her favorite color is purple. Jessica's motto is to try to be happy and live life the best she can.

As interviewed by Paulianne Schaeffer
Tutor Counselor
Libby Miles

"Excellence, is not an act, but a habit." – Aristotle

One word that describes her is exuberant. She is exuberant because she believes that life is full of opportunities that excite her. Another reason she describes herself as exuberant is because she spends a lot of time with teenagers, which gives her lots of energy, obviously, since she always feels like its time for a dance party. If she could be anything (nature related) she would be a river because she is always adapting to new environments, she enjoys change in sceneries, and no matter what happens she keeps going. Her dream job is to become a teacher. She was inspired to be a teacher by her teachers and by RAHI students. Her hobbies include playing the ukulele, sailing, hanging out with friends, skiing and climbing. Her favorite things in life are rainy days, food that you can eat with a spoon, traveling, meeting new people and the color indigo.

As interviewed by Natalie Landlord
Nathanael Teague O'Connor is currently a TC (tutor counselor) at Rural Alaska Honors Institute in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was born on April 15 in the year of 1988 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Nate is the only child. This is his first year at RAHI. He was influenced to be part of an academic program, like RAHI, by his dad who works with Upward Bound. He moved to Fairbanks in 2008 and is going to college at UAF. He is working on a degree in philosophy. When he is not at RAHI he is a student at the university or he is back at home. He has taken Russian and French, but is really only fluent in basic Irish Gaelic. Nate's favorite color is green. His future goals are to get a Masters in something language related, travel and to start a family. He picks stand up comedies over most movies and music. He describes himself as fairly reserved, serious (unless you know him well), and adventurous.

As interviewed by Shannon Isaac
Born in 1984 and raised in Pennsylvania, Sharon came to Alaska after four years at Pennsylvania State with a degree in tourism and business and soon became a raft guide. There she met Rachel, who told her about Upward Bound so awesomely, she decided to apply. After Upward Bound, she wanted to explore her options and applied to work at the Rural Alaska Honors Institute. Sharon describes herself as a "nomad" for she travels a lot and is a seasonal worker. She loves "phish" food ice cream, dogs, narwhales, and elephants. If she were to be any animal, she would want to be a whale, for they can eat all they want and travel to warm water to frolic. She wanted to be a marine biologist when she was little.

"If you're having fun, then you're living life."

- Sharon Joy Pruszko

As interviewed by Jenny Katchatag and Sarah VanAmburg
Phillip John Aarnaquq Charette was born on a military air force base in Little Rock, Arkansas. Phillip is a Yupik and French Canadian man, who can speak some of both his Native languages. Some of Phillip's favorite movies are Thunder Heart and Whale Rider. Phillip enjoys making Native art, playing Native flute, down hill skiing, mountain biking, roller blading, fishing, and hunting. Phillip shares his life with his significant other Jennifer Aposuk McCarty. Phillip has worked with RAHI for twelve years; he has been a tutor counselor (TC), dorm director, instructor, and part of the administrative team for RAHI. He enjoys Native food and his favorite is smoked jarred bear. Phillip lives by the motto "Always strive to be the best person you can be." Phillip's message to RAHI students is "Do your best, and go out into the world and make me proud."

As interviewed by Shelby Fisher-Salmon
Ms. Rachel Breithaupt was born in Columbus, Ohio but raised in Alaska. She is a life changing social worker, who runs two girls' support groups and one for guys. Their goal is to reduce drop-out rate and help students reach their personal goals. You may wonder where Rachel was when she was of working age. At that age, Rachel worked for the Anchorage Providence Summer Camp. She cut off all of her hair in her neighbor's bathroom to express her individuality. Rachel's goal in life is to write a novel, and become a published author. If life had an answer Rachel would say "You're going to make the same mistakes over and over again, it doesn't mean you can't learn, it just means you need to forgive yourself quickly and try again."

As interviewed by Olivia Sheilds
January Scott, the RAHI Hall Director, was born in Petersburg, Alaska in 1979 and raised in Kake, Alaska. She attended RAHI in 1996, and she also happened to be the valedictorian. She is a sincere, understated, and funny person who wanted to do anything her dad was good at. January wanted to be a marine biologist, then a psychologist, and then she realized that she wanted to help people. January got a BA in psychology, a master's in teaching, and a massage therapy certification. Outside of RAHI, January works in as many places as she can where she can help people, but she likes to work mainly with students. She claims that the craziest, legal thing she has ever done was get married, and her life motto is to “Just live your life, and when you look back when you are dying you will not regret anything.”

As interviewed by Sheila Evan
Study Skills
Process Tech
Chemistry
Education

I am still learning

-Michangelo
Yoga

Compassionate Persistance

Every Breath is a new moment... a new chance to show yourself what you can do.

Stay On This Page
For At Least 5 breaths

Look in The Mirror & Smile; your best teacher is smiling back at you.

I am not perfect and I am Trying You are not perfect, and You are trying
Karate

To Strive for the Perfection of Character
To Defend the Path of Truth
To Foster the Spirit of Effort
To honor the Principles of Etiquette
To Guard Against Impetuous Courage

—Dojo Kun
The First Day
The Weekend of the Angel Rocks & Chena Hike marked a time of adventure. After going through several miles of breath takingly beautiful terrain, through clouds and above, we found ourselves atop the misty mountain. Completing our journey on high, we went through many a swamp and tundra, till we found ourselves arriving at the mysterious land of Chena Hot Springs. Arriving, we cleansed ourselves in it's sulfurous waters, we bonded as a group, contributing towards long lasting friendships that continued onward through RAHI.

You will be sorely missed, MysteryMoose. You will be sorely missed.
We wore green and finished mean! The morning began with DJ Nate and Jock Jams pumping loudly from the RAHI dorm office. Good work to all those who ran or walked this 5K that began and ended at Pioneer Park. RAHI students, ready with colorful knee-high socks and jamming i-pods, had a great time. Not too many mosquitoes in skirts, as pictured on the official race t-shirt, but plenty of moms and babies. All had good family fun under the Fairbanks summer sun. The route took participants from Pioneer Park through surrounding neighborhoods, along the Chena river banks and behind the Carlson Center only to find its way back to the Pioneer Park parking lot where oranges, Kool-Aid, and bananas were a plenty. Run RAHI, run!
Van load after van load of post-mid-term stressed out students with sleeping bags, pillows, and backpacks (with absolutely no study gear) are in search of lake to swim in, a campfire to roast hot dogs and smores around, and a spacious outdoor camping area to gather for olympic events and skits only fit for rural Alaska honors students... but where could such a place exist? Why none other than beautiful Camp Bingle, located just above the handsome Harding Lake, of course! One big family group gathering of fun and games where the focus shifts from mental to physical agility and stamina in which games like the egg toss, 5-legged race, chubby bunny, Swedish fish pudding fishing, and more, set the standard for olympic excellence. And do not forget the notorious skit night where each family group revolved their scene around the theme: RAHI Reality. We saw RAHI State Troopers, RAHI Bootcamp, and RAHI Survivor, to name a few. As the day came to an end, it was the Academic Avengers who will have their name scribed into a plaque in Denise's office as the winners of the 2012 Camp Bingle Olympics. Congratulations to all teams; all of you are warriors, and I would proudly go to battle with each and every one of you.
RAHI 2012 began our journey down 20 miles of the Chena River with a safety talk that included such gems, as "stay in the boat" and "watch out for dive bombing seagulls". Most of us were able to follow these instructions. Canoes and kayaks were filled with 2-3 students and some linked boats together for portions of the trip, decreasing speed while increasing enjoyment. We ate lunch on the water, baguette sandwiches from Le Fred Meyers. "Oh hello sandwich, we meet again." Oui, Oui. Fatalities of the sunny trip down this easy stretch included one phone, one camera, and Isabel's lunch. Students and staff alike had a great day in the sunshine and made it back safely, if not slightly sunburned.
Denali Whitewater Rafting
By Sharon Pruszko

RAHI's white-water rafting trip down the Nenana River was spectacular. With a hop skip and a jump we arrived at Denali Outdoor Center with time to do some native dancing for the guides. We did 11 miles in 2 hours with over 10 major splashy Class III to IV rapids. Most paddled, while others just sat back and enjoyed the ride. Throw in a few trust circles, water fights, and once in a lifetime experiences and we can call it a day. Did I mention the yummy dinner at the Salmon Bake that filled those bellies and left everybody snoring in the vans on the way home?
Teachers & TC's

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Rahi 2012

There was friendship

There was fun

There was danger