Rural Student Services Celebrates 40 Years!

May 15, 2010
4:00 – 6:00 pm
RSS Gathering Room
Brooks Building

Contact Information:
P.O. Box 756320
Fairbanks, AK 99775-6320
1-888-478-1452 (Toll Free within Alaska) or (907)474-7871
http://www/uaf.edu/ruralss/
fyrss@uaf.edu
Welcome
Debbie Toopetlook, Rural Student Services Director

Bernice Joseph, Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community and Native Education

Susan Henrichs, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Brian Rogers, Chancellor

Introduction of Honorary PhD recipient

Special guest: Paul John, PhD

Open microphone opportunity for audience to share RSS memories

BBQ potluck
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

Requesting the University of Alaska to institute a comprehensive plan to assist native students in obtaining a college education.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the legislature in providing for a number of scholarships for natives to attend the University of Alaska, recognized that the native student faced many impediments in attaining a higher education such as language difficulty, the economic conditions of the native peoples of the state, trans-cultural conflicts and poor education preparation; and

WHEREAS financial aid alone is not sufficient to insure native students the quality of education which they desire; and

WHEREAS a college education can only take place when the student is able to relate to and interact with the academic environment; and

WHEREAS this cannot take place when the student is not just unfamiliar with the new culture which he must accept in order to be educated in the university, but that culture and environment are altogether foreign to his psychological and cultural orientation; and

WHEREAS if the university community is to fulfill its educative role with regard to all of its students, it has a duty to make provisions for thorough and intensive orientation and counseling for native students to lessen the effects of trans-cultural conflicts and language difficulties which the new student must face;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska are requested to institute a comprehensive plan for assisting more native students in obtaining a college education through intensive orientation and counseling programs to integrate native students into the academic community; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is requested, upon adoption of a program, to present suggestions to the Legislature for possible legislation to assist the implementation of the program.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Dr. William. R. Wood, President of the University of Alaska; and to all members of the Board of Regents.
1969-70  House Joint Resolution #56

Bob Egan appointed first Director of SOS; Office and coffee pot in Hess Hall

Student Advisory Committee visits outside Native programs

1970-71  SOS moves to Bunnell Building; English classes added

1971-72  SOS moves to Constitution Hall

First Alaska Native Studies classes offered; Tutoring Offered

1972-73  Western States Study Tour

Math classes added

First THEATA published

1973-74  Toni Jones becomes SOS Director

First Festival of Native Arts held

SOS moves to Gruening Building

1975-76  SOS English becomes Cross-Cultural Communications (CCC)

1976-77  Frank White becomes SOS director

1978-79  Andy Angaiak becomes SOS Director

1980-81  SOS initiates first Early Orientation for New Students (EONS)

Alaska Native Studies offers Bachelor’s degree program

1981-82  Alaska Native Programs (ANP) instituted as administrative umbrella for all Native-focused academic programs

1982-83  Fred Baker becomes SOS Director

SOS renamed Rural Student Services (RSS)

First Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI)

1984-85  Clara Johnson becomes RSS Director

SOS/RSS celebrates 15th birthday with a reunion

1991  Clara Johnson becomes Director of Interior Campus; Kay Thomas becomes RSS Director

1992  JoAnn (JoJo) Ducharme becomes RSS Director

1994  RSS Celebrates 25th Anniversary

2002  RSS moves to Brooks building
Past and Present SOS/RSS Staff

Andy Angaiak       Debbie Toopetlook
Kay Thomas         Dale Slaughter
Jack Singer        Roy Corral
Toni Jones          David Chanar
Maude Fried        Carol Murphrey
Greg Owens         Frank Chythlook
Gabrielle Russell  Al Hill
Evelyn Ekada       Fred Baker
Patty Baldwin       Sue McHenry
Fred Baker          Christine
Frank White         Colleen Angaiak
Diana Holzmueller  Gloria Patsy
Ginger Placeres

It was with great effort to find the names of most of the SOS/RSS past staff.
Please let us know if we have missed someone so they can be added to this collection of names.
Paul John, who is also commonly known by the Yupiit as Kangrilnguq, is the traditional chief of the Nunakauyarmiut Tribe of Toksook Bay, a community of about 575 people located on Nelson Island along the coast of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Y-K Delta). Mr. John is also recognized as the second chief of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Inc., the regional non-profit organization in the Y-K Delta whom he had the pleasure of serving as an executive board member for decades. He also received the distinguished role as an honorary board member for the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), the regional health corporation for the Y-K Delta that he remains committed to serving. Paul is an outstanding leader in the region, often testifying before numerous commissions and boards on behalf of the Yup’ik people on different issues that affect its communities. Paul John is widely respected as a dean of Yup’ik elders and recognized for his tireless advocacy of Yup’ik language and traditions. His commitment to the culture has brought him to national and international museums, such as the Smithsonian Institute and a cultural haven in Germany. He is an eloquent orator, a skill he learned having been raised in a Qasgiq (traditional men’s house). Mr. John creates Yuarutet (Yup’ik dance songs) to which he combines with animated motion dances. Through his wisdom and fascinating recollection of history, Kangrilnguq has been able to serve as a major contributor to several books published about the Yup’ik culture, traditions, masks and stories. At the age of 80, he remains very active as a leading member of the Toksook Bay dance group, composing new music text with contemporary cultural storylines.