**RD Celebrates 25 Years**

**By Gordon L. Pullar**

**Twenty five years!** The year 2009 marks a quarter century of success in delivering rural development degrees by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The first RD graduates were in 1986 and there are now 177 BA graduates and 44 MA graduates. The graduates represent nearly 60 Alaska communities and several outside Alaska. They work throughout rural Alaska and beyond in a variety of positions, including regional and village corporation CEO’s, tribal administrators, program managers, and in state and federal government programs. While several BA graduates have also earned RD MA degrees others have gone on to earn degrees in other graduate programs such as MBA’s and law degrees. Three of the RD MA graduates are now pursuing Ph.D.s.

The Rural Development BA program began on the Fairbanks campus in the fall of 1984, thanks to the vision and efforts of Pat Dubbs, Lary Schafer, Mike Gaffney and Ray Barnhardt, who was at the time, acting Dean. They were soon joined by Rick Caulfield, who had just finished his M.Ed. in Cross-Cultural Education as Dr. Barnhardt’s advisee. From a humble beginning by this small group of visionaries came an academic program focusing on rural Alaska and its people and communities that remains successful and vibrant 25 years later.

I began working for UAF in 1992 as the Director of the Alaska Native Human Resource Development Program, a non-degree program within the College of Rural Alaska (now College of Rural and Community Development) that focused primarily on leadership development. As we worked closely with the RD program, Rick Caulfield asked if I would be interested in teaching a class in the Fall of 1993. The class was RD 450, Managing Rural Projects and Programs and as it was my first experience with distance education I was a bit intimidated at first. I loved it though, and was very impressed with the knowledge of the students in the class. Since that time I have often said that continued inside

Winton Weyapuk, Jr., the first RD graduate. Photo courtesy of Hajo Eicken.

Gordon Pullar is president of the Woody Island Tribal Council and is seen here at last year’s tribal retreat with Elder Paul Kahutak (on the left) and the late Elder Papa George Inga (on the right). During the 2008 tribal retreat former RD faculty Rick Knecht led an archaeological excavation that dated back 6,740 years. Also, RD faculty Dixie Dayo did beading workshops and facilitated talking circles.
students learn more from each other in RD classes than they do from the instructors. The students bring incredibly rich life experiences that they share in the classes. The knowledge that results from these exchanges cannot be learned in textbooks.

In January of 1994 when I did a presentation on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act at the first ever Rural Development Applied Field-Based Program seminar in St. Mary’s I knew something special was happening but couldn’t imagine that we would be where we are with the RD program today. The AFBP was a new and increased attempt to reach out to rural Alaska by both distance-delivered classes and intensive face-to-face seminars.

In the spring of 1996 the Rural Development Department merged with the Alaska Native Human Resource Department and became the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development (DANRD). Rick Caulfield, who had been the RD Department chair, continued in that role in the reorganized department while I became the director or administrator.

By the late 1990’s many of our graduates were asking when there would be an RD master’s degree offered. Rick Caulfield and I began designing such a program and ushered it through the university system for approval. We gathered input from our graduates, current students, faculty, and employers in rural Alaska in our attempt to make the program relevant. In June of 2000 I was fortunate to be able to present the program to the UA Board of Regents who approved it to begin that fall. We had our first two graduates in 2002 and now have had a total of 44.

Throughout the 1990’s the RD program had the unwavering support of our Executive Dean, Ralph Gabrielli. Even during some of the university’s difficult financial times in the 1990’s he was successful in keeping the program funded and operating. When he stepped down as Executive Dean in 2001 he joined our faculty where he fills a critical role in the RD family. His replacement as Executive Dean was Bernice Joseph, who herself was a member of the rural development faculty in the mid to late 1990’s. She is now the Vice Chancellor of Rural, Community and Native Education and oversees the College of Rural and Community Development.

A key development for the RD program was the partnership developed in 1998 with the Alaska Region of the National Park Service. Under this agreement NPS funds an RD seminar each spring enabling us to travel to places and learn about issues firsthand that we might not have been able to otherwise. Under this agreement we have had seminars in Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Kodiak, Sitka, Kotzebue, the Kenai Peninsula and the Copper River area. We have also had three seminars in the U.S. Southwest and one in San Diego. The RD program has not only benefited from visiting these locations but from the vast knowledge and experience shared by NPS staff members, especially Sande McDermott, Ted Birkedal and Rachel Mason.

The RD program could never have excelled without capable staff members. Leading this list is the solid and dependable Gail Staudinger. Gail is the “rock” that anchors the program and her title of administrative coordinator does not do her justice. She has been the key to seminar logistics and organizing and faculty and students alike depend on her like no one else. We are very happy to have a new staff member join us this year. Kay Thomas has spent many years advising students in Rural Student Services and is already making a difference in the RD program.

The rural development faculty members come from a variety of relevant backgrounds and bring vast practical experience besides their academic credentials to the program. The current faculty members display the backgrounds and talents that have come to be expected from the RD faculty.

Mike Davis joined the RD faculty in 1996 and is currently the Academic Program Head, commonly known as the department chair. As a former member of the Alaska State Legislature, Mike brings unique perspectives on state government into the RD program. Every other year he leads a group of students to Juneau for a seminar during the legislative session. This seminar provides special opportunities to students as they have had in-depth discussions with legislative leaders as well as the governors.

Miranda Wright is originally from the interior village of Nulato and has many years of business and management experience in
rural Alaska. She has served for well over a decade on the board of directors of her regional ANCSA corporation, Doyon, Ltd., including a term as chairperson. She is currently working towards her Ph.D. in UAF’s Resilience and Adaptation Program.

Professor Dixie Dayo is from the interior village of Manley Hot Springs where she has served on her ANCSA village corporation’s (Bean Ridge Corporation) board for over 30 years and is currently the president. In the past she has served as her village’s tribal administrator and has been involved in many issues that commonly face rural Alaska villages. She is also working on her Ph.D. in the Resilience and Adaptation Program.

Professor Theresa John is from the village of Toksook Bay and brings a deep cultural knowledge to the RD program and its students. As a fluent Yup’ik speaker and culture bearer she is able to share a world view that only such a person can. All students benefit from her rich cultural background. She is currently working on her Ph.D. through the Alaska Native Language Center.

Professor JoAnn Ducharme spent many years as the Director of Rural Student Services at UAF and has a dedication to the success of all students. She has a deep knowledge and appreciation of rural Alaska that does not go unnotice by the students. She currently oversees the RD internship program and works to place students in relevant positions.

Professor Emeritus Joli Morgan in Bethel has come out of retirement to teach part time in the department and his contributions continue to be appreciated. His international travel seminars are legendary.

I have found that my personal background of serving as the President of the Kodiak Area Native Association where I worked in cultural revitalization, repatriation, and self-determination contracting has served me well in teaching RD classes. Additionally, I had the privilege of being a member of the legislative committee of the Alaska Federation of Natives board that was successful in securing the “1991 amendments” to ANCSA and have been president of my local tribal council for nearly ten years. I have found that it makes classes more relevant and interesting to relate the reading to real life experiences.

The latest addition to the DANRD faculty is Dr. Michael Koskey who will begin teaching RD classes in the fall. He has been teaching in the Alaska Native Studies Department and has an impressive background of research in rural Alaska.

I would like to personally thank those that have made the RD program such a success but have since moved on to other endeavors. Heading this list is Rick Caulfield who is now the Director of the Tanana Valley Campus at UAF. I thank Pat Dubbs, who retired not long after I began working for the university but whose legend as an outstanding educator continues. Without Pat Dubbs and Rick Caulfield we would not be where we are today with the RD program. Professor Mary Pete is now the Director of the Kuskokwim Campus after several years as the Director of the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Dr. Rick Knecht moved on to a faculty position at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. Other faculty members I have had the honor of working with are George Charles, Larry Dickerson, Roxanne Houston, Linda Joule, Susan Paskvan, Louann Rank, Norm Stadem, Berda Willson, and Ted Wright. I also thank the many adjunct faculty members who have filled in during our times of need. I should also mention our retired computer guru, Dan Shanis, who introduced me to that new concept, e-mail.

Most of all, I thank all of our students and graduates. I am so very proud of you all. Here’s looking to the 50-year anniversary of the Rural Development Program.
I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY TIME teaching in the Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development. I had the opportunity to learn and grow along with the amazing students and faculty from across our great state. I worked with faculty that promoted ‘thinking globally and acting locally.’ The team of Joli Morgan, Rick Caulfield, Mike Davis, Linda Joule, Gordon Pullar, Ross Schaeffer, and Mary Pete were an awesome team. Jolie served as a wonderful mentor and always had, and still does, have a positive outlook on life. Linda was and continues to be so grounded and calm about everything. I will share only a few of the many wonderful experiences in the limited space available.

One of my early RD 450 classes was made up primarily of all young men, a rare occasion at university. The class was made up of Jason Evans, Noah Naylor, Dennis Gray, and Dale Smith. They must have thought their weekly assignments included giving me a hard time. Those four always demanded lively discussions, especially when I confused their names. In the end, they had to work for the grades they earned. I must say it is gratifying to see where they are today. Dennis serves as the mayor of his hometown of Hoonah. Noah works for his tribe in his hometown of Kotzebue. Dale moved to Anchorage and is currently working for Southcentral after having worked a number of years in his hometown of Mekoryuk, and Jason, being the entrepreneurial person went to work for Alaska Growth Capital. What is even more rewarding is that these are all Native men working for the betterment of their communities. Alaska Native men are certainly underrepresented in higher education today. These are wonderful role models to their communities and region.

One of the most memorable trips I made as an RD faculty was to Kotzebue. Mary Pete and I traveled there on a recruiting trip and to visit with our fellow faculty Ross Schaeffer. After meeting with members of the community we hopped in a truck and proceeded to drive out to Ross’ camp which is located about 15 miles out of Kotzebue along the coast. Mary was in the driver’s seat, at least until we came upon a creek that we had to cross to reach the camp. Mary stopped and asked, “what should I do?” I replied, “put it in four wheel drive and go.” At any rate, she was a bit nervous about the ordeal and asked me to take the wheel. Without much thought, we traded places, I put the truck into four wheel drive and gunned it. Whew! We made it across the creek and eventually to Ross’ camp. He was there enjoying the beautiful spring day and happy to see us brave, hearty women. We had a wonderful visit and he talked endlessly about his hunting excursions and how he had seen belugas on their annual migration passing through. He spoke of how peaceful life is at the camp, a man truly in his element and doing what he loves. Ross only spent a few years as an RD faculty, and during that time shared a tremendous amount of his vast knowledge with students. We were sorry to see him leave. He eventually served as the mayor of Northwest Arctic Borough and has since retired to enjoy life at his camp.

There are so many students that have touched my life in positive ways. There was one particular student from Mountain Village that had such a difficult time with my RD 350 oral intensive class. She was so nervous about public speaking she would literally walk out of class when it was time to give a
presentation. I made an effort to coach her to help build her confidence and comfort level. She overcame her fear of public speaking for the most part and was able to complete the class successfully. Today, she works for her hometown as an administrator.

The RD seminars were always so refreshing, especially because the applied field based students wore so many hats in their communities and they came prepared and ready to engage with each other on the many projects they were working on. It was not uncommon to hear how a student was responsible for bringing in a few million dollars for a water and sewer project or to build new roads, homes, community buildings and more. The seminars helped to build a statewide network of students who can call upon each other to address common issues.

I’m thankful for having spent time as a DANRD faculty member. The students in this program are some of the most highly motivated students I’ve had the pleasure of working with. It is remarkable to see the graduates of RD in key leadership positions throughout the state. RD is engaging with communities and creating the next generation of leaders. Thank you to our current students and graduates, present and past faculty for making RD the successful program.

Brent Latham, B.A. RDEV 2008
Outstanding RD Student of the Year 2008–09

Every year University of Alaska Fairbanks faculty nominate exceptional students from their colleges and professional schools to be recognized by UAF and the Rural Development faculty unanimously selected Brent Latham. Brent is from Akiacuaq and has recently moved downriver to Bethel where he finished up his RD degree this past winter while he and his wife Deanna eagerly awaited the arrival of their first child, a son, Kemuel born this past March. Brent has postponed taking on an “office job” and has kept busy packing dry wood, trapping, and hunting while also caring for his son for the time being but will commercial fish this summer in Quinhagak. Later this fall, after moose and bear hunting season, Brent will pursue a job with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) since they help the people of his region and he believes a job with them will suit his subsistence lifestyle. Congratulations Brent on graduating with honors in addition to the Outstanding RD Student award from all of us in the DANRD faculty, staff and student community!
The History of Rural Development

The “roots” of the current B.A. DEGREE in Rural Development go back to the mid-1970s when Mike Gaffney and other faculty along with students and community members involved in UAF’S rural field-based Cross Cultural Education (XCED) teacher training program saw the need for some type of an additional degree option beyond classroom teaching that related to the development training requirements brought about by the passage of ANCSA (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act). With the 1971 passage of ANCSA Alaska Native self-determination was dependent upon the success of the resulting profit corporations (based on a western financial market environment) and not-for-profit organizations that depended upon federal and state government funds (and westernized reporting requirements). The need for trained Alaska Native personnel was not a part of the settlement provisions and few Alaskan Natives were prepared for this level of professional management. The resulting Human Resource Development degree option within the B.ED degree program was an initial step to address these needs.

In the late 70s as the ANCSA situation continued to unfold and self-determination efforts began to accelerate, it increasingly became evident that the Human Resource Development orientation of the B.ED degree needed to be significantly modified so that individuals would have the knowledge and skills needed to be able to multitask between “running the business” while maintaining the community’s cultural identity and control over these processes. The B.A. degree in Rural Development was designed with this end in mind.

The structure and content of the initial RD degree was shaped by desire to train human resource generalists that could address a variety of administrative duties and responsibilities based on familiarity with the general context of socio-economic development (RD core) and then approach specific issues from an interdisciplinary specialty concentration or area of expertise (applied emphasis). Through internships, course projects, grant writing exercises and a required senior project, the curriculum included real-life, applied experiences in order to prepare the graduates for the immediacy of the development environment in rural Alaska. Pat Dubbs, the first department head for the Rural Development program, was one of several key faculty that designed and nurtured the creation of the B.A. degree at UAF. Some of the others with early long term involvement were Ray Barnhardt, Rick Caulfield, Lary Schafer, Nick Flanders, and Taylor Brelsford.

From its official inception in 1984, Rural Development attempted to offer its degree to both on-campus and off-campus students. It had a network of rural based faculty members who, along with Fairbanks faculty members, offered degree courses via distance delivery methods throughout much of rural Alaska. Today’s Rural Development degree has stayed true to this foundation. Its focus on recruiting, retaining and graduating Alaska Native and rural students continues in the mission of the RD program. The major’s core courses offer the generalist orientation, the required Concentration Area incorporates an interdisciplinary skill area of expertise and the graduates have the experiences of a required internship and senior project. Student advising remains a cornerstone of each faculty’s role and the department now offers a whole new level of growth for students who have achieved their bachelor degree by offering the distance delivered M.A. in Rural Development.
**Faculty & Staff Updates**

**Ralph Gabrielli, Ph.D.** spent Spring 2009 semester on sabbatical and will return to teaching for the department in the fall. His areas of interest include administration, counseling, education delivery methods, English, psychology, humanities, early childhood education, human services, mental health, and fund raising. In addition to DANRD teaching and research Dr. Gabrielli collaborates with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research and Ch’eghutsen’ (a culturally based system of mental health care formed in 1998 as a collaborative effort between the Fairbanks Native Association, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the University of Alaska Fairbanks).

**Rick Knecht, Ph.D.** accepted a teaching position with the University of Aberdeen in Scotland this past January. He is active in the research area of indigenous archaeology and continues to serve on several Rural Development masters student committees.

**Gail Staunding,** DANRD Administrative Coordinator continues to provide outstanding support to the DANRD program and its students. The success of a distance delivered program such as Rural Development is only achieved through the attention to detail and the care put into coordinating faculty and student activities. Gail works with DANRD Director Gordon Pullar in the Anchorage office and provides the logistical support necessary for the Rural Development student seminars. She “survived” the challenge of rebooking (often multiple times!) the travel for twenty-one students and the DANRD faculty to attend the National Park Service seminar in Arizona during the eruptions of Mt. Redoubt in Alaska this past spring.

**New DANRD Faculty & Staff**

**DANRD WELCOMES** a new faculty member this fall, Micheal “Mike” Koskey, Ph.D. He completed dual bachelor degrees in Political Science and Anthropology from University of Central Florida, a Master’s degree in Anthropology from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Mike has taught most recently at UAF with Alaska Native Studies and his research interests span both disciplines of Rural Development and Alaska Native Studies well. They include ethnohistory, traditional knowledge, circumpolar studies, political economy, resource management, indigenous social change, research methodology and indigenous mythology. His current research topics are Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Biological Sampling of Non-salmon Fish Species in the Yukon Flats region and Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

**In Spring 2009** Kay L. Thomas joined the Fairbanks DANRD office as the Administrative Assistant. She formerly worked as an academic advisor and administrative assistant with the Rural Student Services department at UAF and looks forward to being a part of the DANRD community.
CONGRATULATIONS TO

Fall 2007
Odin Brudie, Juneau
M.A. Rural Development
Carmaleeda Estrada, Angoon
B.A. Rural Development
Patricia Phillips, Pelican
B.A. Rural Development
Steven Williams, Wisconsin
B.A. Rural Development

Spring 2008
Robert Bulger, Barrow
M.A. Rural Development
Madeline Gallahorn, Point Hope
B.A. Rural Development
Beverly Grinage, Barrow
M.A. Rural Development
Shirley Holmberg, Fairbanks
M.A. Rural Development
Arla Johnson, Dillingham
B.A. Rural Development
Minnie Naylor, Kotzebue
B.A. Rural Development
Vanessa Norman, Port Graham
M.A. Rural Development

CONGRATULATIONS to the graduates of the Rural Development Program! The Rural Development program had graduates at the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim and Fairbanks campus’ Spring 2009 commencement ceremonies. Roberta Charles was the Kuskokwim Campus Bachelor degree student speaker. The Fairbanks commencement was especially special for Francesca Kamkahpak, of Togiak, as she graduated with Togiak wisdom bearer, Annie Cungauyr Blue who received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Ph.D.
OUR RD GRADUATES!

Fall 2008

Annabelle Alvite, Kotzebue
M.A. Rural Development

Brent Latham, Akiacuaq
B.A. Rural Development

Dorothy Vent, Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Vincent Waska Jr, Newtok
B.A. Rural Development

Spring 2009

Valorie Adams, Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Roberta Charles, Emmonak
B.A. Rural Development

Katie Charlie, Delta Junction
B.A. Rural Development

Adrianne Christensen-Hughett, Naknek
B.A. Rural Development

Francesca Kamkahpak, Togiak
B.A. Rural Development

Katrina Paul, Eagle/Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Kristin Timm, Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Robin Wagner, Fairbanks
B.A. Rural Development

Laura Zimin, Naknek
B.A. Rural Development
Juneau
RD 492
Seminar
Spring 2009

by Mike Davis, Bristol Bay Campus DANRD faculty, current DANRD Department Chair and UAF Faculty Senate Representative

DANRD offers a Legislative Workshop bi-annually. We offer the weeklong seminar in Juneau to both the graduate and undergraduate students. This year Professor Joli Morgan, Gail Staudinger (staff) and myself hosted Rural Development students during the last week of January.

The 26th legislature session (since statehood) provided our Rural Development students many opportunities to witness our state government first hand. During the week students met the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, & many other members of the legislature during their stay. Students also met with a Justice of the Supreme Court, key members of the Palin Administration, legislative staff, and a number of key lobbyists.

The seminar’s focus was for Rural Development students to not only learn about the legislative process, but also to acquire ways to be effective advocates for their communities. At the end of the week, students said, that they learned “how to navigate the political landscape . . .” they had “new tools to find information . . .” and “new insights into how the process works.”

As an instructor, I believe the legislature provides our students an excellent laboratory for learning. Legislators were impressed with the caliber of our students. We were fortunate to have Sealaska and Senator Albert Kookesh to host our students and the legislators for a legislative reception at the Sealaska Board Room. Willie Hensley joined us as a special guest and was able to share his story as told in his new book “Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People.”

I have been an instructor for many DANRD seminars in Juneau. This was one of our best!

Mike Davis sits at Representative Chenanaul's seat. Photo by Todd Paris.

Catherine Reardon, aide to Senator Joe Thomas, helps RD students in mock testimony.

Governor Sarah Palin with RD 492 seminar students.

Left to right: Dr. Walter Soboleff speaks to RD class; Beatrice Grewal with Governor Palin; Roberta Charles with Governor Palin. Photos by Roberta Charles.

Below: Governor Palin with RD 492 seminar students. Photo by Todd Paris.
**Spring 2009 National Park Service Leadership Seminar on**

**Cultural Heritage Management**

**Twelve years ago** the Rural Development program and the National Park Service initiated a cooperative agreement to facilitate and sponsor seminars for DANRD students to provide a focused educational and outreach experience about the National Park Service, its many programs and potential careers in government service. From the beginning, Sande McDermott (who at the time was with the Alaska Regional Office of the NPS and is now the NPS Acting Associate Regional Director at the Intermountain Office), Ted Birkedal (NPS Alaska Regional Office) and Rachel Mason (NPS Alaska Regional Office) have been committed to this effort and have worked closely with Gordon Pullar and the DANRD faculty to offer seminars that deliver on-site, experiential visits to National Park Service parks, monuments and memorial sites. These seminars introduce DANRD students to a variety of concepts and resources that are valuable to Alaska Natives and rural Alaskan communities. The theme this year was “Cultural Heritage Management” with the intent to show different ways that cultural resources have been preserved, portrayed, and managed in the southwest United States. Despite daily volcanic eruptions by Mt. Redoubt, twenty one students were able to make it to the Arizona seminar. The seminar based in Phoenix included day trips to Tonto National Monument, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument and the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. The NPS speakers included superintendents, archeologists, resource managers, specialized NPS program managers and local area tribal resource officers and elders. The seminar familiarized our students with issues facing tribes in the southwest, allowed them to compare them to similar processes in Alaska and initiated discussions about current water and energy issues, co-management of cultural resource sites and learning about the preservation practices used today as opposed to artificial reconstruction of historic sites.

On the first day as students were arriving (via delayed flights due to the Mt. Redoubt eruptions) they were orientated to the National Park Service Phoenix area offices and also had the opportunity to visit the Heard Museum right across the street. The museum is one of the finest collections of American Indian art and culture and had a very special exhibit item on display. Laura Zimin, from Naknek, was very surprised to find a bentwood Aleut hat that had been made by her father, Aleut artist Peter Lind!

One of the first speakers for the week was Susan Morton, NPS Senior Special Agent, and the group was amazed by the destructive and widespread impact that the illegal border crossings and drug trade has on national trust lands, both federal and tribal. What most of the public views as “wide open spaces” is now threatened by the heavy traffic of illegal
activities that pay no consequences for the damage they reap.

Duane Hubbard, the Chief of Resource Management at Tonto National Monument, provided the seminar group with an overview of the southwest area, prehistory of the Arizona based tribes, and the role of the NPS today in preserving the history while safely sharing the sites with America’s public. He led a full day walking tour of the Tonto National Monument that allowed the group to explore the Tonto cliff dwellings; historical remnants of the prehistoric people of the Salt River from 700 years ago. In the days that followed DANRD was hosted by Kathy Davis, Superintendent of Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument, and Jason Lott, Superintendent of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. A high light of the visit to Tuzigoot National Monument was talking with Vincent Randall of the Yavapai-Apache Nation. He spent an hour sharing his tribe’s history and how they currently advise the NPS and work with them on how to manage the local monuments. Later in the week at Casa Grande Ruins another tribal perspective was shared by Barnaby Lewis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Gila River Indian Community. He was able to impress the importance of communicating the visions of tribal elders and young tribal leaders for development plans of tribal lands. Near Casa Grande, our group was invited to meet with Masaji Inoshita who shared his life experience as a child in the Japanese Internment Camp on the Gila River Indian Community tribal lands. Several members in our group were able to relate his experience to that of the Aleut internment in southeast Alaska during World War II.

Throughout the week’s travels our group was fortunate to have Virginia Salazar-Halfmoon, the Vanishing Treasures Program Manager and Otis Halfmoon of the NPS National Trails Program-Intermountain Region guide us in the various NPS sites and show the relevance of their programs in every NPS location. The Vanishing Treasures Program addresses ruins preservation and archaeological site management that has moved from discovery and excavate to a philosophy of preservation and interpretation in consultation with the local, historical people. Ruins stabilization no longer seeks to reconstruct but rather to preserve using original construction materials that characterize the original architecture and preserve the heritage. It seeks appropriate

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treatments of the least impact on original structures. NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) has also resulted in more consultation with associated tribes in the planning and decision making process of preservation and repatriation of sites. In similar fashion, Otis Halfmoon of the National Trails System program talked about how the NPS is working more closely with Native American tribes to reconstruct the histories associated with America’s trail systems and recognize multiple perspectives in the telling of the “American Experience” of exploration and westward expansion.

It was a lot to take in for five days but Ted Birkedal closed the week with an informative presentation created by Rachel Mason and himself about the Athabascan migration from Alaska to the American southwest. It is well summarized by the visual demonstrated in Dr. Alan Boraas’ Northern Dene Territories map seen here.

Needless to say, our group was very appreciative of this opportunity provided by the National Park Service with the help of Sande McDermott, Ted Birkedal, Rachel Mason and Gordon Pullar... check out some of their evaluation comments:

• I’m still blown away by all that the NPS did for us in this seminar. I feel so lucky that we were able to participate. The seminar was all so well organized and put together.
• Very good coordination and hospitality.
• Very accommodating and respectful, I hope they can visit our homeland and be inspired as we have been here.
• God bless the National Park Service. They are evolving and changing beyond what they were yesterday. The younger NPS folks are very open-minded, progressive, etc.
• The National Park Service staff were all excellent hosts who exceeded my expectations for this visit. We acquired a large quantity of information in a short period of time which I am sure is a direct result of the time and effort that the NPS staff devoted to organizing this seminar.
• Very good job done. Keep up the good work. Have another one in the future.
• Thank you NPS for co-sponsoring this excellent seminar. My networking has increased because of this seminar, not only with American Indians & NPS more so with the RD students and faculty. Thank you so much and to allow us to visit the monuments! Very emotional at times.
• They were awesome!
• NPS—Duane, Sandy, Susan, Ted, Otis, Virginia & others at sites. Thank you for giving us this awesome opportunity.
Tonto National Monument lecture guide Duane Hubbard. Photo by NPS.

Tonto National Monument. Group in monument. Photo courtesy of NPS.

Tribal Elder Vincent Randall with RD class.

Class overlooks landscape at Tonto National Monument. Photo courtesy of NPS.

Virginia Salazar-Halimoon talks with Vicky Egoik at Tonto National Monument.

Masaji Inoshita speaks of Japanese Internment.

Annie Fritze, Marie Greene, Lisa Haugen and Grace Kirk at Casa Grande Ruins.

Group photo with cactus flowers.
As the Rural Development department celebrates its 25 year history the faculty continue to emphasize the importance of student service. JoAnn “JoJo” Ducharme has devoted her career to this end and students “see” this in her classes through her preparation, instruction styles and responsiveness to each individual student. Her graduate thesis work was on cross-cultural communication in the classroom and she has spent more than thirty years in counseling and advising primarily Alaska Native and rural students. As former Director of Rural Student Services and Associate Dean of Student Services for CRCD, JoJo provides guidance and direction for the DANRD department in shaping the program to adapt to our ever changing student population.

JoJo’s research interests are in cross-cultural education, Indigenous culture, community and organizational development, administration, Alaska Native Education and post-secondary Native student success.

The DANRD faculty spend most of their instructional time with students through audioconferencing but make every attempt to get students together for face-to-face interaction and learning opportunities. This often takes place at the various leadership seminars offered by the department. In April of this year JoJo, Theresa John and Gordon Pullar held an information session at the Fairbanks campus to meet with current RD students as well as prospective students that might be interested in what the RD program has to offer. Many of the students enjoyed the chance to “put a face to the voice” for their fellow classmates that they have come to know through audioconferencing.

**JoAnn Ducharme**

**RD faculty member since 2007**

JoJo meets student Carolyn Lennie of Canada.

Annette Donaldson shows Gordon Pullar her senior project.

The Fall 2008 RD 600 Leadership Seminar provides an opportunity for RD graduate students to network.
DANRD Faculty
Dixie Dayo
Village Corporation Leader

Dixie Dayo, on faculty with the Department of Alaska Native & Rural Development, has a 30+ year history with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. She remembers attending an assembly in high school to hear Doyon leaders talk to the youth about the recently passed land claims bill. Since then Dixie has been passionate about learning and teaching ANCSA issues. In her home village of Manley, some members of the community contested Manley being designated an eligible village for the Alaska Native land claims process. She attended the court case that ensued to witness Manley’s inclusion in ANCSA. As one of only forty-two original shareholders, Dixie served as a board member from the age of 21 and was elected President early in her career. Since then she has continued to be active in the village corporation in other roles besides Board Member and now again as President. She has a strong spiritual connection to the land and is adamant about sharing her ANCSA knowledge after having navigated the bureaucracy of ANCSA and all it has created. ANCSA was not the end but rather the beginning of the process for Alaska Natives to obtain their lands. The Act required enrollment of tribal members, land selections and filings for conveyance of those selected lands; it’s been 38 years and villages are still waiting for conveyances.

As a village corporation president, Dixie has joined the relatively new Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) which has created a village corporation network with a motto of “Sharing Resources for Village Success.” They sponsor webinars on village corporation management issues, organize an annual meeting to offer workshops and networking sessions and coordinate joint efforts for legislative outreach to advocate for their shared issues. For more information about ANVCA see their website at www.anvca.biz.

The Rural Development department has agreed to create courses at UAF at both the undergraduate and graduate level on ANCSA, its history, the processes of implementation and future directives. Dixie Dayo and Gordon Pullar have taken the lead on developing the upper division courses. Jenny Bell Jones, a B.A. Rural Development graduate and current M.A. student, and Mike Davis, RD faculty, are developing an online lower division course. Dixie’s lifelong passion and commitment to her village corporation is culminating in a curriculum that will benefit the public for years to come.
That’s Just Our Way

Traditional Koyukon Leadership and the Modern World

by Miranda Wright

Bernice Joseph with Miranda Wright.

Acknowledgement that the involvement of indigenous peoples in decision making is important in the calculus of natural resource management warrants a rethinking of how leadership in indigenous communities is defined and operationalized.

—Miranda Wright 2009

An interest in indigenous leadership theory and the holistic approach to economic survival and ecological balance is the focus of my Ph.D. research. I’ve chosen to focus on Alaska Natives and began my efforts with the Koyukon Athabascan from interior Alaska. The paper, presented at the World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Education (WIPCE) and published in the Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues, explores traditional concepts, definition and criteria for leadership and the ways in which these elements are “operationalized” in the context of cultural norms embedded in the Koyukon language, worldviews, teachings, and experiences. The cultural, economic, environmental, and political diversity inherent within indigenous communities presents challenges to the conventional philosophy of leadership which assumes that leadership rests in individuals who must be capable of inspiring and influencing others to solve problems and achieve goals. This “heroic” view of leadership is often based on a deficiency view of people as powerless, lacking personal vision, and an inability to master the forces of change (Senge 1990). This perspective of leadership holds that the stated deficits can be remedied only by a few great leaders.

The emergence of a new philosophy of leadership, dubbed ‘post heroic’ by Huey (1994) is based on bottom-up transformation. The action-oriented perspective of this leadership philosophy is articulated by John Nirenberg (1993) as a fluid concept that focuses on those behaviors which propel the work of the group forward. In many northern indigenous communities the concepts of community-based leadership are embedded in the cultural values, food resources, and languages of the Native societies.

The action-oriented perspectives (Nirenberg 1993) of leadership philosophy among indigenous communities often are revealed in socio-linguistic laws and protocols for proper behavior of the community. These cultural norms and protocols are perceived to maintain the overarching universal harmony that sustains and balances their social-ecological system.

These early efforts of my Ph.D. research are very rewarding as discussions with Elders are met with such enthusiasm. I am currently involved in the planning for an Indigenous Leadership Symposium scheduled for summer 2009 in Fairbanks.
**Yupiit Yuraryarait Kangiit-Ilu:**

**Our Way of Dance and Their Meanings**

**Theresa Arevgaq John,** very soon to be Dr. Theresa Arevgaq John among the Alaska Native & Rural Development department faculty, is finishing up her dissertation this year and has made remarkable progress for a Ph.D. student—three years when the norm is five to seven. Theresa works closely with her major professor Dr. Joan Parker-Webster and also is one of a four Ph.D. student cohort which provides for valuable collaboration. Theresa is both an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellow and a Second Language Acquisition Teacher Education Fellow; each distinctive awards in their own right. Theresa describes her dissertation work as:

Historically, Yup’ik music and dance has played a functional role in organizing and maintaining various societal structures (kinship, social, political, subsistence/economic and spiritual-ity) within the Yup’ik culture (Kingston, 1999; John, 1996; Mather, 1985; Wallen, 1990; Wolf, 1999, Fienup-Riordan, 1996). This study seeks to further understand this role and how it has evolved over time. The study will utilize an ethnographic methodology that includes historical and contemporary perspectives. The study will describe the various music and dance categories and will seek to explain the meanings associated with the music and dances of each category and how these meanings serve to organize various aspects of Yup’ik culture and societal infrastructures.

When asked about the difference between Masters level study and the dissertation stage of a Ph.D., Theresa described it as a dynamic shifting from our way of thinking; it changes to become more broad and at the highest horizon of classic scholarship/philosophies of life. This level of research study has inspired Theresa to read other indigenous scholars and to be more productive on behalf of our indigenous world views. To build networks with other indigenous scholars to work more together, collaborate and merge efforts to become empowered.

Theresa’s fellowship includes mentoring M.A. students in the Second Language Acquisition Teacher Education (SLATE) program, collaborative teaching SLATE students in the summer and providing content expertise in guiding the M.A. students in their projects that incorporate Yup’ik language, song, dance and culture. This is right in line with her experience teaching at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in both the Alaska Native & Rural Development and the Alaska Native Studies departments and at Alaska Pacific University. She also teacher mentored for the CIRI Foundation. For the past five years she has taught for the Alaska Arts Education Consortium in the Basic Arts Institute for teachers to develop their skills to become art leaders within their school districts. In Theresa’s words, “I don’t mind learning—I’ve taught a long time, now I have to read a lot of literature, produce lengthy research papers on indigenous ways of knowing—I’m an ambassador to be a voice for our people.”

This fall Theresa will conclude her dissertation; continue producing papers with colleagues for publication and prepare for her return to the DANRD classes to teach as Dr. Theresa Arevgaq John.
**DANRD Renews Peace Corps Option**

**This spring Mike Davis**, Gordon Pullar, Joli Morgan and Tony Gasbarro worked with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Graduate School and the Peace Corps regional office for Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Alaska to renew the UAF agreement to offer the Master’s International Peace Corps (MIPC) option within the M.A. program in Rural Development. MIPC incorporates Peace Corps service into a master’s degree program where students spend one to two years completing masters degree coursework in their campus program and then serve overseas in the Peace Corps for 27 months for which they can earn their project research or thesis credits. The MIPC students then return to UAF to complete degree requirements. Students interested in MIPC apply simultaneously to the M.A. in Rural Development and the Peace Corps and must be accepted by both (acceptance by one does not guarantee acceptance in the other). Students who are accepted into the MIPC will receive a tuition waiver for up to 12 credits (3 credits per semester) during their Peace Corps service. This allows them to remain in good standing with the Graduate School while they are overseas. Currently DANRD has two students in the MIPC option (see their stories in this newsletter) and two applicants for next year. For more information contact the DANRD office at fydanrd@uaf.edu or call toll-free to 1-888-574-6528.

**Peace Corps Volunteer Jessica Lauren Meyer in Macedonia**

**So far, my Peace Corps experience in the Republic of Macedonia has been excellent.** The town I live in, Kratovo, has many historic bridges and towers. There is one Byzantine tower from the 12th century and a few 15th century Turkish towers. I work for an NGO called The Regional Center for Sustainable Development—Kratovo (RCSD). The RCSD serves as a resource center and offers support to NGOs and the local community in the region including Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Rankvoce, and Probishtip. We promote sustainable development, support and strengthen the civil sector, have active involvement in the national government decentralization process and European Union integration processes, and identify areas for cross-border cooperation and perspectives. RCSD also offers Italian, French and English language lessons, and computer literacy lessons. I have only two co-workers but they are excellent and I could not be happier. I mostly help them or work with them on grant proposals and I help teach some of the English language lessons.

My thesis for my masters in Rural Development will be about solid waste management. This includes the areas of garbage, recycling, and composting. The RCSD has been working on a PET recycling project with Stoyan Nacevski, Director of Sonchev Rid-Rajkovac, a recycling NGO in a nearby...
Löki Gale Tobin, a Nomite and graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage, currently serves in the Republic of Azerbaijan. In 2008, she was accepted into UAF’s Peace Corps Master’s International Rural Development Master’s program and after a year of graduate studies, left Alaska to serve 27 months in this post-Soviet country located in the Caucasus Mountains (below Georgia—the country, not the state).

An avid rock climber and Star Trek Next Generation fan, Löki is a Youth Development Volunteer in which she assists local NGOs develop their youth programming and advises local youth groups. In her free time, she leads English practice clubs, co-facilitates a Scout troop, and provides basic graphic/web design support for a Volunteer-initiated girl’s leadership camp.

For more information about Löki’s service, please visit her blog at farfromnome.blogspot.com or contact her at lokitobin@gmail.com.

This is a meeting with the students from Volunteer Ecology Kratovo (VEK). Paul Wade is the guy with the beard in the front.

I am standing on the balcony at work (The Regional Center for Sustainable Development—Kratovo) with the Simik Tower behind our building.
**DANRD Graduates**

**Ask any Rural Development faculty** for the greatest impact in the program and they all agree “it’s the students!” Many are active in professional careers and they willingly share that experience with their classmates to help illustrate the practical applications for what they learn in the textbooks and theory. Outstanding examples of this leadership can be seen in the careers of the following graduates:

- Marie Green, Kotzebue as President/CEO of NANA Regional Corporation.
- Ana Hoffman, Bethel as President/CEO of Bethel Native Corporation.
- Andria Agli, Shareholder & Corporate Relations Manager of Bristol Bay Native Corporation.
- Melanie Edwards, Nome as Executive Vice President of Kawerak, Inc.
- Laurinda Weston-O’Brien, Bethel as Executive Director Human Resources of Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation.
- Melissa Boeckmann, Nome as Assistant Vice-President Community Health Services of Norton Sound Health Corporation.
- Barbara Joe, Yukon Territory Canada as lawyer and justice advocate for First Nations.
- Mary Jane Nielsen, as General Manager of Alaska Peninsula Corporation.

And so many more! Look forward to learning more about our graduates in each newsletter as we profile what they are doing now with their Rural Development degrees.

**Winton Weyapuk, Jr.**

**First RD Graduate Spring 1986**

**Twenty three years** after his UAF graduation in the Rural Development program, Winton Weyapuk, Jr. is active in his home community of Kingiin, also known as Wales, Alaska, in the Native Village of Wales Environmental Program funded through an EPA grant. He is also a member of a unique sea ice research project that is on the forefront of modern science incorporating indigenous knowledge and documentation practices into climate change studies. In the spring of 2007 Winton joined the research team of the Seasonal Ice Zone Observing Network (SIZONET) International Polar Year research project as a prime expert and leader in sea ice knowledge for Kingiin. Hajo Eicken and Matthew Druckenmiller of the UAF Geophysical Institute and Igor Krupnik of Arctic Studies Center of the Smithsonian Institution have been working with Winton and Herbert Anungazuk (originally from Wales and now with the National Park Service in Anchorage) on a Kingikmiut sea ice dictionary.

Winton began the draft list of sea ice terms in 2007. As an Kingikmiut dialect Inupiaq speaker, experienced hunter and whaling captain, Winton was able to compile a list of sea ice terms, expand it through consultations with other experts in the Kingikmiut tradition and language, maintain daily logs of observations, write up Inupiaq explanations for major ice forms and photograph the year-round cycle of ice formations on the ocean and beaches of Wales while hunting on drifting ice floes and boating at sea. Later Winton labeled the photographs with Inupiaq terms for the types of ice known by locals. The location of Wales was a perfect setting for this research as it sits at the junction of two oceans (Pacific and Arctic) and two continents (Eurasia and North America).

The Wales sea ice dictionary is near completion and due out later this year for publication. It will include historical photographs as well as current local ice conditions with more than 60 illustrations and entries explaining the use of terms and the value of the Kingikmiut ice knowledge. The dictionary has been endorsed by the community of Wales and also for the prospective use in the Wales High School as a part of local cultural and language curriculum. The project received support from the Native Village of Wales, IRA Council;
Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution; National Park Service, Alaska Office; International Polar Year 2007–08; University of Alaska Fairbanks and the National Science Foundation.

Aimee Kniaziowski
B.A. RDEV 1997

The City of Kodiak has a seasoned professional at the helm in her new role as City Manager. Aimee Kniaziowski accepted and began her position as City Manager in April of this year and loves her new community of Kodiak. Having spent eighteen years in the city of Unalaska, eight of which she served as Assistant City Manager, Aimee is no stranger to the needs of our rural communities. Aimee and her husband have raised five children in Alaska and were intimately involved in “growing” the community of Unalaska through their civic volunteering and active participation in their children’s schools. One of the biggest changes is moving from a 15 mile road system to 100+ miles of roads in different directions on Kodiak Island. Her work has taken on a “whole new level” from being the assistant to now, City Manager. The City of Kodiak projects have a slightly different focus as well in that not only are there new capital projects (which Unalaska had seen a lot of over the past twenty years) but also projects to replace and improve existing, older facilities and partnering with the Kodiak Island Borough. The service area becomes larger when you factor in these partnerships. Kodiak has been very welcoming to the Kniaziowski family and Aimee attributes the community’s friendliness to Kodiak’s long history of new residents with the active fisheries, tourism and Coast Guard contingent on the island.

Taro Kanazawa
B.A. RDEV 1998

It’s 11 years since I left UAF. So many things happened during these past years.

In my life, my first profession started, marriage, the birth of our first child, the start of my career in forestry. And last summer, our second daughter joined the family! Her name is Haruka, meaning “the Eternal Maple.” She is so active and LOUD!! But she also smiles a lot. We are enjoying our life so much with her. We are now planning to build our home in the near future.

In my career life, after six years in Prefectural Forest Operation Division, I started a new career in the Division of Forest Road and Facility Maintenance. It is common in Japanese careers that you rotate several jobs or professions in the same employment, in spite of your experiences and desire. I may move to totally different workplaces before I finish my career life. It may be difficult for you to understand. The holistic career path is always demanded here in Japan.

I’d like you to know about my prefecture. Please take a look at the homepage of our prefecture written in English. http://www.pref.yamanashi.jp/english/index.html

I hope you have a wonderful 25th anniversary.

Taro, Miwa, Aone, and Haruka

Alan Sorum
M.A. RDEV 2004

Director of Training for Prince William Sound Community College is a natural fit for Alan Sorum. Although he started his new position with PWSCC this past February he was no stranger to the community or the field of professional training. Alan has a full career history in marine safety, harbor and port facility
management, maritime security and public service. He has worked in Wrangell, Skagway, Whittier and Valdez (twice, having recently returned to start this position) and has facilitated development plans and training activities for communities around Alaska from Eyak to Barrow.

Alan was the first RD student to take advantage of the partnership between the UAF Rural Development M.A. program and the M.P.A. program at University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) where students can take classes in each and count towards the RD M.A. or M.P.A. Alan ended up doing both degrees simultaneously while working full-time as the Valdez Harbormaster.

His M.A. project “Northern Harbors and Small Ports: Operation and Maintenance” was published by the Alaska Sea Grant Program and can be purchased online at http://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/pubs/MAB-56.html.

As Director of Training for PWSCC Alan can be responsive to industry and corporate training needs quickly. PWSCC is the only independently accredited community college in Alaska and so can create courses and fee structures to fit specific training requests. His position includes teaching, development of curriculum and programs for PWSCC and outreach to outside entities to offer these training options for Alaskan communities and organizations. As Alan says on his personal website “Boating is a way of life here in coastal Alaska . . . A person can never have too many boats here!”

Cheryl Qattaq Stine

CHERYL QATTAQ STINE, President and CEO of ASRC Construction Holding Company, LLC, heads up one of the first tier subsidiaries of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. She began her career with Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation and developed her expertise in the construction field through her twelve years with UIC. The economies of scale are greater in her current company activities where the projects budget in the millions and approximately one-third of the volume is outside Alaska. Cheryl brings efficiency and subject matter expertise to her management team through her knowledge of construction, organizational development and understanding regulatory requirements. Her job keeps her in Anchorage but she and her husband are very active with family from home and enjoy traveling for graduations, weddings and fishing expeditions. Cheryl also makes time to work in her home garden and finds it is a peaceful respite from her 9-10 hour work days.

Bevery Melovidov

BEVERLY BEGAN HER CAREER with the federal government while in college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She works for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in their Wildland Fire and Alaska BLM Aviation unit. Beverley started out with BLM as an
administrative assistant and over the course of time through her work experience combined with her education she has been promoted to her current position as a Budget Analyst. The financial oversight includes big ticket responsibilities such as aircraft payments and coordinating the government charge card system. She likes the direction her career is moving; as her fiscal duties have become more advanced she can now see how budgets are formulated and looks forward to more “big picture” budget planning responsibilities. Her years of federal government experience also strengthen her background for her newest accomplishment of having been elected for the first time to the Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) Board, her village corporation.

Beverly ran for an open Board seat for TDX and won her seat with a solid vote margin which gave her confidence in the community’s faith in her to serve the shareholders well. Her new board responsibilities are exhilarating and daunting. (The volumes of reading in preparation for meetings remind her of Rural Development graduate classes.) As one of nine board members Beverly also serves on subcommittees for the village corporation and their Bering Sea Group of subsidiary companies. Projects range anywhere from environmental clean-up in Hawaii to fisheries related projects on her home island of St Paul. Some of TDX’s newer ventures include exploring alternative power generation.

Being the youngest board member is not a problem. Beverly values the leadership of her peers on the board and appreciates their wise counsel when evaluating TDX investments. The board is making the most of modern technology and streamlining their meetings by providing electronic laptops for board notebooks and moving away from the printed binders of material. The laptops allow for more efficient use of electronic documents, easier and more accurate note-taking and quicker access to pre-meeting materials. Sounds like TDX is in great hands and will benefit from the sound counsel that their new and seasoned board members bring to the table.

Diana (Riedel) Burton
B.A. RDEV 2003

DIANA’S NAME HAS CHANGED since graduating with her RD degree (she has since married James and they have a four year old daughter Kiley) but she is still growing the same family business she has shared with her mother since she finished apprenticing the art of skin sewing with her through high school. Dineega Specialty Furs is an Alaskan Native owned family business that specializes in seal and sea otter products that are created by Diana and her mother. Diana received an Alaska Market Place Competition grant in October 2007 and was able to further develop the business. She markets her products on their website www.dineegafurs.com and at the Ilanka Cultural Center in Cordova.

Diana spent the past few years in Sitka where she was close to a local tannery and Southeast Alaskan cultural activities but is now back home in Cordova where she can operate her fur business and also start commercial fishing with her husband James. They are geared up to seine salmon on their F/V Keta this summer. While in Sitka Diana served as Vice Chair for the Sitka Marine Mammal Commission and will continue working on marine mammal management and issues in Prince William Sound. For now, Diana says “just getting settled back home and playing with my daughter, fishing, sewing, and enjoying this nice spring we just got.”

Dawn M. Salesky
B.A. RDEV 1993, M.A. RDEV 2005

DAWN M. SALESKY has committed her career toward increasing the employability skills of Alaska Native youth and adults. As Vice President of Kawerak, Inc.’s Education, Employment and Training (EET) Division, she is an active program partner, working with organizations such as the Alaska Department
of Labor and Workforce Development, UAF’s Northwest Campus, the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center, the tribes of the Bering Strait Region, and the Norton Sound Regional Health Corporation.

After many years on her employment and training career path, Dawn has concluded that one of the biggest barriers to employment success among youth and adults is easily preventable. That barrier is the lack of basic math skills (such as fractions and measurements), and geometry and algebra. She would like to encourage all parents, leaders, friends and college alumni to help our children and young adults focus on MATH SKILLS, especially in preparation for Alaska’s future skilled workforce.

Every workforce category today demands mathematics skills. Math skills are no longer a requirement for degree-seeking students only. All apprenticeships and training programs require math proficiency, which is most often the one factor that eliminates applicants from these valuable career paths. Even when specific math skills aren’t apparent for a job, the analytical thinking and logic skills that the math curriculum utilizes are very valuable in today’s work environments . . . analyzing a problem, pacing workflow, and incorporating self-discipline, to name a few. Dawn’s advice on how to help get the message out:

- Make sure students take math every year in high school (ALL four years of high school). Parents should check each year to see that their child is scheduled for a math class.
- Offer to help at least one youth regularly with their math so they don’t get frustrated and quit.
- Help students take a college math class if their school can’t offer the next level.
- Pass the word to everyone that math skills are required for every job and every college and training program, from art and music to engineering.

When Dawn helps to coordinate job fairs, she asks presenters to show students how math is used in their profession. In Nome, one presenter started outlining on the white board all of the computations carpentry laborers use, and the students were surprised. Hands-on demonstrations help students see the relevance of taking math.

Dawn’s commitment to serving the workforce of rural Alaska has resulted in her participation with several statewide advocacy groups. Dawn serves on the Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET), of which she currently serves as Chair. ANCET is comprised of representatives from Alaska Native employment and training services from every region in Alaska. She was selected to serve on the Denali Commission’s Training Advisory Committee, and the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company’s Section 29 Alaska Native Hire Program Advisory Board.

Despite an obviously busy work life, Dawn makes time to enjoy walking the many trails and roadways around Nome with her husband and their three dogs, visiting her grandmother, Ella Tanner, and going to their camp along the Nome ocean shoreline.

Linda Joule

LINDA JOULE is the Executive Director for the Native Village of Kotzebue which provides social services, education, tribal enrollment, cultural preservation and environmental protection for the 2000+ tribally enrolled members. She and her husband Reggie make their home in Kotzebue. Her husband Reggie Joule is the District 40 State Representative for Alaska and he met with the DANRD students this past February as they visited Juneau for the RD F492 leadership seminar. Linda and Reggie have contributed regularly to the DANRD program by teaching at our various seminars and always guest lecturing for our faculty in their distance classes.
Fred Smith
B.A. RDEV 2000

**Ninety-six miles** per hour across the smoothest, fresh ice ever seen between Elim and White Mountain...and witnessing Alaska as few can ever hope to imagine. In what little “free time” Fred gets from his career in operations management with NANA, his Regional Corporation, he has taken up the sport of long distance snow machine racing. This past year he ran the Iron Dog in the Trail Class with his brother and they are eagerly anticipating their first run in the Pro Class next season. Growing up in Noorvik, Alaska Fred has been intimately tied to his culture and region and carries that intrinsic knowledge into his management style. Officially, he is Operation Manager for NANA and President of NANA Oilfield Services. His dual appointment allows him to contribute to several of the 35 subsidiaries under NANA including those based in Kotzebue.

The primary focus in operation management, for Fred, is trying to define a direction based on the values important to the company. For NANA that means generating revenue income that supports building businesses for the NANA region’s future 25 years from now and the multi-faceted projects funded from NANA’s Aqqaluk Trust, a foundation that sponsors Elders programs, awards education scholarships, provides youth with a summer cultural camp (Camp Sivu) and language revitalization. Fred is proud of NANA’s ability to be successful in a business environment where most competitors look only for the bottom line. NANA has a profitable net income and still able to implement shareholder hire priorities and business choices that reflect or enhance regional values. We understand the environment that we work in, according to Fred, and always communicate our values to our operation. “I’m a NANA shareholder so I can carry that expectation out in our workplace and communicate that to our shareholders.”

At the end of the day though it all comes back to family. Fred and his wife Helen reinforce family values to their three children on a daily basis. Although Fred has ventured into Iron Dog racing, his long distance snow machine trips originated with his children—a Bethel to Noorvik run with his son and a Big Lake to McGrath run with his oldest son and daughter. “There’s nothing like pulling off the trail and seeing the Alaska that most never get to see and it’s crossing Athabascan, Yupik and Inupiaq areas.” His final comment when talking about his career with NANA was “We want an Inupiaq corporation and we need Inupiaq people to do that.” Culture and business can indeed go hand in hand.

Kelly Eningowuk
M.A. RDEV 2007

**Kelly has come “full circle”** in a sense from her first job upon graduating with her UAF bachelor degree. Originally from Shishmaref, she was able to go to work for Kawerak, Inc. in her home village and now eight years later, and several positions in between, she is again working “for” her home...and witnessing Alaska as few can ever hope to imagine. In what little “free time” Fred gets from his career in operations management with NANA, his Regional Corporation, he has taken up the sport of long distance snow machine racing. This past year he ran the Iron Dog in the Trail Class with his brother and they are eagerly anticipating their first run in the Pro Class next season. Growing up in Noorvik, Alaska Fred has been intimately tied to his culture and region and carries that intrinsic knowledge into his management style. Officially, he is Operation Manager for NANA and President of NANA Oilfield Services. His dual appointment allows him to contribute to several of the 35 subsidiaries under NANA including those based in Kotzebue.

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Kelly Eningowuk
M.A. RDEV 2007

**Kelly has come “full circle”** in a sense from her first job upon graduating with her UAF bachelor degree. Originally from Shishmaref, she was able to go to work for Kawerak, Inc. in her home village and now eight years later, and several positions in between, she is again working “for” her home...and witnessing Alaska as few can ever hope to imagine. In what little “free time” Fred gets from his career in operations management with NANA, his Regional Corporation, he has taken up the sport of long distance snow machine racing. This past year he ran the Iron Dog in the Trail Class with his brother and they are eagerly anticipating their first run in the Pro Class next season. Growing up in Noorvik, Alaska Fred has been intimately tied to his culture and region and carries that intrinsic knowledge into his management style. Officially, he is Operation Manager for NANA and President of NANA Oilfield Services. His dual appointment allows him to contribute to several of the 35 subsidiaries under NANA including those based in Kotzebue.

The primary focus in operation management, for Fred, is trying to define a direction based on the values important to the company. For NANA that means generating revenue income that supports building businesses for the NANA region’s future 25 years from now and the multi-faceted projects funded from NANA’s Aqqaluk Trust, a foundation that sponsors Elders programs, awards education scholarships, provides youth with a summer cultural camp (Camp Sivu) and language revitalization. Fred is proud of NANA’s ability to be successful in a business environment where most competitors look only for the bottom line. NANA has a profitable net income and still able to implement shareholder hire priorities and business choices that reflect or enhance regional values. We understand the environment that we work in, according to Fred, and always communicate our values to our operation. “I’m a NANA shareholder so I can carry that expectation out in our workplace and communicate that to our shareholders.”

At the end of the day though it all comes back to family. Fred and his wife Helen reinforce family values to their three children on a daily basis. Although Fred has ventured into Iron Dog racing, his long distance snow machine trips originated with his children—a Bethel to Noorvik run with his son and a Big Lake to McGrath run with his oldest son and daughter. “There’s nothing like pulling off the trail and seeing the Alaska that most never get to see and it’s crossing Athabascan, Yupik and Inupiaq areas.” His final comment when talking about his career with NANA was “We want an Inupiaq corporation and we need Inupiaq people to do that.” Culture and business can indeed go hand in hand.
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village of Shishmaref through the work of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, ICC–Alaska. As Director of Administration she provides much of the staff and administrative support to Alaska’s Board. In April this year ICC–Alaska hosted the international Indigenous Peoples’ Global Summit on Climate Change. Kelly feels fortunate to be at ICC–Alaska because it is so relative to what she grew up with. The effects of climate change are often headlined through the experiences of communities such as Shishmaref so her knowledge base comes from first-hand experience as well as her academic studies on climate change and rural Alaska. As Kelly stated, “ICC seems so big but the work is relevant to the village level . . . it matters so much at the village level.” In June 2009 Kelly will be traveling to Greenland to represent ICC–Alaska at the Arctic Council’s working group on sustainable development. She looks forward to learning and discussing issues that can set the stage for international policies and ultimately toward implementation. We look forward to an article from Kelly about the Greenland conference in the next DANRD newsletter!

Michelle Anderson
M.A. RDEV 2005

MICHELLE ANDERSON, an Ahtna shareholder and President/CEO of Ahtna Development Corporation (ADC), is actively working with the Copper River area Native regional organizations, Chitina Village Corporation and Ahtna village councils to coordinate efforts in the region’s renewable energy planning. ADC is Ahtna’s second oldest subsidiary; the regional ANCSA Corporation that is comprised of eight federally recognized tribes. Ahtna Development Corporation’s original mission was to focus on creating economic development that benefits Ahtna shareholders. Over time ADC has developed capabilities related to oil pipeline support services and government contracting. For the past two and half years, Michelle, her board and her management team have returned ADC’s focus on regional economic development. This includes developing a small tourism program including the first village tour offered by a Princess Tours Lodge, researching business opportunities within the Ahtna region, collaborating with other regional stakeholders interested in promoting tourism development and identifying regional energy development opportunities. Michelle recently assisted in the coordination of the first regional/tribal renewable energy summit in the Copper River area. Closing comments from the summit participants acknowledged how positive it felt having the region’s housing authority, village councils, non-profit Native regional organizations and Village and Regional Corporation working together on the issue of energy; both affordability and future economic development opportunities. The region is optimistic about their future and Michelle and Ahtna Development Corporation are already planning a follow-up summit in August to pursue their end goal of a regional energy strategy plan for coordinating projects and supporting each organization’s ventures. This is a sound model for success!

Noah Naylor
B.A. RDEV 1995

NOAH NAYLOR works for his home community as the Deputy Director of the Native Village of Kotzebue. He enjoys working under the leadership of Linda Joule, Executive Director (and a B.A and M.A. graduate of the RD program) in guiding the many programs and services the IRA delivers to the 2000+ tribally enrolled members. Their services range from meeting local housing needs to providing education opportunities for their youth. He credits the RD program for preparing him well for this field because tribal administrators in rural Alaska have to “wear many different hats”. He remembers his classes with Pat Dubbs and Rick Caulfield using scenarios from different countries when learning development strategies and he has found these useful when applying them to today’s rural
project planning. The focus on writing in the RD program and use of oral presentations also has served him well in his career. The Rural Development program fits the needs of Alaska’s tribal administrators who are constantly dealing with government permitting regulations, grant writing and reporting and drafting development plans.

Noah is very involved with the raising of his two daughters and they enjoy a full family life with his parents, siblings and relatives from the whole Kotzebue Sound region. With his oldest daughter headed to UAF for college next year he will have great incentive to return to his alma mater and visit the RD staff!

Sarah Lukin
M.A. RDEV 2005

Sarah Lukin has been named the Executive Director of the Native American Contractors Association (NACA) in Washington D.C. and assumed her new duties on June 15th. She is currently transitioning from her role as Vice President of External Relations with Alutiiq, LLC (a subsidiary of Afognak Native Corporation) to the new job responsibilities with NACA. Sarah credits her eight years of experience with Afognak Native Corporation with her professional growth and is excited about the future of government contracting for Native businesses.

NACA was formed in 2003 to bring a collective voice to federal agencies, Congress and other organizations to promote the common interests of tribally-owned corporations, Alaska Native Corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations. Sarah sees NACA's role as preserving and enhancing Native inclusion in the marketplace for government contracts. This will result in increased economic self-sufficiency for America’s indigenous peoples and ultimately a brighter future for Native Americans.

Shauna (Lukin) Hegna
M.A. RDEV 2004

Shauna Hegna is the Shareholder Development Manager for Afognak Native Corporation and Alutiiq LLC, their subsidiary. Her position is based in Anchorage but she travels extensively throughout the Kodiak Island area implementing new programs for shareholder training and employment development. One recent example of her efforts was a Future Leaders Summit she facilitated that brought ten Alaska Native students together from throughout the United States and developed a program that introduced them to federal Indian law, college preparation and job training activities. Shauna and her sister, Sarah Lukin, also participate regularly in the Rural Development program’s leadership seminars and enjoy the chance to “give back” to the program they graduated under.

Sharon M Anderson
B.A. RDEV 1994, M.A. RDEV 2005

Sharon M Anderson lives in Ouzinkie; she is the project director of Spruce Island Development Corporation (SIDCO), an economic development non-profit set up in 2004 by the Tribe, City and Native Corporation. She is currently overseeing the creation of Island Heritage Tours (IHT), a business that will give cultural and nature tours of the Alutiiq fishing village and surrounding forest. IHT will transport visitors from Kodiak Island to Ouzinkie on local charter boats for the day tours of the boardwalks overlooking the rock beach front of the community, the boat harbor and boats,
the Orthodox Church, and Sourdough flats; an Alutiiq cultural site with multiple underground house divots, some 25 feet across and 10 feet deep. IHT is a three year project funded through the Administration for Native Americans.

Sharon assisted in writing the Ouzinkie community plan and the community business plan; the business plan outlines five new economic development endeavors, yet still preserves the core identity of the community. “In the cities they like to talk about dying villages, here in Ouzinkie we like to talk about how we are going to grow our village, bring people back, create jobs, and build more houses.”

Her top three lessons learned from studying rural development are; how to write, community involvement means community involvement, and adapt; you can adapt to any situation, the community can adapt to change, even a large business model can be adapted to be run in your 200 person village.

Rural development fit what I wanted to do with my life; I didn’t have a grand ambition of working for a large corporation, in middle management. That’s the job I envisioned for myself if I kept studying general business; I wanted to stay in Alaska, I wanted to know the people I worked with, and I wanted to make a difference for Native people. Rural development gave me the visioning, planning, organizing, and implementing skills through writing and research that I needed for any community directed job.

“Twenty years ago, I ideally entered UAF to help my village, guess what I am doing now? Realistically helping my village.”

Sonta Hamilton
B.A. RDEV 2007

Sonta Hamilton has accepted the position of Director, Future Teachers of Alaska (FTA) for the University of Alaska statewide program. One of her first big events upon starting the job this spring was coordinating the 2009 FTA Student Gathering in Fairbanks. Students from the seven partner school districts and ten affiliate schools and districts came together for a three-day gathering to network and connect with each other as well as Elders, Alaska Native teachers, university programs and to enjoy some great social activities too. The goal of FTA is “growing our own” educators. Sonta is passionate about the program as she herself has been pursuing her B.Ed. in Elementary Education in addition to having completed her B.A. in Rural Development. Her program is applying for renewal and if awarded will expand to 15 partner districts for the next three years. For more information about FTA see their website www.futureteachersalaska.org.

Sonta made the move to Fairbanks for this position but she is still very connected to her home village of Shageluk. For the past two years she worked with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council to address contaminated sites on the Yukon river watershed. She believes that tribes can best raise and address their concerns through working closely with both non-profit and profit Native organizations. Some ideas are as simple as bringing the topic up for meeting agendas and communicating to leaders and legislators. Clean-up efforts can be funded through alternative energy venues where clean-up sites are used as a future energy site for wind power as one example. Win-win situations are always the best whether it is in “growing our own” teacher pool in Alaska or combining clean-up with energy generation. Alaska definitely will benefit from both of Sonta’s recent activities!
Ph.D. Programs Seek Alaska Native and Rural Students

**Grades from the M.A.** in Rural Development are encouraged to apply for the following Ph.D. programs here at UAF. Each of these Ph.D. programs can include RD graduate courses in their graduate students’ study plans.

**Ph.D. Indigenous Studies**

This past spring the University of Alaska Fairbanks Board of Regents approved the Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies where students complete a common core curriculum and one of five thematic areas of emphasis selected from:

- Indigenous Studies/Research
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Indigenous Education/Pedagogy
- Indigenous Languages
- Indigenous Leadership

The program is sponsored by the UAF Graduate School, College of Liberal Arts, School of Education and College of Rural and Community Development. Ph.D. candidates are encouraged to engage in comparative studies with other indigenous peoples around the world and to focus their dissertation research on issues of relevance to Alaska and the Arctic.

For further information about the Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies, please contact any of the following:

- **Center for Cross-Cultural Studies**
  (907) 474-1902, fycxcss@uaf.edu
- **Graduate School**
  (907) 474-7729, graddean@uaf.edu
- **Alaska Native & Rural Development**
  (907) 279-2700, g.pullar@uaf.edu
- **School of Education**
  (907) 474-1588, ffbbrl1@uaf.edu
- **SOE Presidents Professor**
  480-965-5327, bryan.brayboy@asu.edu
- **Alaska Native Language Center**
  (907) 474-6585, gary.holton@uaf.edu
- **Alaska Native Studies**
  (907) 474-6605, ffjkr@uaf.edu

**The Resilience and Adaptation Program (RAP)**

RAP is an interdisciplinary training and education program of UAF focusing on sustainability in times of rapid change. The Resiliency and Adaptation Program prepares scholars, policy makers, community leaders, and managers to address issues of sustainability in an integrated fashion. Through coursework, an internship experience, thesis research, and other training, students enrolled in Ph.D. and Masters programs address a major challenge facing humanity: sustaining the desirable features of Earth’s social-ecological systems at a time of rapid change. The program prepares students for positions of leadership in academia, government, non-government organizations, Native organizations and agency management. Alaska Natives and members of other minority groups are encouraged to apply. For more information email fyrap@uaf.edu or phone (907)474-7987.

**Marine Ecosystem Sustainability in the Arctic and Subarctic (MESAS)**

MESAS is an interdisciplinary graduate program that trains students in ecosystem approaches to manage and study living marine resources. Faculty and mentors teach the principles and analytical tools of anthropology, ecology, economics, fisheries science, management, marine policy, and oceanography.

MESAS will stimulate new approaches to marine resource issues that affect local/subsistence and large commercial interests. Funding opportunities are available for up to three years. Opportunity to mentor Native and/or rural Alaskan undergraduates. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Information and application materials available at www.uaf.edu/mesas or call (907)796-5451.
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