Dream it Plan it Do it

RAHI 2017

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

Purpose:
To assist in the development of well-educated and well-qualified Alaska Natives in the fields of education, business management, and natural resource management, whose qualifications include not only professional skills but also a solid grounding in the cultural values of their people, and who are motivated and committed to serving those people both in their home regions and in the larger professional world.
Congratulations, RAHI 2017

Students from the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI) have made the choice this summer to go to college. They earned between nine and thirteen credits at UAF, giving them a head start on college.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Rural Alaska Honors Institute honored the accomplishments of 42 RAHI students at a graduation ceremony in UAF’s Schaible Auditorium with a public reception immediately following.

RAHI alum Nathan McCowan was selected as the graduation’s keynote speaker. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. McCowan also earned a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University School of Government. McCowan is the president and CEO of St. George Tanaq Corporation in Anchorage.

The RAHI program is aimed at rural and Alaska Native students who have completed their junior or senior year of high school with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Begun in 1983 by the University of Alaska and the Alaska Federation of Natives, RAHI emphasizes a challenging university curriculum and a residential program to acquaint students with college life and expectations.

We attempt to build a supportive community in which students participate in a rich academic setting, build a university transcript, and develop a long-term supportive network with peers, staff, and instructors.

The RAHI curriculum includes university courses funded in part by Wells Fargo, Alyeska Pipeline Services Company, ConocoPhillips, Arctic Slope Community Foundation, Future Educators of Alaska, Boeing Corporation, New York Life, RAVN Alaska, Crowley, Alaska Oil & Gas Congress, and alum and friends of RAHI. RAHI is sponsored by UAF’s College of Rural and Community Development.

Congratulations to the RAHI 2017 students on a job well done!

by Denise Wartes
RAHI Program Manager
From the Beginning, to the Future.

On your first morning at RAHI I quoted Mark Twain when I said, “The two most important days of your life are the day you are born, and the day you find out why.” I hope these past six weeks have given you some focus on who you are and what you want to become. Regardless of what you wish to pursue, it is imperative that you continue your education after high school. Never has the importance of post-secondary education been more dramatic.

Historian Jon Meacham argues that the challenge of living the American dream is growing. He suggests that a family of four needs around $130,000 to live comfortably. Unfortunately, according to the 2010 United States Census Data, the current median household income in Alaska is $78,000 and nationally, it is $63,000. You need to prepare yourself with post-secondary education, so that your economic prospects improve. Having studied RAHI post-secondary degrees for nearly two decades, students time to completion ranges from four years to over twenty years. So whether you complete your studies quickly or gradually, do all you can to complete them. But, the best way to optimize the positive economic boost from your further studies is to complete it as soon as possible, so that you accrue more years of improved earnings.

My hope is that this summer has taught you a lot about yourself: your learning style, your level of social engagement, and your ability to do the right thing even when it may go unnoticed. All of these will matter in your future successes. I also hope you have developed a cohort of academic and social peers on whom you may lean if things get challenging in your studies. I was continually impressed with the collaborative and efficient use of study hall this summer. Take this model with you in your future studies.

Finally, a word about attitude: Ralph Waldo Emerson said that “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” You embodied this maxim. The positive vibe present in the dorm, in the classes, and at the social events was palpable. The spirit of collaboration was a welcome respite from the foreboding headlines of the summer.

Stay in touch with each other and with the program. We are always eager to help where we can, and enjoy watching you develop into fulfilled adults.

All the best,

Greg Owens
Academic Coordinator
RAHI develops leadership and health among our young people and encourages them to be active participants in the well-being of their home communities. As dorm directors, the yoga instructor, and math extraordinaire, we worked to build resiliency in our youth, developing the skills and coping mechanisms to excel in diverse environments. Young people are often underestimated and we believe that RAHI 2017 is capable of so much - raw talent, energy and fresh thinking. We want to inspire RAHI students to develop their thoughts, reflecting on the process and the content. When they are able to see where they came from and where they get to, they are capable of anything.
Halfway there! RAHI hikers stop for a picture at the 3-mile mark.

Angel Rocks & Chena Hot Springs

A pre-hike pose: RAHI students and staff pose for a picture in front of the Chena River.
RAHI SCAVENGER HUNT

1ST PLACE: HAIRY FLOWERS

2ND PLACE: SAUCY NINJAS

3RD PLACE: KUZINZ AND 2ND KUZINZ

SAUCY NINJAS

CACTI

HAIRY FLOWERS
RAHI Students Volunteer!

Students and Staff Dedicated 643 Hours of Volunteer Work

Several Students Take on the Midnight Sun Run

RAHI 2017 Students and Staff Participate in the Midnight Sun Run
Mary Shields Volunteer Excursion

Dear Mary and Susan,

Thank you for inviting us to your home and letting us meet your dogs! We had a wonderful time and we hope you did too.

FAHI 2017

Mary telling dog mushing stories.

Jonathan also in the dog fur hat.

David K. in a dog fur hat.
Top Family groups (GPA Average)
TIED for 1st Place -
Cacti & Saucy Ninjas  (Average 3.53)

3rd Place -
Happy Campers  (Average 3.48)

Stunning Statistics
So far, and has never been achieved, 99.7% of 8:00 AM classes had
PERFECT ATTENDANCE.

AMAZING JOB!!
Camp Bingle Fun Olympics
FIRST PLACE: HAIRY FLOWERS

CAMP BINGLE SKIT NIGHT
CAMP BINGLE FUN
English Class
(ENGL 111, 109, Developmental Reading)

Group work

Charlie thinks

Discussion

Elena sips her tea

Glazed over eyes

Daily journaling

Staying busy
RAHI Research
(Biochemistry & Anthropology)

Research students (from left to right): Jawn Carl, Jasmine Woods, Ana Stringer, Daphne Mueller.
Native Dance

David, Jawn, and Cassidy:
Best Friends for Life

Too cute!

Harding gets interviewed

First performance

Seal Hunting Song

Karlon’s a star

Group photo
Tae Kwon Do

Damien and Henry spar

Henry poses

Damien attacks

Henry punches

Dalton learns from the master

Group photo
Yoga Class
“The Light In Me, Honors and Respects the Light In You. Namaste.”
-Hannah Filardi
Team Cacti
David Kokrine
June Tuluk
Elena Jacobs
Julie Jackson
Charles Wolgemoth
Nicole Patkotak
Leanida Polushkin
Family group leader Robert Doerning

Above: At Tanana Lakes playing outside

On the left: At Camp Bingle

Scavenger Hunt 2017

Bob & David acting goofy
Group Leader: Chris Clement

Tirzah Bryant, Megan Contreras, Tanya Hall, Kylee Jackson, Jonathan Le, McJun Nobleza, Misty Sundown
The Hairy Flowers

Left to right: Jawn, David, Bazaal, Kayci, Ana, Annie, and Rezina
Dalton gets dress up at Value Village for Scavenger Hunt.

Katie Beans  Denae Ulak
Taylor Burkett  Jasmine Woods
Naomi Hernandez
Dalton Macar  Family Group Leader
Karlon Tuluk  Brianna Kirk

HAPPY CAMPERS
Isabella’s Kuzinz

Harding Black, Annalise Contreras, Brian Conwell, Cassidy Kramer, Bridget Nalam, Samantha Wade, Jayna Wolgemuth & Isabella Booth as family leader
SAUCY NINJAS

FAMILY LEADER: SHEILA EVAN
MEMBERS: KAYLA BOOTH, HENRY CHARLES, MIRIAM KULOWIYI, HARRISON MOORE, DAPHNE MULLER, MIYA PAGE, ALYSSA TUNGUL
Robert Doerning, UAF: 
I feel a strong connection to RAHI, as an Alumni. I became a Resident Assistant for 4 years to be here, so that I can help another generation of students succeed.

Jeremy Haire, Nenana/Hawaii: 
I joined RAHI because it is a great way to use my time to help amazing students from around Alaska achieve their goals & dreams. If I've given just one piece of advice or provided a kind gesture that made a difference & helped in a troubling or difficult time, I have accomplished what I came here to. I hope I was able to do this for you.

Sheila Evon, Goodnews Bay: 
As a RAHI Alumni I gained great study habits, accountability, and lifelong friendships. I was fortunate to have had a really inspirational Dorm Director who fostered an amazing experience that provoked my interest in TC-ing. RAHI is a truly fantastic Academic Program, and it is great to be a TC again.

Brianna Kirk, Noatak: 
I came to RAHI to work as a TC because of my passion for working with students and helping build foundations for successful futures. I graduated RAHI in '12 and benefitted so much, my hopes are that these students are getting the same experience and can take academic or personal challenges confidently here on out.

Isabella Booth, Metlakatla: 
As a RAHI Alumni, a TC for a 2nd summer and an aspiring educator I love the opportunity RAHI provides to work with students and share my passions (like Pokémon ^_^), with new groups of young Alaskans.

Christopher Clement, Sitka: 
The combination of my own positive experiences with RAHI as a student alumni. I also enjoy working with rural students and providing a positive impact on their academic and social lives.

John Nelson, Nome: 
Supporting students is what brings me back to RAHI each year. I want to ensure that every student has a positive and fun experience. I love making people laugh.

Jake Nelson, with John: 
I love to get work with John and hang out with all
Special recognition and thank you to the Yearbook Team:
Alyssa Tungul, 
Ana Stringer, 
Brian Conwell, 
Bridget Nalam, 
David Kokrine, 
Denae Ulak, and 
Megan Contreras,

lead by TC Isabella Booth.

Digital Yearbook Team:
Damien Emelianoff
Daphne Mueller
Naomi Hernandez
FINALS
BEST OF RAHI - CLASS OF 2017

Most likely to help clean the kitchen: Leanida Polushkin

Most likely to cry at graduation: McJun Nobleza

Most likely to make others laugh: Charles Wolgemuth

Most likely to be running around: David Wilcox

Most likely to become a professional wrestler: Harding Black

Most likely to travel around the world: Ana Stringer

Most likely to win The Voice: Taylor Burkett

Best smile: Nicole Patkotakis

Most random: Damien Emelianoff

RAHI’s Drama Llama: Charles Wolgemuth

Most likely to change the world: Brian Conwel

Best transformation: Jayna Wolgemuth

Best Snapchat stories: Charles Wolgemuth

Most likely to come back to RAHI as a TC: McJun Nobleza
Kayci Andrews
Mountain Village
My next step is to attend Kuskokwim campus then transfer to UAF, major in Math for Secondary Education, to teach in the high school of my hometown.

Katie Beans
Saint Mary’s
My next step is to attend UAF and major in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Math.

Harding Black
Selawik
My next step is to graduate high school & attend college at either the Hawaii Pacific University or Southern Oregon University to study Dentistry.

“Kayla”
Margaret Booth
Kotzebue
My next step is to prepare myself for the Marines then go to college at UAF and study whatever I have my mind set to.

Tirzah Bryant
Galena
My next step is to receive my Private Pilot’s license. After high school I’ll attend UAF to get my degree in Wildlife Biology to become a pilot for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Taylor Burkett
Nenana
My next step is to attend college, earn a Master’s Degree in English and teach in rural villages to be a positive role model to village kids.

Jawn Carl
Kipnuk
My next step is to attend UAF & study Elementary Education so I can be the BOSS.

Henry Charles
Kagiluk
My next step is to graduate high school and attend UAF to further my education.

Annalise Contreras
Nome
My next step is to attend UAA and hopefully go abroad and shadow / work with other pediatricians around the world.

Megan Contreras
Nome
My next step is, graduate college with my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education and teach.

Brian Conwell
Unalaska
My next step is to finish high school and go to college for either Business, Political Science or Pre-Law. After college I hope to attend law.

Damien Emelianoff
Wainwright
My next step is to go to PBI and study Theology in order to help become a missionary.
My next step is to graduate high school, attend UAF or UAA to study Elementary Education and become an elementary teacher in my hometown.

My next step is to go to college, get a degree in Childhood Education and become a teacher.

My next step is to finish high school, get accepted to Brigham Young University (BYU) and figure out what I want to do for a career.

My next step is to receive my private pilot's license. After high school I'll attend UAA to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree and commercial pilots license.

My next step is to go to college and get into a good physical therapy program.

My next step is to re-apply for RAHI then attend college. I have high hopes to become a nurse, but also want to take theater classes and act in comedy.

My next step is to finish high school and get into a good physical therapy program.

My next step is to attend UAS and study Marine Biology to build up knowledge and experience in order to go out of AK to study engineering. I'll become either a mechanical, structural or a computer engineer.
Daphne Mueller
Utqiagvik
My next step is to attend UAF and become an environmental engineer and make a positive impact on our environment.

Bridget Nalam
Unalaska
My next step is to attend Pacific Lutheran University study medicine in order to become a pediatrician.

Mejun Nobleza
Utqiagvik
My next step is to finish high school and join the Armed Forces or go to college for Music Education.

Miya Page
Noatak
I plan on attending UAF to major in Education to eventually become a teacher in my village.

Nicole Patkotak
Anchorage
My next step is to figure out which college is best for me to either pursue becoming a pilot, mechanic, or the other fields I am interested in.

Leanida Polushkin
Homer
My next step is to attend Kachemak Bay Campus during my high school senior year in order to receive my bachelor’s degree as early as possible.

Ana Stringer
Utqiagvik
My next step is to study environmental science in college then return to the Arctic to help combat the many environmental issues facing the region.

Misty Sundown
Scammon Bay
My next step is to finish high school then attend UAF. I have no idea what I want to be but I know I’ll help my community in the future.

June Tuluk
Chevak
My next step is to get my bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Karlon Tuluk
Chevak
My next step is to go to Oregon State University, study Pre-Public Health to become an EMT-1 or 2. I’m pursuing

Regina Tuluk
Chevak
My next step is to study for Accounting at UAF and become either a public or financial

Alyssa Tungul
Unalaska
My next step is, major in Cellular Molecular Biology at Seattle University or Pacific Lutheran University. Then I hope to attend
Denae Ulak
Scammon Bay
My next step is to attend UAF this coming fall to get my major in Pre-Nursing.

Samantha Wade
Wainwright
My next step is to attend UAF after graduating from Mt. Edgecumbe High School. With my passion for helping others I plan on becoming a doctor.

David Wilcox
Sitka
My next step is to attend the College of Southern Idaho to prepare for an eventual career in sports medicine.

Charles Wolgemuth
Utqiagvik
My next step is, return to Barrow and be a good role model, then attend Columbia College in Chicago to study drama and become an actor.

Jayna Wolgemuth
Utqiagvik
My next step is to go to college and study Biology with an emphasis on pre-dentistry.

Jasmine Woods
Anchorage
My next step is to successfully graduate from High School, then pursue a degree in bioengineering or biomedical sciences.

Rural Alaska Honors Institute's
Class of 2017