

Uqaaqtuaq News

KAWERAK, INC., UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS, AND OTHERS WITH NEWS FROM THE BERING STRAIT REGION

"Uqaaqtuaq," for experience, happening, history, true story

Issue 2, July 2007

Hats Off!

Kawerak Celebrates 2007 Graduates 37 GED's and 6 Kawerak Staff

By Kristine McRae & Jessica Bowman

In the Spring of 2007, the fancies of folks young and old lightly turned to thoughts of—higher education!

Nome's ABE/GED program welcomed spring this year with 37 graduates! On May 10th, fifteen of the GED grads shared the stage with University of Alaska Northwest Campus degree recipients ranging from certificates to Master's degrees.

As community members trickled into Old St. Joe's church, it was standing room only while friends and family cheered the accomplishments of the graduates. Following the ceremony, the church hall was a buzz of

activity as well wishers waited to meet with the graduates, families snapped pictures, and everyone enjoyed a festive cake.

Half of the GED graduates this year are from Nome, and the balance come from Bering Strait villages including Koyuk, Unalakleet, Wales, Gambell, Elim, Teller, Brevig Mission, and Diomed.

We are proud of our village outreach program, and we congratulate those students for their perseverance, often relying on a postal relationship with their tutor for homework and practice tests.

Cissie Kimoktoak was this year's GED student speaker. She moved many to near tears with her sentiments and reflection of

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Above Left: GED Graduate Charlene Brown approaches the podium and gauntlet of handshakes with a smile.

Above Right: Kawerak Child Advocacy Center Director, Michelle Krier, graduated with a BA in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Management.

Kawerak Children & Family Services Holds ICWA Training in Nome

This May, the Children & Family Services (CFS) Department held a comprehensive 3-day-long training for ICWA workers and tribal representatives in the technicalities of the Indian & Child Welfare Act and in implementing Child Protection teams.

Using additional funding made available through Title IV B monies, CFS staff were able to not only include their ICWA staff, but were also able to bring in tribal representatives from most of the Kawerak ICWA villages.

The facilitator, Mariam Bearse, oversaw training in conjunction with, CFS Director Joe Jennetten and CFS Supervisor Lance Cannon. Ms. Bearse provided the training and technical assistance. She is a trainer for the National Resource Centers that provide free training and technical assistance for tribes and tribal organi-

zations across the nation.

The training took place on May 2, 3 and 4 at the Aurora Inn in Nome. All 13 Kawerak ICWA employees attended from their communities, and 12 additional Tribal Council members attended as well.

"As soon as we heard that we were receiving additional IV-B funds, we arranged for this training not only for our ICWA workers, but also for other representatives from the tribes so that we could implement Child Protection

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Above: A happy group at training's end! ICWA staff and Tribal representatives pictured with NICWA facilitator Mariam Bearse.

Graduation Day Highlights—May 2007 *continued from front page*

her own experience, "...so look and know that you were brought here upon your own success. And remember that you're one step closer to your dream. Always know that you don't have to rush to choose life's work, you have accomplished something; hold it high so you can always strive to do more. Truly appreciate your journey because all the fancy cars, promotions, and degrees are nothing compared to what has brought you here today."

Best wishes to Cissie and all our 2007 graduates. May you all recognize your dreams!

Students who graduated with a GED are as follows: Bo Adams (Koyuk), Marian Adams (Koyuk), Anthony Agnes (Nome), Alvina Amaktoolik (Nome), Cheryl Anagick (Unalakleet), Sharla Aningayou (Nome), Brian Apanagalook (Gambell), Jeffrey Apatiki (Gambell), Daniel Apok (Nome), Edward Blatchford (Unalakleet), Charlene Brown (Nome), Daniel Brugliera (Anchorage), Chester Cleveland (Shungnak), Traci Corta (Nome), Daisy Henry (Nome), Stephen Hubert (Nome), Crystal Ivanoff (Elim), Robert Jackson (Kotzebue), Levy Jones-Harvey (Kotzebue), Cissie Kimoktoak (Nome), Becky Kunayak (Diomedea), Susanna Lloyd (Nome), Amy Lockwood (Nome), Dylon Lott (Nome), Wilma Menadelook (Teller), Deidra Minix (Nome), Kellen Okpealuk (Wales), Melcher Oozevascuk (Gambell), Kimberly Oxereok (Wales), Charlie Ozenna (Nome), Stephen Probert (Fairbanks), Katrina Raymond (Nome), Katie Schobert (Nome), Wassillie Soxie (Unalakleet), Rhonda Tocktoo (Nome), Carl Topkok (Nome), Gussie Topkok (Brevig Mission).

JoAnn Kost, Workforce Development Specialist for Higher Education in the EET Division, informed us of a few students from the region graduating out-of-state this year. Majorie Zilys, originally from Unalakleet, now lives in An-

chorage graduates with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Management with an Emphasis in Nonprofit Management from Alaska Pacific University.

And Carrie Ojanen, from Nome, graduates from Walla Walla College in Washington with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Carrie majored in English and French, and spent one year in France to learn the language. Carrie is the daughter of David and Ruth Ojanen of Nome.

In addition, six Kawerak employees finished various degrees this spring as well, including Michelle Krier, Director of the Child Advocacy Center. Michelle received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Management. Head Start employees Alma Snowball and Mary Long received their Associate's Degrees in Applied Science, Early Childhood Education.

And Charlie Ozenna, Gussie Topkok, and Sharla Anningayou, also Kawerak Head Start Employees, graduated with their GED certificates. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard and got this far!

Right: GED graduating class poses for a photo with Kawerak ABE/GED Director Ron Huffman (far left), ABE/GED/ESL Program Specialist Kristine McRae (far right in sweater), and ABE/GED Program Specialist/Instructor MaryJane Litchard (right, on end). Photos courtesy of Jessica Bowman, Kristine McRae and Carol Gales.



Above: Eager graduates await their diplomas and listen to the speeches of their peers. Below: Kawerak Head Start staff members Alma Snowball (left) and Mary Long (right) receive their Associate Degrees in May.



Inspiring Speech Given by GED Graduate

Reprinted here and provided by the Kawerak ABE/GED programs, is the inspiring graduation speech by GED graduate Cissie Kimoktoak.

I have walked the road of many challenges and today I have begun my journey knowing there will be many more. When I first enrolled with the Kawerak ABE program, I was simply asked about my future. I suggested that I wanted to further my education, though in my heart I want my son to be able to look up to me, seeing that no matter where you are in life you can always achieve whatever it is you want to do.

Sometimes it isn't always easy in the beginning, but it isn't always easy in the end. Struggling not only as a student, but as a single mother, my motive was to find my dream of graduating.

Though I was faced with everyday challenges, I always told myself I'm not a quitter. This was a foundation

of success.

Many of us will have stories to tell, some of what kept them going and all the obstacles in their life. Some of tragedy and tribulations, and some of success, failure, and will of determination. So look and know that you were brought here upon your own success. And remember that you're one step closer to your dream.

Always know that you don't have to rush to choose life's work, you have accomplished something; hold it high so you can always strive to do more.

Though we are faced with everyday challenges, know that you are not a quitter, and appreciate what your achievements will offer. Truly appreciate your journey because all the fancy cars, promotions, and degrees are nothing compared to what has brought you here today.

I would like to express my thanks to all my family, friends, and instructors who supported and had faith in

me. Thank you for pushing me and letting me know there was hope at the end. I am happy to be able to share this with you as well as my fellow graduates. Congratulations and Good Luck!



Above: GED graduate Cissie Kimoktoak gives her speech to a hushed audience at the UAF Northwest Campus graduation ceremonies at Old St. Joe's in Nome.

Citgo Representatives Brave the Cold And Hear How They Warmed Our Homes

This past winter, the fuel company Citgo provided 100 free gallons of heating oil to households in the 15 villages of the Bering Strait Region. Kawerak and the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council worked together to coordinate access to this generous gift from Citgo.



Citgo Officials Dance to the Beat In Diomedes

In the 15 Bering Strait Region villages, Citgo provided 147,504 gallons of heating oil! This included 410 gallons of heating fuel to each of the Tribal Council offices that were available after the final day of the household program. While Nome residents did not qualify for this particular program, Citgo and Bonanza Express worked together to make fuel available for low-income people at a discount.

On April 19th, Andres Rangel, Eladio Perez, Mariela Guzman and Oleg Malikov from Citgo traveled to Shishmaref and Diomedes along with Steve Sumida and Bruce Bunsvold of AITC and Loretta Bullard and Melanie Edwards of Kawerak. Carol Gales accompanied the group and took photos. The Citgo representatives were



Citgo Officials in Diomedes

able to hear from Tribal Councils and local residents about how folks went about accessing their gift of fuel. People who attended the meeting expressed their gratitude to Citgo. They were also fortunate enough to Eskimo Dance with youth in Shishmaref and community members in Diomedes. Citgo's representative Andres Rangel announced that the free fuel program will again be made available next winter! Kawerak will again coordinate the program.

Honoring Alaska Territorial Guard Members (ATG)

The Alaska National Guard is actively seeking Alaska Territorial Guard members, living, deceased, and any surviving spouses. Congress has enacted legislation that grants federal recognition to those that served during World War II in the ATG (1942 to 1947). This recognition opens the door for Veterans benefits to the ATG member, surviving spouses, and family members. Please contact Jerry Walton at the National Guard (1-888-248-3682 toll free) for more information.

A Brief History:

The Alaska Territorial Guard was comprised of mostly volunteers from rural Alaska. As draft eligible young men were conscripted into the active military forces during WW II, volunteers from all over Alaska joined the ATG, Alaska's home defense force.

Few historical records exist about the volunteers, and they indicate that roughly 6,000 men and women joined the ATG. A few years ago the State of Alaska began a recognition campaign to honor those soldiers at the

State level. Over 3,000 were given State recognition through that effort. Later, through the efforts of the State of Alaska, AFN, and with support from many others, the Alaska Congressional delegation was able to obtain federal recognition for these soldiers. This was a long over due recognition of those who honorably served their country and State (Territory at the time) during wartime.

Currently federal recognition and federal benefits are being provided to only 250 or so that have made application. The Alaska National Guard is looking for applications from the several thousand remaining ATG soldiers. It is our intent to make the collection of ATG applications a statewide grass roots effort. The collection of applications from every ATG member is important. However for obvious reasons we want to honor the living first.

The National Guards first priority is to collect applications for ATG members still with us. Estimates are that there are less than 500 eligible for benefits. Benefits may include a

pension, medical, and other benefits reserved for soldiers who served their country.

The second priority is to receive application of deceased ATG soldiers who have a surviving spouse. Spouses are eligible to receive the deceased spouse's benefits.

The third priority is to ask family members of deceased ATG soldier to send in an application. The family may also be eligible for benefits that may include a headstone and honors that the deceased had earned.

Anyone can make application on behalf of a deceased or an incapacitated ATG member. We ask everyone to talk about who was in ATG and make application as soon as possible. We know the names of only 3000 of the 6000 that served.

Please help honor all that served!



This publication from Kawerak, Inc. to the Bering Strait Region, based loosely on the previous Kaniqsrugut News.

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Do the neighborhood children hang out at your house?

Are you looking to work at home?

Do you want to help your community with child care needs?

Have you ever thought about becoming a Family Child Care Home Provider?

Own your own business
Work at home
Get paid to work and play with children
Choose your hours
Work daily, evenings and/or weekends

Support from Kawerak Child Care Services and C.A.R.E.S. Resource and Referral with training, resources & materials

Kawerak Child Care Services

In the Region Call Toll Free 1.866.583.2273

In Nome Call Carey Adsuna 443.9072 or Kari Martin 443.9073

To Get Started In Making A Difference In The Lives of Children!!

Youth Activities — What Is Out There? What do Kids Want to Do?

In 2005 Kawerak's President Loretta Bullard and Executive Vice President, Melanie Edwards traveled to several villages in the Bering Strait region with staff and Board members of the Rasmuson Foundation. Every village identified a need for healthy youth activities. In response, Kawerak and Rasmuson partnered to assess existing resources for youth activities and to determine what types of activities youth would like to see in their communities.

A comprehensive effort was undertaken within Kawerak, including the Planning office, the Wellness coordinator, Tribal Family Coordinators and Tribal Coordinators in their communities, and several other organizations to bring this project to completion. Organizations including schools, churches, volunteer groups, Village Based Counselors, and Tribal and City Councils all provided assistance in the effort — without which, the project would have been much more limited in scope.

The results of the youth report will hopefully assist the region's residents, communities and organizations to address the high number of youth we have in the region. According to the Alaska Native Policy Center, 45% of the Native population is 19 years and younger.

Overall, the majority of youth in the Bering Strait region indicated a strong desire to be involved in some type of **sports**. Many indicated they would like to see other sports besides basketball, although basketball was very popular. Youth indicated the need for an outdoor basketball court for use during the summer. Youth rated **computers** as the highest desirable activity in question 12 where youth marked the choices they would like to see offered.

Cultural activities rated very high in both the open ended question and the multiple choice question for desired activities. Native language classes, fishing and summer camping were the most requested. Other activities included learning new skills. Overwhelmingly, youth in the Bering Strait region indicated the basic need for a warm **place to "hang out"** — a teen center that is not used for anything else.

Not having a dedicated youth center makes it difficult and limits youth events put on by other organizations besides the schools. For example, some activities take place in offices or if they are in a community hall equipment, game tables and supplies must be moved when they are done to make room for other community events. Having a Teen Center also makes it possible to have consistent youth programs.



Youth in Savoonga's YO! program celebrate (photo provided by Kawerak, Inc.)

Many students were excited about the prospect of having a variety of activities offered to them but there seemed to be an underlying feeling and fear that nothing will change. Many of the present activities are geared to-

wards younger children except for the activities that the schools offer. Older students generally have a choice of extra-curricular after school activities for physical activities such as open gym, basketball and skiing but not all students are interested in them. There are seasonal activities such as summer camp but those are limited to a smaller number of youth for a one or two week period in a few villages. There are basically no organized activities for youth in the summer aside from the few camps.

Student responses varied from village to village as to what they preferred. On the open ended question, responses tended to be the activities youth were familiar with. Responses where students could choose from 43 specific activities were very diverse from village to village. For example, many youth from Breig Mission were interested in guitar lessons while students from other villages indicated that they would not be interested in any music opportunities. Youth from Gambell, Savoonga and other villages were interested in basket making but it was most popular in Stebbins and St. Michael where they are still made.



Youth in Shishmaref making a triangle in the gym (photo provided by Kawerak, Inc. and Darlene Turner)

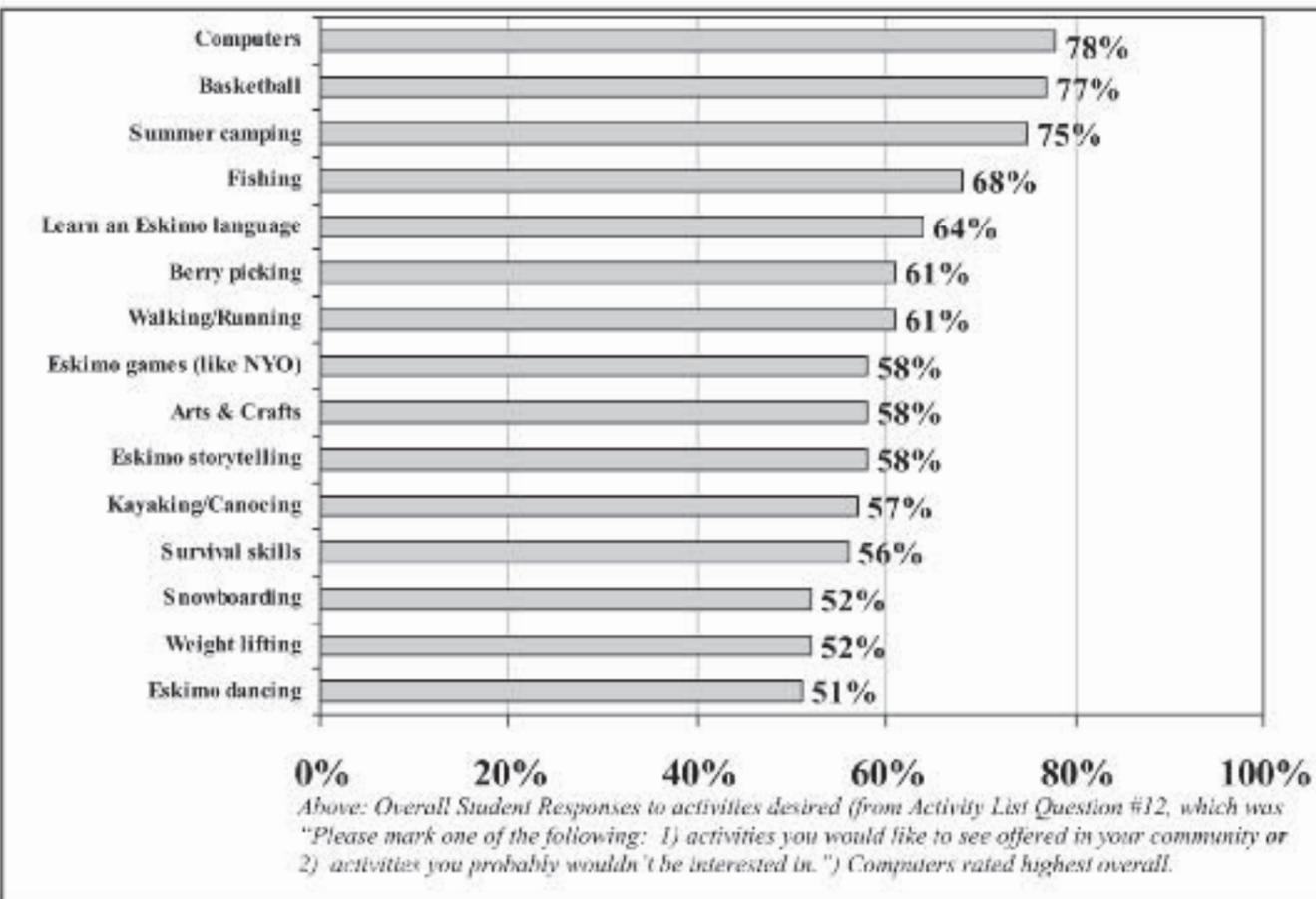
Youth were pretty unanimous in wanting a much wider variety of activities in all categories than are offered right now. They also want activities in the summer as well as winter. They commented that **if there were more things for youth to do, fewer of them would get into trouble.**

A high number of youth want an Eskimo language and other cultural skills offered such as survival skills and more unusual classes like kayaking and even building kayaks. Students seemed to differentiate organized cultural activities from subsistence. Many youth did not count subsistence as cultural, perhaps because it is such an integral part of their lives. A significant number of youth enjoy outdoor activities but this may be because there are not many facilities specifically for youth for indoor activities. Some youth emphatically stated that **bingo should stop** in their community.

In villages where there is no Eskimo dancing and fewer residents speak their Eskimo dialect, youth expressed a strong desire to learn them. Youth in the region are also interested in more competitive opportunities. Many of the responses were gender based, e.g. most girls said they wouldn't be interested in weight lifting and most boys said they wouldn't be interested in sewing and basket weaving.

The survey results are available on CD or by e-mail as a PDF document as well. If you are interested in the final assessment report, please contact the Planning office at Kawerak 443-4389, or planner1@kawerak.org. Kawerak hopes to make a presentation on the youth assessment process and the results during the Regional Conference in September 2007.

Again, we would like to sincerely thank those who contributed their time and assistance in this project. We hope the results will assist others in the future to better address the needs of the youth in the Bering Strait Region.



In Recognition of Stanton Oswald Katchatag

The Bering Strait Region lost a longtime advocate and leader when Stanton Oswald Katchatag passed away at the age of 89 on January 6, 2007.

Stanton was one of the original board members when Kawerak was formed in 1972. He went on to become the Kawerak Board Chairman in 1991, and in 1996 when he stepped down as the Board Chairman, the Kawerak Board voted to name him "Honorary Chairman for Life."

Stanton saw many changes throughout his lifetime. When he was a young boy—dogsleds were still the primary mode of transportation. "Water and Sewer" meant hauling your own water and using honey buckets. There was no cable T.V. or telephones. Stanton was an advocate for positive changes—but also a strong voice for keeping alive the culture, traditions, and values of Alaska Natives.

When Stanton was elected Chairman of the Kawerak Board, Kawerak's total annual budget was \$4.2 million. Under his guidance and leadership—the annual budget tripled to \$12 million. He set an example for leadership and laid the foundation for continued growth. Kawerak now has an annual budget of approximately \$25 million. Kawerak honored Stanton in 2005 by naming the gray Kawerak Office Building after his Eskimo name: "Taliialuk," which means "Strong Arm." Recently the

Alaska Federation of Natives honored Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye by giving them Eskimo names—and Senator Inouye was bestowed with the name "Taliialuk" and it was noted that they shared similar attributes such as wisdom, humor and love.

Stanton is remembered for always showing respect to his fellow Kawerak Board members and staff; always letting everyone have their full say and encouraging Board participation in the decision making process; being visionary and having a good grasp of the big picture; expressing appreciation for the work of staff; and for being an outspoken advocate of unity by encouraging the Tribal Councils of the Region to work together to achieve more for our Native people.

For almost ten years Stanton faithfully served as the Kawerak representative to the RuralCap Board. He regularly sent in his hand written re-



ports to the Kawerak Board and used his reports as a way to encourage and push people to do their best to make life better in the region. He was not afraid to express his spirituality, and often reminded us that our Creator makes us strong. Here is a quote from one of Stanton's reports: "We must all look forward to serve the best we can, for the sake of our mission that makes us responsible and accountable for the future of our generations...We must take action now, for no one else will do more good for us and our future...We have been involved so very long and should know who has served in the best interest of our people...May the privilege of this year he served for best possible goals. May God of our being see and use the best of our talents."

Quyanna to Stanton's family for letting him be of service to the region and sharing his life with us. He was a great leader and will be missed.

Kawerak ABE/GED Takes Testing Trip to Savoonga & Elim

By MaryJane Litchard, Kawerak ABE/GED Program Specialist/Instructor

Our flight to Savoonga was smooth and delightful on Monday, May 21st. We landed around 10 a.m. and went straight to the amazingly large and newly built IRA building. Word got out of our arrival and we had 10 students the first afternoon of which four were brand new students. Our GED examiner Ron Huffman, started testing those who were qualified and tested till 7:30 p.m.

Next day the sky was beautiful, the Gambell IRA flew four of their GED students, one who was a re-tester and the other three were ready for the complete battery. A GED testing battery consists of Math, Science, Reading, Social Studies and Writing Skills. On that day (May 22nd), we had 18 students of which five were brand new students. All four Gambell students completed their tests along with one newly enrolled Savoonga student! Testing that day ran from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Same pattern occurred on May 23rd, we had 17 students and testing ran from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. of which four were brand new enrollees. One young mother enrolled and toughed it out by sitting for 13 hours testing! Amazingly, she completed the complete bat-

tery in one sitting.

During our four-day testing, we had 25 students of which 12 were newly enrolled students. Out of the 25, 18 completed their GED battery; four Gambell students and 14 Savoonga students. Of the 12 newly enrolled, seven completed their testing. There were two Savoonga students who were unable to complete due to lack of childcare services. Not everyone was qualified to test, there were five students who needed to do studying and will receive their homework through the mail.

Our trip to Savoonga was very successful and thanks to Savoonga IRA for use of their building and thanks to Gambell IRA for helping some of their GED students!

Then on June 13th, we arrived in Elim to test our eager students there. That first afternoon we had nine students, of which two were new enrollees. On June 14th, we had a total of



14 students testing that day, of which three were brand new students and two of them were qualified for testing. The morning of June 15th, Ron finalized testing eight students.

In the combination of three villages of student testing, seven were successful in passing and receiving their GED diploma. Congratulations to those who passed! Those who are interested in applying for GED services, please call 1-800-478-7574 or here in Nome, 443-4469.

Are You An Alaska Native Artist?

In this beautiful Bering Strait region, we have many talented artists. The artistic history of our culture is very rich. Our art helps to connect us to our cultural roots of successful survival in this northern hemisphere. Our ancestors struggled throughout the winter months yet created unique carvings that linked them to spiritual survival. We still depend on subsistence activities, and the arts and crafts we create for economic development. Plus with the continuing rising costs of modern living and the threats of coastal erosions, our artists need a program that can help them get the prices they want for their wares.

There is a group who wants to help our indigenous artists in our region get the asking price for their art. Several years ago, the Community Planning and Development staff of Kawerak revitalized interest in the region and provided technical assistance to a working group called the Bering Strait Inuit Cooperative (BSIC). BSIC was started in 1995 by a group of people from throughout the region. Our small group supports regional artists in the Northwest Territory of Alaska for the survival of unique art forms to continue for future generations and to help them out economically. A new board of directors was elected and has been meeting for the last couple of years.

Currently, there are 3 board members here



in Nome who volunteers their time to make this group survive, however, with lack of staff and funds, we often are unable to keep our members informed. We would like to thank the Kawerak Community Planning and Development Department who have helped us out tremendously. They did several mass mailings to inform our region of our efforts and paid for our village board members to come in for serious working meetings. The BSIC invites you to become a member. If you are living in a village and would like to represent your community, we are looking for a few more board members.

We encourage our members to sign up with the Silver Hand Program with the State Council on the Arts. Signing up with the Silver Hand Program, you are helping to prove to the world the authenticity of our handmade products. We desperately need to be protected from unauthorized imitations of our style of art.

BSIC membership dues are \$12.50 annually. Before we travel to a show, we inform our members, who in turn, mail to us up to 6 items of their arts and crafts they wish for us to sell. Then their wares are taken to arts and crafts shows. So far, the shows we have sold at are: Barrow for the Inuit Circumpolar Arts and Crafts, Nome Iditarod (our second year), Anchorage at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and to Fairbanks Festival of Native Arts. Our members identify and receive the amount of money they want for their items. On top of that amount, we add on a 30% commission for the organization. So if an ivory piece is \$30, we increase the price by \$9.00 that keeps us floating. Items not sold are returned. BSIC's goal is to help our people financially.

For more information about the BSIC, please call toll free 1(877) 219-2599 or in Nome 443-4250.

8 Bering Straits Residence compete in Alaska Marketplace

Sixty-six finalist from across Alaska have been selected to advance to the next round of the 2007 Alaska Marketplace competition, where they will vie for a portion of nearly \$1 million in award money for their small business projects.

Kawerak's Community Planning and Development department was heavily involved with promoting and assisting residents of the Bering Strait Region with Alaska Marketplace applications. As a result, of the 306 applications received, 32% were from Western Alaska! This was 2nd only to Southcentral Alaska at 37%. The other regions were: Southeast with 11%, Aleutian Islands with 9%, and the Arctic region with 8%.

Kawerak's CPD Program Director, Barb Nickels, was pleased the region did so well. "Our department worked very hard to get the word out to the region about the competition and assist individuals directly with their Business Idea Applications."

Kawerak will continue to work with the finalists in completing their business plans and presentation materials for the final judging during the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention to be held Fairbanks.

The Bering Strait Region has eight finalists that will be competing for award money. They are listed below:



Airport Pizza – Nome

Aksik Heat Distribution System – Gambell

Animal House – Nome

Hanger 5 – Nome

Kulowiya Ivory – Savoonga

Kuupiaq House – Unalakleet

Sikuluaq's Digi-Photo – St. Michael

Ulimaq Furniture – Stebbins

“Reindeer Bridge” Information Office Opens in Nome

From Faith Fjeld, at the Saami Báiki Office in Alaska (in the Sitnasuak Building)

A new cultural information and oral history research office has opened in Nome. It is called “The Reindeer Bridge” and will focus on the four Arctic Native cultures that were brought together by reindeer. If your grandmother made “Lapp boots,” if your kids play “Lapp ball,” or if your village was a reindeer station, you have been influenced by the introduction of reindeer and the coming of the Saami to Alaska.

In the late 1800s there was a famine in western Alaska. To provide a new source of food and clothing, Chukchi herders brought a few hundred reindeer from Chukotka to the Seward Peninsula, and Saami (*laav laq*) herding families from Norwegian Lapland were hired by the U.S. government to teach Inupiat and Yup'ik apprentices how to work with them. This was known as the “Reindeer Project,” an idea usually credited to Sheldon Jackson, who was Director of General Education in Alaska at the time.

The Saami, Inupiat and Yup'ik herders of the Reindeer Project worked together and the Chukchi reindeer were their common link. By 1930 there were 500,000 reindeer in western Alaska. Annual reindeer fairs brought the Native herders together from all over Western Alaska. Nome was the hub for herding operations on the Seward Peninsula; the reindeer provided food, clothing and transportation for the gold miners as well as for the Native villages and they were also used to deliver U. S. mail in the region. The herders learned each other's languages before they learned English, and on the Seward Peninsula and St. Lawrence Island the Saami were often given Inupiat and Siberian Yup'ik names. Of the 150 Saami who came to Alaska for two-year tours of duty, 87 stayed, and their children often married into Inupiat and Yup'ik families.

The contributions of reindeer husbandry to the history of Alaska have almost been forgotten. However, in 1990, *Báiki*, a Saami cultural and educational journal published in North America, began collecting photographs and stories from subscribers who were descendants of the Reindeer Project herders. The Saami *Báiki* collection developed into an exhibit called “The Saami: Reindeer People of Alaska” that since 2004 toured nine Alaska museums and cultural centers, including the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum in Nome.

Recently, with a grant from the Shared Beringian Heritage Project, the exhibit has evolved into “The Reindeer Bridge,” a three-year oral history project. Photos and stories from the Chukchi, Inupiat and Yup'ik herding families will now be collected and added to the photos and stories from the Saami. Interviews with elders from the four Arctic cultures will be conducted around Nome and the other Seward Peninsula and St. Lawrence Island villages that served as reindeer stations. Portable exhibits and presentations will be available for community gatherings in the region.

The “Reindeer Bridge” office is open to the public and will be in the current location until the end of August. Visitors will have an opportunity to examine photographs from the Reindeer Project, view maps of the reindeer stations, and share stories of elders and other family members who remember how reindeer and the Saami came to their villages. A Reindeer Project chronology and family trees of the Saami who came to Alaska will be available for those who are tracing their Saami ancestry or researching the subject.

“The Reindeer Bridge” office is located on the second floor of the Sitnasuak Building, 214 Front Street, Nome. An open house took place during the Midnight Sun Festival. For more information contact Faith Fjeld, P.O. Box 220, Nome, AK 99762, or via phone 907-443-6122, or email: faithfjeld@alaska.net.

The Reindeer Bridge of Beringia Project is sponsored by a cooperative agreement between the Shared Beringian Heritage Project, the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and the non-profit Center for Environmental Economic Development.



Saami reindeer herder Andy Bahr photographed in Nome in the 1920s. Reindeer were used as draft animals during the gold rush. A Lomen Brothers photo from the Saami Báiki collection.

Kawerak Partners with NACTEC to Provide ADL Training for Adults

This year, Kawerak's EET division teamed up with the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) to provide Alaska Driver's License preparation for village based residents who are preparing for employment. A Driver's program is one of the most requested training programs in our region. With more jobs requiring an Alaska Drivers License, getting an ADL is becoming more essential every year.

NACTEC has a Driver's Education car (with an extra brake pedal on the passengers side, where the instructor sits), and was seeking a full-time instructor. Kawerak's EET Division wanted to support applicants hired into Nova Gold and other jobs in the region. The two organizations met and a partnership between Kawerak and NACTEC was created.

Together, NACTEC and EET worked out a plan

to use “vouchers” to teach adult residents on the NACTEC car, and split the costs on a driver education teacher for both the NACTEC students and adult residents. Kawerak bought a number of vouchers for residents preparing for employment. The vouchers were also made available to other organizations for purchase.

The driver's education program for adults started in January 2007. A typical training week consists of several days of actual driving experience with the hands-on road test scheduled for Thursday with the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Between January and July, over 15 adult residents used the vouchers to prepare, pass the road test, and receive their Alaska Driver's License. More than half of the fifteen trainees were subsequently hired, because they obtained their Alaska Driver's License.

In September 2007, Kawerak EET and NACTEC will resume the driver's education program. BSSD Students that are interested in the Alaska Driver's License training should sign up through NACTEC. Adult residents must first pass their driver's written test before entering the program. Individuals who need to obtain their Driving (Learner's) Permit can order a written test from the Division of Motor Vehicles in Juneau. They will be sent to the VPSO, VPO, or IRA office, which will proctor the test and return it to Juneau for grading.

For more information about the Alaska Driver's License training, contact Lew Tobin (888) 898-5171, Irene Kakaruk (800) 450-4341 (at Kawerak's offices in Nome), or your VPO/VPSO or IRA office.





Real science

NACTEC students apply biology concepts to familiar animals, plants

What's it like to be a wildlife biologist on the Seward Peninsula?

Five Nome and Teller high school students tested that career during an Aug. 13-18 field biology course taught by Northwest Campus science faculty at Salmon Lake.

The course was the first mid-summer session ever offered by NACTEC, the Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center.

"It was a really educational, hands-on experience," Teller School senior Karhleen Miller said after the course. "I really recommend it to everyone."

"We took some notes and we did a lot of hands-on activities," added Sandra Menadelook, also a Teller senior. "I liked everything."

The two-credit college course aimed to show students techniques commonly used by field biologists, and to convey an experience of what it is like to study plants and animals in the field.

Students quickly felt at home in their Boy Scout Camp cabin classroom. Their lab was Salmon Lake and the surrounding countryside.

Heidi Herter, Marine Advisory Program agent in Nome, and Claudia Ihl, assistant professor of biology

at Northwest Campus, led the course. NACTEC instructors Heidi Graber and Brian Marvin participated as student supervisors, drivers and cooks.

Students spent one day learning to identify vegetation classes such as shrubs, lichens, mosses, and graminoids, as well as individual species. They learned to use special equipment to sample vegetation.

Visiting fisheries biologist and graduate student Lorna Wilson took students out in a canoe to sample dissolved oxygen, zooplankton, and light penetration. Students set minnow traps and, in the evening, dissected the catch on the kitchen table to study fish anatomy.

On Thursday, students studied mammals—including a herd of muskoxen at nearby Crater Creek.

"The students observed muskox foraging and rutting behavior, including some interesting dynamics between a dominant herd bull and a younger competitor, who tried very hard not to get in trouble with the big guy," said Ihl.

Students learned to identify different sexes and ages of muskoxen according to the development of



ABOVE: Claudia Ihl shows students how to use an antenna to pick up signals from a wildlife-tracking radio collar. From left: Adem Boeckmann (Nome), Sandra Menadelook (Teller), Elsie Strickland (Nome), Kathleen Miller (Teller), Marie Pushruk (Teller), and instructor Heidi Herter. **RIGHT:** Sandra Menadelook gathers data.



their horns. Later, they practiced using a real radio collar and receiver on loan from the Department of Fish and Game. Some students played "caribou" and ran off with the collar, while others tracked and found them using the receiver and antenna.

On Friday, students formulated

hypotheses and collected data to test their projections using techniques learned in class. They were assigned to write a brief report on their findings, which they were to share with each other during a follow-up audio conference.

"The class was great fun for students and instructors," Ihl said. "We plan to run it again next summer."

Four new nurse aides ready to work in the region

Four more residents of the Bering Strait region are state-certified as nurse aides and ready to work.

Congratulations to Sadie Shoogukruk, White Mountain; Pearlene Pete, Stebbins; Leigh Takak, Flim; and Barbara Weyiouanna, Wales, for the hard work they put in to complete the nine-credit Nurse Aid Training course through Northwest Campus.

The course stretched over eight weeks and included four phases:

■ Starting April 23, Cathy Winfree, a CNA instructor with the Tanana Valley Campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, taught nine sessions over the phone with students in their villages.

■ On May 21, students began practical skills training in Nome with Wayne Christiansen, a nurse who has worked for Norton Sound Regional Hospital, and Karen McLane, NSHC health aide trainer.

■ Students spent the following two weeks in Fairbanks getting instruction from Winfree and then practicing their skills by working



Karen McLane, CNA instructor and nurse practitioner, tests Leigh Takak's ability to get an accurate blood pressure reading from fellow student Pearlene Pete. Takak participated in the CNA training as a NACTEC high school student.

at Denali Center, a 90-bed long-term care facility.

■ The course ended June 15 with students taking a written exam and being tested on their practical skills.

All four students who completed

the course earned state certification!

"Our successful trainees worked each day on learning hands-on skills and also studied together in the evenings," said Dawn Salesky, vice president of Education, Employ-

ment and Training at Kawerak.

Kawerak is part of the Bering Strait Region Health Consortium, which planned and coordinated this course.

The consortium's goal is to get more regional residents trained and working in health careers.

Other consortium members include Northwest Campus, Northwest Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC), NSHC, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, and the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

For this CNA training, the consortium was joined by Fairbanks/Interior Area Health Consortium (AHEC), which helps train rural Alaskans for health careers. AHEC paid the students' housing, meals, and travel costs for the Fairbanks portion of the class.

The students' tuition and other training costs were paid by other Health Consortium organizations.

The next CNA training is scheduled for April - June 2008.

New online tools available for NWC students

Northwest Campus is offering students more academic support and services than ever before, including a new array of online tools.

"I'm excited to offer support services to students online in ways they're most comfortable with," said Kacey Miller, NWC Student Services coordinator.

These new online tools include:

Student Services Blog

Student advisors Kacey Miller (who serves Nome and the 10 northern villages) and Reese Huhta (serving the five southern villages) now share important news for Northwest Campus students through a web log, which can be viewed

at nwcstudents.blogspot.com. Students are encouraged to submit posts and participate throughout the year.

NWC GOLD Process

Distance courses aren't offered just by phone or mail these days. Blackboard and Elluminate Live are two programs the University of Alaska Fairbanks uses to offer courses on the Internet. Student receive web-mail accounts that are key to online course participation.

To support these programs, students can get step-by-step instruction by going through the new NWC GOLD (Guide and Orientation for Learning at a Distance) Process!

Access the NWC GOLD Process

from a link in the right-hand column of the NWC Student Blog, or from the Northwest Campus web site (www.nwc.uaf.edu > for students > NWC GOLD).

Completing the NWC GOLD Process as soon as they register for an online course will help students ensure that they (and their computers) are prepared to get the most out of their first class session.

Live Online Academic Advising

Students who need help determining what courses to take or resolving other problems will now have live online access to Miller and Huhta. Days and hours of these online sessions will be posted on

the NWC Student Blog.

Live Online Math Tutoring

Northwest Campus will provide live math tutoring, via Elluminate Live, for math students who need help with course work. Find out more by contacting Miller.

Give these resources a try! For more information, contact:

■ Kacey Miller, 443-8416 or 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8416. Email: nkmlm@uaf.edu.

■ Reese Huhta, 624-3157 or 1-800-478-2202. Email: nrsh@uaf.edu.

■ Bob Metcalf, 443-8403 or 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8403. Email: bob.metcalf@uaf.edu.

Student Tip: Pay online!

Have you registered for courses with Northwest Campus or any branch of the University of Alaska?

Now you can quickly and easily check your account balance and pay online—by credit card or from your checking or savings account—without stopping at campus or phoning in. Here's how!

Step 1: In your Internet browser, go to uaonline.alaska.edu.

Step 2: Log in by clicking on the link at the top of the list. You will then need to type in your user I.D. (your UAF student I.D. number) and PIN (personal identity number). If you need help with this, contact Northwest Campus (call 443-8403, or 1-800-478-2202, extension 8403, or email nwc.info@uaf.edu).



Step 3: Click on "Student Services, Financial Aid & Account Information," at the top of the list.

Step 4: Click on "Student Account," near the bottom of the page.



Step 5: To make a payment, click the first option, "Account Detail for Term (Semester)/Pay Term Balance." Click on "check" or "credit card." Then, from the drop-down menu, select what semester you're paying for. The total due will appear.

Step 6: Provide your payment information. It is a secure transaction and will be posted immediately to your account.

This is just one of many resources available at UAOnline (uaonline.alaska.edu). Check it out!



Working on welding skills

Thanks to partnerships with Kawerak, Inc., and the Bering Strait School District, Northwest Campus is offering welding courses in Shishmaref. Shishmaref School teacher John Thoreson, a highly-skilled welder, taught a 2-credit Welding Fundamentals course to six high school students and six adults in the school shop during spring semester. A 1-credit version of the course will be offered this semester, to be followed by more advanced courses. Above, Warren Sinnok (left) confers with Thoreson on a snowmachine part repair.

Walk on the wild side with new scholarship

Do you like to hunt and fish? Do you love being out in the country? Do you enjoy flying and boating?

If so, Northwest Campus's High Latitude Range Management certificate program might be for you!

The program brings local experts and university faculty together to teach courses relevant to our region that help prepare students for entry-level jobs in natural resources.

Students learn hands-on techniques that agencies use to count and monitor plant and animal populations.

Students will also learn about the ecological concepts of sustained yield and how animal populations are managed in the north.

Full scholarships (tuition, books, materials, travel as needed to face-to-face training) are available for 10

Alaska Native students who would like to start this 31-credit certificate program! Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED.

Scholarship recipients can begin by taking required math or English courses. The program includes courses such as "Natural Resources Conservation and Policy" and "Natural History of Alaska."

For more information, you can:
■ Call Barb Oleson, NWC Student Services Program manager, at 443-8402 (or 800-478-2202, ext. 8402)

■ Call David Smith, NWC assistant professor of High Latitude Range Management, at 443-8421 (or 800-478-2202, ext. 8421)

■ Visit the Northwest Campus web site (www.nwc.uaf.edu) for details and to download the HLRM application form.

Unipkaaq Corner — “Ilusina”

By Grace Johnson, Nome/Wales

From “Eskimo Heritage Stories,” By Elders of the Bering Straits Region

Published by the Kavverak, Inc. Eskimo Heritage Program & Developed by Nome Public Schools Migrant Education Program

This is a story that my mother told me when I was a child. Many years ago a young man and woman from Militaqvik married. They had seven daughters. They loved their children dearly. Because he had no boys, the father took the two older girls hunting and fishing. He taught them everything he would have taught a son if he had one.

The mother taught the younger daughters household skills. She showed them how to sew with the ivory needles and sinew thread from animals.

The oldest girl in the family was an excellent hunter. The second daughter was a fine helper. The younger girls became expert at skinning, tanning, and sewing furs. They also learned which greens to pick, and how to process meat and fish.

In the winter the father hunted seals with the older girls. The other women stayed home tanning and sewing squirrel skins into parkas and other clothing. They used caribou tendons and made snares for ptarmigan and squirrels. The family spent quiet winter evenings in their sod home using a seal oil lamp for light. Sometimes dog team travelers stopped to visit. The family shared its food, stories, and friendship with them.

In the summer they were busy gathering food. Each of the girls had pack sacks. They carried lunch and a small tool called a “pick” in the pack sack. They used the pick to gather Eskimo potatoes. They also gathered willow leaves and other greens, filling their packs. At home they sorted the greens and cleaned them.

One day as the girls gathered potatoes the youngest daughter, Ilusina, grew tired of walking. She stopped to rest. Her sisters went on without her. As they walked over the hills, the full moon came into sight. It was very white at this time of the year. The sisters saw that Ilusina had fallen behind.

“Ilusina! Hurry up!” they called.

“She’s at it again,” they said. (Ilusina was known to be curious.)

Ilusina was chasing a little bird when all of a sudden she heard a loud sound. It was a “swishing” sound. The noise sounded like dry leaves blowing in a high wind. Ilusina turned. Not far away she saw a long

rope swinging through the air. Something was dangling on the end of the rope. It looked like a little pack sack. The swishing sound grew louder. Then Ilusina saw a pack sack drop. The rope pulled up quickly and was gone.

The girl was curious. She was also very frightened. She ran over to the pack sack just as she heard her sisters calling her again. She just had time to slip the little pack into her own pack when she heard them shout.

“Ilusina! WILL YOU PLEASE HURRY?”

Stumbling over the tundra, Ilusina caught up with them and they all hurried home. Their parents were happy to see them and all the food they gathered. They all went to bed and slept soundly. During the night Ilusina woke up. She had heard a sound.

“What is it?” It was coming from her back pack!

She went to the pile of roots and greens and dug around until she found the little pack sack that had fallen from the dangling rope. Inside it she saw a tiny baby boy! He was so small she could fit him into a tanned squirrel skin. He was hungry so she fed him some leftover duck broth. She held him until they both fell asleep.

In the morning everyone put things away and prepared food for breakfast. In those days there was no coffee or toast or cereal. They had no bacon, eggs, or pancakes. They cooked food that had been dried and stored. And they cooked outside. They used pots traded with Siberians.

Ilusina woke up. She finally showed her family the tiny baby. Everyone was so excited! The baby was so sweet. After a long talk they decided that Ilusina would care for the “man child.” He was named Atchikuk.

Ilusina made tiny skin clothes for the baby. She would rock him and sing songs until he fell asleep. The family was happy, but puzzled, by the child. But as time passed they came to accept the little boy as their own. The father taught Atchikuk all the things an Inupiat son should know.

In the spring the oldest girl married a young man from Wales. Within a year the next daughter also married. Both daughters had children. They often brought the children to visit their grandparents, aunts, and new uncle.

They noticed a strange thing, however. Atchikuk began to grow. He grew much faster than the other children. He looked like the other

children and he talked the same. But at times Atchikuk seemed quite different. Every once in a while he would leave the family and spend time on the tundra alone.

One winter the father died. The next winter the mother died. The unmarried daughters moved in with the oldest sister. Only Ilusina and Atchikuk remained in the family’s sod hut. Ilusina was puzzled by the boy’s quick growth. He also had an amazing memory. Whatever she said to him or taught him he remembered.

She told him stories of their family, how people had lived long ago. She told him about how they survived the harsh cold. She told him all about life.

Often Ilusina would see Atchikuk slip out of their hut at night. It was nearly always during a full moon. He would lift his head up to the moon. She watched as he looked far and wide. He stretched his arms to the sky and hummed a little tune she had never heard. She kept these things to herself.

One spring day Ilusina’s sister came to visit. She asked her to bring Atchikuk and come live with her family in their new home. Ilusina talked with Atchikuk about moving. They decided they would spend one last summer in the sod hut.

Time passed. Ilusina had become a very light sleeper. At the next full moon she heard Atchikuk leave the hut. She quietly followed him outside. Then she heard a sound. It was the “swishing” noise she had heard so many years before! She saw a long, dangling rope appear not far from their home. As she watched, Atchikuk turned and looked at Ilusina. She was the one who had cared for him these many years. He came to her.

“Will you come with me?” he asked. “I must go, but I want you with me.”

Without another thought Ilusina said, “Yes.”

Atchikuk caught her up in his arms and grabbed the rope. The rope was pulled upward, rapidly, toward the moon. Ilusina held on to Atchikuk. They were swept silently through time and space. Soon they were out of sight of the earth. Atchikuk held tightly to the rope. Within a few hours, they had arrived on the moon.

“Where are we?” Ilusina asked.

Atchikuk explained how there had been a time of fighting on the moon. For his safety he had been lowered to the earth. When the fighting was over they had sent the rope back. It had crossed the whole earth

looking for the long lost boy.

It was very cold on the moon. Great, large, round pits showed among the rocks and bare ground. No plants grew anywhere.

“You must hold my hand,” Atchikuk said. “Don’t take any food or anything else from anyone. My people live on the other side of the moon. Stay close to me while we travel.”

Ilusina took his hand and they began their journey. They traveled only at night. Daytime was too hot. In the dim twilight she could see large, black igloos here and there. No one was in sight. After several days of traveling they came to an open pit.

“We will rest here,” Atchikuk said. They slept in each other’s arms for warmth.

When they awoke they moved slowly for lack of food.

“Not much farther now,” he told her.

The last place they traveled through was frightening. Ilusina saw a large woman in a black parka come outside a black igloo. She carried a huge dish of hot food. Ilusina reached for it. But Atchikuk pulled her away. When she looked back she saw only a huge black spider! The woman was nowhere to be seen.

“Not long now. Please keep close to me,” Atchikuk said.

He saw how tired she was getting. In a few minutes they came to an even stranger place. They were on the underside of the moon. No human had ever been there.

“Come, be my wife,” Atchikuk smiled at Ilusina. “My family and friends are waiting for us.”

The place they came to was lovely! She saw igloo after igloo with happy people gathered about. They opened their arms to greet her. They prepared a huge feast for the wedding. They were home at last.

** Unipkaaq means “story, myth, or fable” in Inupiaq. We hope you enjoyed this story, which might be good to read to children or enjoy as a family! For more translations from English to Inupiaq, visit www.alaskool.org and click on “languages” for the on-line Inupiaq dictionary.*

Kawerak Employees of the Month

Eric Trigg was selected as Kawerak Employee of the Month for **December 2006**, nominated by Austin Ahmasuk, Subsistence Resources Program Director, **because:** He did an outstanding job managing the comprehensive harvest survey database and compiling the information for a unique Kawerak document that will become a strong advocacy tool for our region. The database will be the first of its kind for Kawerak. Kawerak and other non-profits usually contract out the harvest survey database. By doing this project, Kawerak will be able to have a much stronger role at the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Alaska Board of Game & Federal Subsistence Board; He did a great job in training the village staff surveyors.



December Employee of the Month
Eric Trigg

Dawn Salesky was selected as Kawerak Employee of the Month for January 2007, nominated by Melanie Edwards, Executive Vice President **because:** She went above and beyond her job duties in coordinating the Citgo fuel program; She developed vouchers for over 1400 households in our Region; She conducted teleconferences with the fuel vendors, developed instructions, and compiled the binders for the fuel vendors; She coordinated the reporting to AITC and completed the check requests to the vendors biweekly, ensuring that data was faxed in from the fuel vendors and that it was accurately entered into the AITC reporting form. Without all Dawn's hard work, Kawerak would not have been able to get the fuel assistance out to the villages.



January Employee of the Month Dawn
Salesky

Jessica Bowman was Kawerak Employee of the Month for February 2007, nominated by Eileen Norbert, Sr. Planner **because:** She wrote a grant for EHP, assisted with the State and Federal Issues packet, the Rasmuson Youth Survey project and a Domestic Violence grant for this month; She also worked on the new Kawerak Newsletter and was involved in the Weed and Seed planning initiative; She organized the joint Suicide Prevention group and continues to meet with them; She is courteous, willing to learn, friendly and very productive; She took the time to write thank you letters to everyone in the Villages who responded to our requests on the Youth Survey; She is always willing to help staff out who come to her for assistance; She has been a real asset to the Planning Department, especially this month; She is talented at working on multiple projects effectively and deserves the recognition for being such a hard worker.



February Employee of the Month
Jessica Bowman

All Kawerak Employees of the Month receive a shirt, a pen, a certificate, and a check for \$100! Kawerak employees can nominate their co-workers by using the "Employee of the Month Nomination Form" located on the Intranet.

Two Valued Kawerak Employees Retire

On May 23 Kawerak staff held a retirement party for **Mary Carter and JoAnn Kost**, two highly valued employees. The following is an excerpt from the going-away speech given by VP of the Education, Employment & Training Division, **Dawn Salesky:**

JoAnn and Mary, as much as everyone is happy for you to be starting a well-earned retirement, there is no doubt: there are many people who are also a little sad. You've made a lot of friends here, and they'll be sorry to see you go.

When it comes to the job we do, no matter what job that might be, I think most people feel the same way: you enjoy it more when you are working alongside good people.

And on that score alone, you both have made a huge contribution to Kawerak. Your friendly ways of working with people has made this job more enjoyable for everyone.

Mary, according to Master Kronos, you were hired on November 15, 1993 in the JTPA/JOBS program. I remember this because I started working at Kawerak in the Land Management Department in May of that year.

Mary, we all have all looked up to your wisdom and caring, yet straightforward, common-sense leadership. We appreciate all your work with countless pieces of paper and calculations, your hundreds of thousands of phone contacts on record, and especially your valuable GPRA reports.

But especially (joking aside), your dedication to this job. Even though it's been frustrating, you have always said that this job is enjoyable and

rewarding, and that is an inspiration for all of us to feel rewarded about the work we've done for the Region.

I also met JoAnn in 1993 when I used to work in Land Management Services. **JoAnn**, according to the Master (Kronos, that is), you have been working at Kawerak since June 6, 2002.

But according to ancient texts, you were actually Kawerak's very first employee as reflected in the BSNA minutes of April 7, 1972. This is also indicated in a summary of the history of Kawerak by Gary Longley that he compiled in 2003.

Actually I've heard someone say that they thought you had been working at Kawerak since 1972! Joann, I have always heard you say how much you love your job and how you enjoy working with everyone. Your happiness is contagious!

Mary and JoAnn, we will miss you all right, although I suspect that we're also all here because we're envious or we have to be on your good sides since someone will probably plead for you to come back in a few months like all the other so-called Kawerak "retirees" have done. Please accept the tokens of appreciation from Kawerak, and a card for each of you from the Kawerak staff.



Reindeer Update

From Kimberly Carter,
RHA Specialist

When traveling on the new Glacier Creek Road toward the Rock Creek Mine, please be cautious of reindeer grazing on the lands and occasionally crossing the road.

Please do not handle fawns, they may be abandoned by their mother.



KAWERAK FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VILLAGE REPORTS— MARCH 2007

Lucy Oquilluk-Mary's Igloo Traditional Council: We selected two new council members. We have been trying to plan our Kids & Adult night but the Fairbanks Catholic Diocese is asking us to get insurance for our building, equipment & employees, it may cost about \$7000.00. We sent a council member to Anchorage for the Board of Fisheries meeting and provided testimony on how it might affect our villages. We have one tribal member interested in working on a quarterly newsletter. There was a Kawerak Transportation meeting with both Teller IRA and MITC and our mayor sat in on the meeting. We need to and are starting to work on our communication skills between all entities. John Bioff came to Teller and had a work session with MITC and Teller IRA and we thought of ways we can work together better. The school had P/S/T conference and had a community spaghetti dinner so more parents and community members can be more involved with the school. Four students participated in the White Mountain ski meet. We are anxiously waiting for warm weather to go pike fishing!

Shirley Martin- Native Village of St. Michael: Doreen Lockwood, EPA/IGAP Coordinator, was on leave and her assistant, Roger Otten, Jr. filled her position temporarily and MaryJean Otten was a temporary hire as the EPA assistant during this time. They completed a budget revision and successfully applied for additional funding from EPA/IGAP for 2008. They also solicited for a consultant to meet the program goals. Jeffery Long has been very busy writing comprehensive plans for the 2007 summer clean up of Department of Defense (DoD) debris. The St. Michael IRA has signed another cooperative agreement with DoD to clear the WAMCATS (wires and metal poles) telegraph lines in and around our Corporation lands. Frank Myomick has been busy with the LRTP. Sean with Kawerak traveled to St. Michael where he met with council members to finalize the St. Michael LRTP. HIP is near completion for one family who has met all federal guidelines. Head Start Program has not used the facility since the last day of school for the Christmas break due to furnace problem, thus causing the water/sewer system to freeze in the IRA building. The St. Michael IRA Village Council has agreed with AmeriCorps to contract two positions. The Tribal Youth Program has four youth who met with Unity Foundation in January to plan an obesity and diabetes program in Washington D.C. Grant writer is currently applying for ANA, Kawerak Grant Writing funding, and OJP funds; Kawerak funded our grant writer for another six months.

Duane Lincoln- Chinik Eskimo Community: The CEC council would like to know if there is a recruiting process for VPSO's and if so it would be a good idea for Kawerak to put one into place in case there are outside applicants who want to know about the villages before applying; whether they be from within Alaska or not. Kawerak may want to get a hold of the city to see what they are going to be doing with the old clinic here in Golovin; possibility for housing. The CEC council did not have a chance to meet with Cliff Chambers when he was here to look at the VPSO building and to figure out what would need to be done in regards to remodeling it, so an update for the council would be appreciated. CEC wanted to know if it would be possible for the EET program to go into the villages and work with the graduating seniors/juniors or with any interested community members with scholarships or programs available to them. The CEC council would like Kawerak to follow up with the BSRHA on the reports of the retrofitted

homes here in Golovin. Are there any funding sources out there that CEC could apply for to help keep elders busy? It's been a rough winter with the passing of 3 of our community members. This year we have our biggest graduating class to date with 9 graduating. The volleyball team made it to state once again this year and placed 3rd. Both the boys and girls basketballs made it to Regional Tournament with the boys placing 2nd with only 5 players. With spring approaching our erosion control committee will begin working on the plans for erosion control here in Golovin. Kawerak hired Joyce Fagerstrom as our new TFC for Golovin and she started in November. Golovin was also fortunate to get help from the Citgo for fuel oil this winter, this could not have come at a better time for us since our oil prices have gone up and this was helpful for the homes in our community.

Gregory Toole- Native Village of Savoonga: Native Village of Savoonga had a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the plan of constructing a small boat harbor in Savoonga. The plan for the construction is underway in case the funding becomes available. The location of the harbor was selected on the east side of the village, across the river. We are planning for road maintenance this coming summer and still planning for construction of more roads out of the village. We were very thankful to receive the heating oil from Citgo, through Kawerak, the fuel helped our community a lot, and was appreciated. The construction of our new school should begin this summer and continue on to next year. The proposed finish is 2009. The construction of the new Headstart building is just about done. The preschoolers should be moving in sometime in May, if not, next school year. We are still waiting for the word on the construction of the new clinic, which is really needed here too, especially with a dental P.A. working here. We are very happy to have Tammy Gologergen as our Dental P.A., she is doing a wonderful job.

Luci Eningowuk- Native Village of Shishmaref: The Native Village of Shishmaref has re-instated the food bank recently and we are busy with that. There will be upcoming hearings with Don Young and Senator Stevens. We will continue our seawall with 800' of protection. We have a Raven AmeriCorp position for our community to serve a one-year term. Denali Commission did not come to Shishmaref- therefore our community facilities are not being replaced- because of Shishmaref's role to relocate. The washeteria needs repairs. We need a new clinic, because of growing population and demand. Our Tannery will be fixed this spring. Thank you to Bernie Richert for help with EDA in getting more money for training. We are combating problems. Shishmaref is requesting a half-time Tribal Coordinator assistant- our Tribal Coordinator is over worked.

Michael Thomas- King Island Native Community: King Island LEIDP update was started at our annual meeting in December. We are looking forward to the completion of this project so it can support our upcoming grant applications. King Island Long Range Transportation Plan update was approved February 24th. Kawerak Transportation Program will be working on a joint meeting of the four tribes located in Nome to discuss transportation plans. King Island is currently in the process of updating our membership ordinance and election ordinance with John Bioff. Also, we are working on a tribal governance ordinance (new ordinance) with John. We are planning on hosting an Anchorage Tribal membership meeting and will be

discussing tribal ordinances, conducting a membership drive, and issuing tribal ID's. Kawerak funded a grant writer position for King Island, Lisa Ellanna-Brandt.

Ellen Richard- Native Village of Wales: John Bioff, Kawerak General Counsel met with the Native Village of Wales Council for introduction to Juvenile Ordinance. Frank Kavairlook, Native Village of Koyuk Council member came along with him to get more information on the Ordinance. In the evening, we had a joint meeting with the City, Wales Native Corporation, AEC members, & Native Village of Wales to introduce what we are trying to do with this ordinance. In February, Bob Walsh with Senator Murkowski's office came up to have a joint meeting. His information received was brought back re: priorities. Our After School Activities; through ICWA, VBC, & AmeriCorp Birch employees continue to be held. They are taught how to respect one another, motor skills, baking, traditional values, etc. The Wales'ness Conference is set for April at the School Gym. The ICWA, VBC, & AmeriCorp Birch employees went to the School to prepare for the conference. Our theme is "Respect." The guests speakers are: Safety Bear, Kawerak EET (to educate our youth on Vocational or Educational advance opportunities.), Kari VanDelden (brain wave topics, and sleep deprivation), Elder Storytelling about Respect, Functions of Local Organizations, SAR on Outdoor Survival Skills, and NSHC Emergency Medical Services. Evening Activities will consist of Eskimo Dancing, Eskimo Games, and Potluck. Wales was granted 2 proposals from NSEDC. One was for Trail Staking and the other for a repeater system. The Wales Volunteer Fire Dept. was also granted a proposal. The Native Village of Wales welcomes the births of Naomi Marion Grace Oxereok, & Ethan Alfred Ongtowasruk. Congratulations Danitra Oxereok and Ed & Karen Ongtowasruk!! We are proud to announce that we enrolled 4 new members to the tribal enrollment. A recommendation for Kawerak staff to write a letter to Colby Carter regarding a recommendation of what the village need in regards to Hamm Radios and repeater equipment so villages aren't purchasing equipment that won't work.

Lincoln "Mike" Simon- Native Village of White Mountain: The City of White Mountain and the Native Village of White Mountain had their first meeting of the Joint Solid Waste Management meeting. The City and IRA Council will be the Solid Waste Joint Council. The Solid Waste Management Group will consist of two member from the IRA and two members from the City and two members from At Large (community members). The Solid Waste Management Plan is funded by our IGAP Program. The Tribe is addressing our current landfill. We would like to improve and/or find funding for a new landfill. The IRA Council and Kawerak IRR Roads staff are in the process of working on the IRR Long-range transportation plans. Thanks to Sean McKnight and staff for assisting us with the plans. We'd like to welcome and congratulate Lincoln M. Simon Sr. as our 2007 President and thank Ida E. Lincoln for serving as the past President for numerous years. We also have a contract with Kawerak for the Grant Writer Program. We thank James Fryer for hosting this workshop. Our High School Girls are BSSD basketball Champions and is currently in Anchorage for the State Tournament. Congratulations to our High School Girls.

Merlin Henry- Native Village of Koyuk: The grant application submitted to American Sea Foods for Elder Meal program cook/helper & meals was not ap-

proved- included the wages for the Elders Meal program cook/helper and meals for our Elders in the 2007 SNT funds. Koyuk IRA EPA IGAP application has been funded for another year- Ruth Otton is the IGAP Coordinator & Travis Dewey is the Assistant. Koyuk IRA returned funds to the NSHC Diabetes 2007 program per their request. Thanks to Kawerak for the After School program funding- we are able to keep the Teen Center open-limited time but the children enjoy the place. The Koyuk IRA Council & Koyuk City Council approved to reserve the Community Hall on Friday nights for Family nights- instead of Bingo for the adults! Thank you very much. The GOCODAN program is here in Koyuk- good to see them back here again. Koyuk Malemute Girls Basketball team came in 2nd and the Koyuk Malemute boys came in 3rd- congratulations to both teams! Penny Otton- daughter of David Jr. & Ruth Otton of Koyuk is currently in boot camp at the naval academy in Great Lakes— congratulations Penny! Fire Fighting: BLM refresher training and testing will take place in Koyuk in May: BLM informed Leo Charles Sr. that they would like 2 people from the Koyuk Crew to attend training for the helicopter crew during the fire fighting season- pretty good! Koyuk Covenant

Carolyn Ahkvaluk- Native Village of Diomede: Diomede fuel and kilowatt price was increased effective February 2007. Electrification upgrade project- the utilities will fly out the supplies to complete the project. They will contract a lineman to hook up the lines. ANTHC came out to Diomede and held a community meeting to discuss the water distribution project. Diomede School Principal reported that the students are at 50% of meeting the State standards. There are no students that are on the list to graduate this year. Diomede has not had a graduate since 2001. Kawerak Transportation and Corp of Engineers came and held a community meeting and discussed the long-range transportation plan for Diomede. They will add a total of 79 miles to Diomede land including the land at Lost River and add trails to the new housing that are being built this year. Diomede's Grant writer Frances Ozenna and Lahka Peacock from Kawerak worked together to submit a language grant proposal to ANA. Frances Ozenna briefly talked about the process and rough draft of the budget. The Tribal Council selected the title "Inalik Inupiaq Language Preservation Project" and the goal is to orally revive our Inupiaq language and preserve our dialect to ensure survival. The tribe prefers to have the application filed by paper and not filed electronically. The City of Diomede hired a Village Safety Aid to teach fire safety and prevention, water and boat safety, curfew, enforce animal control, instruct search & rescue procedures, teach injury prevention. The funds were received from a grant awarded by the State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety with the help of Gina Appolloni, VSPO Director. NSEDC came out to Diomede and had their fisherman's fair. The children of Diomede had a blast. SEDC CEO Eugene Asicksik and Staff were wonderful and so kind. Diomede City Council was awarded \$147,000.00 for a burn box by NSEDC, and also \$120,000.00 for a new dozer. These funds were originally planned for a boat ramp. But with a boat ramp being impossible because of frequent beach erosion, they allowed Diomede to purchase a dozer in its place. Diomede has the rec hall open for children to do positive things. They children do artwork, learn the computer and play board games. BSHRA's housing project still underway. Two homes are almost complete. Thank you BSHRA. The airport was completed and the first plane landed on March 1. For the first semester of school, over

Kawerak, Inc.

KAWERAK FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VILLAGE REPORTS Continued from page 12

60% of the students made more than half a year's growth showing an accelerated rate of learning. Terra Nova testing in February had 100% attendance. Future Teacher Club continues to be active and they host a pancake breakfast for Elders and the community about once a month. Ski team practice has begun and the students are gearing up for a trip to another village to compete. Older students will be selected to attend Inupiat Days in Shishmaref through an essay contest. BSHRA and the commissioner from H.U.D. plan to come to Diomed and inspect the new homes and hold a meeting with homeowners and the public.

Kernit Ivanoff, Sr. - Native Village of Unalakleet: Gabion Repair (storm damaged) scheduled to begin first part of April and completed after two to three weeks. Extension to the Community building was funded by an NSHDC grant, to be completed middle of summer. Paving of Unalakleet airport (State of Alaska) and the city streets (Kawerak funded project contracted out) scheduled for summer. Ten homes are renovated and crews are winding down with completion. Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op is continuing with a feasibility study of winds for a wind generation system, funded in part by the Alaska Energy Authority. The next feasibility study will be coordinated with the Native Village of Unalakleet for hydrological electric energy. The clean up of Egg Island by the US Coast Guard is scheduled for June. Continuing surveys and coordination with USAF, US Army Corp of Engineers, Alaska Dept of Conservation, Native Village of Unalakleet and Unalakleet Native Corporation continue for the clean up of formerly used defense sites. The Watershed Coordinator is awaiting funding from the BIA for the summer project of water and soil sampling. NSEDC funded the North River counting tower. The Grant writer continues her efforts to obtain funding for an Elders Assisted Living facility. The project began after witnessing the huge waiting list for the Quynna Care Center. To fulfill the grant requirements, the Native Village of Unalakleet Council developed a Mission and Vision statement at a recent workshop in Unalakleet. The Native Village of Unalakleet council has been involved in trying to amend a ADF&G Chinook Management Plan for the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Rivers. They were successful in eliminating a proposed permit system for subsistence fishing, but were unsuccessful in changing the fishing periods proposed by the ADFG. A community meeting is planned with the ADFG to present changes to the subsistence fishing. A Vista Energy coordinator has been hired to help with funding and coordinating energy plans for Unalakleet, including wind and hydrological energy. Unalakleet continues to help recruit for a long vacant VPSO position.

Clifford Johnson- Nome Eskimo Community: NEC held a reorganization. NEC funded the elementary school breakfast program. We are providing an after-school program, held dances for kids, Nome Youth is engaged, and we also have an after-school tutor program. We came to an agreement with the City of Nome on a 16-year back tax issue. City of Nome forgave back taxes. NEC wanted and got an agreement for services. NEC doesn't have an MOA with the City of Nome and Corp of Engineers regarding the artifacts found at the sandspit. We will write a letter requesting the artifacts out right. NEC tribal enrollment continues to grow with 2200 members. A request for Kawerak staff to send out more information to the IRA Councils for them to better understand Kawerak's LLC. Clifford requested a list of names of fire chiefs from the villages who will be attending the regional conference. I have a request for Kawerak staff, to contact the Bering Strait School District and the cities about Fire Truck fitting equipment in each village. The NEC office is open to village residents who are in town. Visitors can stop by our office, have coffee or drop your bags off, etc.

Allen Atchak- Stebbins Community Association: Housing in Stebbins is almost complete. AVEC link between St. Michael and Stebbins is being worked on. The airport in Stebbins will be made longer this summer. Water & sewer and the water reservoir will be worked on as well. Stebbins is rationing heating oil and gas until more is received - hopefully this spring. People are allowed to purchase 10 gallons of heating oil and 5 gallons of gas per day.

Marin Sooktoyak- Native Village of Shaktoolik: The Annual meeting is scheduled for April 10th. Three seats are up for election. Our Tribal Coordinator resigned. The President resigned. IGAP Director was hired and attended training and is very busy. Native Village of Shaktoolik will recommend an applicant for the Tribal Coordinator position. The basketball team for Shaktoolik school traveled to Elim for the Regional Basketball tournament- they took home the championship trophy and placed 4th and took home the sportsmanship award at the state tournament. Lance Mackey stopped for 8 minutes in Shaktoolik on his route of

the Iditarod. We are still working on the clinic and multi-purpose facility and the evacuation road.

Steve Longley- Native Village of Council: I attended the AVI Conference February 13th & 14th in Anchorage. If someone wants to start up a small business- this is the place to go. There were workshops on how to finance small business, accounting, and taxes. There were 9 seats up for re-election all vacancies were filled. Still looking for Code Red applications. Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak, Sitnasuak, Elim and Council are members of AVI in the Bering Strait Region. The cost for becoming a member is \$50.00 per year. Native Village of Council's Annual Meeting is July 8th. There are two vacancies on the council. For the past 35 years we used the proxy system, we are going to try using the balloting system. John Bioff helped with the election ordinance.

Gilbert Tochtou- Native Village of Brevig Mission: Ten BSRHA units are near completion some time in April. The multi-purpose facility's put on hold until May to add additional 20'x38' with Rasmuson funds funded to the tribe. The Tank Farm is on schedule for this spring also. Suicide Prevention is on hold because the State was saying that the prevention coordinator was not submitting quarterly reports, but we submitted proof of reports and submitted to them. So we are appealing their decision and still have not heard from the State concerning this program. Our Youth Group is still active with their Eskimo Dance practices. EPA program is put on hold until September, when funds are available to continue this program. In the meantime, we are housing our grant writer in the EPA office since we are currently renting the office space from the City of Brevig Mission. Citgo- Member of Native Village of Brevig Mission, community members have applauded the staff of Kawerak for participating in this program and encourage staff members of Kawerak to continue in this program that was very beneficial to tribal community members. The Traditional Council is looking at applying for the ICDBG grant to expand the meeting/gathering area of the new facility. Transportation project will start in summer of 2008. Our next challenge jointly with the City of Brevig Mission, Brevig Mission Native Corp., Brevig Mission Traditional Council. EAC is to push NSHC to build our new clinic, or to take the lead in approaching funding agencies to fund the clinic for construction. Currently, our tribal coordinator is trying to get the EAC interested in tribal courts. Since last school year our attendance has improved because two years ago the joint council funded a truancy officer to get our kids to attend school daily. Since then, it's made a big difference with attendance. Native Village of Brevig Mission did not return the grant monies that NSHC had awarded as a grant because we felt that it was awarded to us as a grant. Port Clarence Bay and Grantley Harbor Bay has been approved by Board of Fisheries Game Board to open both bays for commercial fishing for red salmon, regardless of Brevig Mission and Teller trying to oppose this proposal by NSEDC. Four permits were issued and applied for by both communities. The Traditional Council is looking at retirement benefits for our employees to give them an opportunity to work for the tribe without quitting and going thru the hiring procedures for loss of employees. Caroline Olanna passed on as an elder. Another well-respected elder, Molly Seetot passed on as our elder. Currently, Rita Olanna, who is Molly Seetot's daughter, was seated as an EAC member.

Merlin Koonooka- Elder Rep: We had a brief opportunity to do whaling this winter. We lost one and missed one in February. There was ice build up around the village -we had it cleared with a dozer but the next day it was back again.

Jacob Ahwinnana- Elder Rep: haven't been to meetings for some time. Went to KINC EAC meeting on March 13, 2007 I sure enjoyed that. Elders showed knowledge and the whole meeting was in Inupiat. It is uplifting - you don't hear our language much anymore. It is a sad thing to see the language dying out. It would be nice to see people pass the language onto children and grandchildren.

Jenny Lee- Teller Traditional Council: James Pushruk was selected by the Teller Traditional Council to attend the Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage to testify against the proposed commercial fishing for the Port Clarence area. The proposal was approved even with the testimony against the proposal from Teller, Mary's Igloo and Brevig Mission Traditional Councils. Since the meeting in Anchorage, NSEDC held a public meeting in Teller regarding the commercial fishing and how to apply for grants for community members that are interested in commercial fishing.

We were approved a \$13,137.99 grant from NSEDC to purchase two (2) snowmobiles and one (1) sled to be used

for Search & Rescue and emergencies for Clinic staff. Signs are being posted around town to start up a volunteer Search & Rescue group. A big thanks to Mary's Igloo, Brevig Mission Traditional Councils, City of Teller, Teller & Brevig Clinic staff, and Brevig Mission Search & Rescue for their letters of support for this grant. The council received a letter from NSHC- VIIS stated that they are planning on writing a grant for vehicles for the clinics. The Teller Traditional Council decided that we would have funds to match their grant for a Patient Transport Vehicle and a 4-wheeler. John Bioff, Kawerak Staff Attorney, was in Teller to work with the Teller Traditional Council. On the first day the Council went over our Personnel Policy & Procedure manual. The evening session was held with Mary's Igloo to brainstorm ways for the two Councils to work together. The second day of the workshop was going over Council Members Roles & Responsibilities. The council supported the school in purchasing new basketball jerseys for both groups. The Teller Traditional Council and Bingo have been donating funds for the upcoming Community Easter Egg hunt that will be hosted by the Teller Activities Committee. The Traditional council and bingo will also be donating funds for the upcoming Teller's Kawerak Head Start graduation.

Rosemary Tookoyak- Native Village of Solomon: Our Annual meeting will be held in June. We are looking at doing the youth camp again this summer at Solomon. We've had no Tribal Coordinator for two months now, we are re-advertising the position. We are also looking at getting Solomon back as an Iditarod checkpoint again.

Eddie Ungott- Native Village of Gambell: We had hired two new employees this year. Branson Tungiyang-New General Manager and Jennifer Apatiki- New Financial Officer. We also hired a new Grant Writer- Eric Apatiki, a Tribal Enrollment Officer, Idele Desdier. We met with IRR, Sean McNight to accept Evacuation Road for planning. Our Nalemp Project is still going. Our P.E. Manager had conducted HAZWOPER refresh course. The school had planned activity Yupik Days on March 29, 30, 2007.

Kathy Johnson- NSHC Rep: The NSHC Board of Directors held their full board meeting in January, the primary focus of the meeting was the fiscal health of the organization and how to move forward with the operations and maintain a balanced budget. During the board meeting we set our strategic plan for the Board and administration and reviewed the division accomplishments from last year. We have moved forward on the planning of the new hospital and the geotechnical work was completed at the new site during the first two weeks of March. We currently have posted a project manager position for the new hospital and would appreciate any referrals for locally based residents that would be qualified and interested. Some of the staffing changes that recently have occurred have provided NSHC administrative staff the opportunity to temporarily invest its time and resources directly in program management. We have opted not to fill the Village Health Services Director position and Carol Piscoyn, Vice President of Community Health Services will be providing direct program oversight. A similar decision was made with the Behavioral Health Services, where we have opted to modify the supervision structure and Melissa Boeckmann, Assistant Vice President of Community Health Services is providing direct program oversight. We are continuing to evaluate our current services and structure to meet efficiency demands and finance limitations. We have developed our State and Federal priorities and recently participated with your agency in bringing our needs to our congressional delegates.

Robert Keith- Native Village of Elim: Native Village of Elim is requesting two National Guard buildings be turned over to the Elim IRA. We are going through the bureaucratic process in doing this. We had renovated the old church for use as the Boys and Girls Club with a computer lab. Our HIP program has an employee and had written up a HIP grant. Elim Native Corporation got a 93-638 contract. BLM drafted the proposal- Elim signed the proposal, approved, signed and hired a subcontractor. They will be surveying the returned land. They met with the Boys and Girls Club, Native Village of Elim is donating the building and electricity. The Boys and Girls Club will provide services. We received money from NSEDC to put together an alcohol and drug conference.

Former Kawerak EET Scholarship Recipient Now Curator of Oregon Museum

Jensen Arctic Museum in Monmouth, Oregon (20 minutes west of Salem) is the only museum on the west coast that is dedicated wholly to the arctic culture. And the curator for the Jensen Arctic Museum is Roben Jack Larrison, a Nome Native and former recipient of an education scholarship through Kawerak's Education, Employment & Training Division.

Recently Larrison was highlighted in a news article in the Polk County Itemizer-Observer (an Oregon publication covering Monmouth, Dallas, Independence and Falls City in Oregon state). The article speaks about Larrison's background growing up in the Norton Sound region of Alaska.

"Walking through the Jensen Arctic Museum," says writer Craig Coleman, "sometimes makes Roben Jack Larrison long for the place she grew up."

"Many of the animals on display in the wildlife exhibit—except for the wolves—could be seen crossing the highway a few miles outside of her hometown of Nome, Alaska. The indigenous arctic peoples depicted on a mural in the museum passed through or lived in her community."

The article goes on to quote Larrison, as she states, "one thing that I miss, my favorite bite of food is a good piece of dried seal meat, soaked in seal oil and served with fresh greens."

Roben attended the University of Alaska in Sitka for her Associates Degree, and then graduated from Western Oregon University. "I was interested in land and culture and preservation and wanted to get an education that would help me learn about that," Larrison said. "My emphasis was community involvement."

She was hired as museum curator after volunteering at the museum for the past few years. She's responsible for managing the museum collection, overseeing work-study students and local residents who volunteer their time there, and scheduling education and programming.

According to the article, Larrison said the benefits of her position make up for any homesickness for the Bering Strait Region.

"After working here for awhile," she states, "I've come to find that this is just another form of land and cultural preservation. I get to learn

more about Arctic cultures and teach people about them. It's a wonderful opportunity to share that."

Larrison was raised by her mother and father in Nome. The Jensen Arctic museum is actually named after the late adventurer and educator Paul H. Jensen, who worked with teachers to develop bilingual and Yupi'k and Inupiat language materials for elementary students. He also developed and conducted a cultural exchange program for Alaska Native students to visit Oregon.

In the article Larrison says that her heritage and background figure largely into her work.

"Without it, I would have nothing to say," she said. "It would be difficult for somebody to really learn about Arctic culture...not only from books but actually having a chance to embed themselves into the culture."

Larrison's story is an inspiring one, and one that details the success that individuals can achieve by following their vision. It is especially

enlightening and admirable that Larrison was able to focus her occupation around her heritage, and exemplify the values and culture of the Bering Strait Region, where she was raised.

For a copy of the article, you can contact the Polk County Itemizer-Observer (www.polkio.com). For more information about the Kawerak EET program scholarships and educational opportunities, contact EET Vice President Dawn Salesky, at 443-4354 or email her at eet.vp@kawerak.org.

Permission to summarize the original article was provided by Marc Falconer, Editor of the Polk County Itemizer-Observer.



Above: A photograph of Jensen Arctic Museum's main display room in Monmouth, Oregon.

CFS ICWA Training *Continued from front page.*

Teams and provide basic ICWA training for all involved. Many of our ICWA staff feel as if they are addressing Child Protection issues alone. With the tribal reps in attendance, we hope to give ICWA workers another voice within their tribal councils," explained CFS Program Director, Joe Jennetten.

CFS supervisor Lance Cannon said, "It was a challenging week but one that will stand out in my professional career. Joe and I want to especially thank our Nome CFS staff—Ann Andrews, Patti Lillie, Trisha Gray, and Alice Fitka for their endless work and preparation for the successful training and NRRT event. They really stepped up to the plate."

On May 5, following the three-day training, the CFS Department and the Office of Children's ser-

vices held a Native Rural Recruitment Team (NRRT) community meeting at the Mini-Convention Center.



Right: Joyce Fagerstrom and Dolly Kugzruk take notes at Kawerak's recent ICWA training at the Aurora Inn.



Left: ICWA employees (from right) Phillip Brown, Patricia Martin, Diane Thompson and James Fryer watch a PowerPoint presentation by NICWA at the Aurora Inn.

Regional Wellness Forum Meets in Unalakleet in April

This April the Regional Wellness Forum (RWF) held it's quarterly meeting in the Native Village of Unalakleet. Attendees were RWF members including Chairperson Berda Wilson and Co-Chair Kirbi Fullwood, Norton Sound Health Corporation representative Helen Pootoogooluk, Kawerak President Loretta Bullard, Nome Youth Facility Director Bob Froehle, BSSD representative Ted VanBronkhorst, NSHC RWF representatives Kathy Johnson from Unalakleet and Simon Bekoalok from Shaktoolik, and NSEDC representative Paul Ivanoff. Several other community representatives attended, and the meeting was open for all Unalakleet residents to attend.

Part of the meeting was to discuss ways to incorporate "wellness" strategies into the school curriculum for the BSSD. To address this issue, Forum members were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet with some local Unalakleet youth from a course taught by Nita Towarak.

Ms. Towarak brought her students to talk with Forum members and meeting attendees about their activities, and what they would like to see in the schools as a wellness initiative. Plans for follow-up with students and other BSSD staff were mentioned for future RWF activities. The student participation was an exciting and inspiring addition to the meeting.

The Native Village of Unalakleet Tribal Council hosted the RWF meet-

ing, and were immensely generous in their gracious gifts and participation. Kathy Johnson, IRA President, presented the Forum attendees with special, hand-made gifts and words of inspiration and thanks. Unalakleet Elder Irene Katchatag read the description of the gifts and thank-you's in her Native Inupiaq dialect.

Following the meeting, the Native Village of Unalakleet hosted a community potluck which was well attended and enjoyed by those present, not only because of the delicious array of food but several local musicians from Unalakleet entertained the diners as well. "Unalakleet really gets out the welcome mat and knows how to put on a feast," commented RWF Chair Berda Wilson via e-mail. Future RWF meetings are planned beginning in the Fall of 2007.

For information on the Regional Wellness Forum or future meeting dates, please contact RWF Co-Chair and Kawerak Wellness Coordinator, Kirbi Fullwood at 443-4325 or wellness@kawerak.org.



Above: Regional Wellness Forum Members at the meeting in Unalakleet go over the agenda.



Above: Aerial view of the Native Village of Unalakleet, courtesy of the Unalakleet IRA Tribal home page on www.kawerak.org.



Above: Unalakleet Elder Irene Katchataq translates into Inupiaq while RWF Chair Berda Wilson and Elder Representative Jacob Ahwinona look on.



Above: NSHC CAMP Coordinator Ranhia Parker, and RWF Co-Chair Kirbi Fullwood display their hand-made sewing kits, a gift from the Native Village of Unalakleet.



Above: NVU IRA President Kathy Johnson, RWF member Dorcas Bloom, and Village supervisor instructor Tia Wilson prepare some muktuk in the kitchen for the evening's potluck.



Above: RWF Chair Berda Wilson speaks to youth from Nita Towarak's Junior High class in Unalakleet.



Above: View of Unalakleet river, courtesy of the Staff Gallery on the Kawerak Intranet.

Still Supporting Our Troops!

In our last issue we listed the names of troops overseas who are originally from the Bering Strait Region. Unfortunately, we missed a few, but we are happy to list those we missed in this issue and thank them for their loyalty and service to those of us here at home. If anyone else has a friend or loved one overseas they would like to add, please feel free to let us know! Call Kawerak (443-5321) and we will be happy to continue to distribute good wishes to all those serving in other countries.

SSG Edward Soolook ACO 3-297 INF APO - AE 09317	SPC Joseph M. Simon Alpha C/O 3/297 th 2 PLT APO AE 09317
Richard Komok 3/297 th Infantry 1A Company 2 nd PLT APE AE 09317	Ernest P. Tocktoo 3-297 th A- Co. APO AD 09317
SGT Owen Nowpakahok A Company 3/297 th Infantry APO AE 09317	Jonathan Weyiouanna 3-297 th A- Co APO AE 09317
SFC Bekoalok, Paul 3-297 th Infantry A-CO APO AE 09317	Anderson, Justin TF c/1 -32IN FOB ABAD APO AE 09354
PFC Olanna, Darin W. ACO 3 297 th 2 nd PLT APO AE 09317	PFC Paniataaq, Thomas R. MCS CO PSC 451 FPO AE 09A34-2800
SGT Penetac, Sean R A CO 3-297 INF NAVISTAR APO AE 09319	PFC Olanna, Thomas Alpha Co 3/297 th Inf. APO AE 09317
Dempsey Woods SR A Co. 3 / 297th inf. Navistar APO AE 09317	Green, Stacy A CO 3-297 th Infantry Camp Navistar Kuwait APO-AE 09317
Cragle, James ACO 3 297 th INF. APO-AE 09317	Thor Noongwook A CO 3/297 Infantry First Platoon APO AE 09317
Auraura Bahr Unit 3E (Seabees) APO AE 98354	PFC Dick Kugzruk A CO 3-297 th INF APO -AE 09317
PFC Reuben W. Olanna A CO 3-297 th INF APO-AE 09317	

Uqaaqtuaq News
Kawerak, Inc.
PO BOX 948
Nome, AK 99762

U-News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus and Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority. Articles, photos and announcements can be sent to planner@kawerak.org or call (907)443-4345.

“Uvlaakun suli” translated in the Inupiaq language means: *More tomorrow!*
Quyanna.

2007 Bering Strait Regional Conference

We are pleased to announce the upcoming **2007 Bering Strait Regional Conference!** Our theme is *“Building On Our Strengths”* and will be held at the Nome Recreation Center, September 25-27, 2007. The conference brings communities members from the Bering Strait Region together to celebrate traditional cultural values and learn modern techniques. The conference workshops include; economic development, community development, wellness and cultural knowledge.

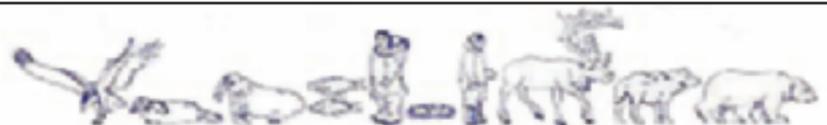
In addition to the variety of keynote speakers, there will be 18 workshops. Some of the workshops that will focus on cultural knowledge include: fishnet and ulu making, how to make fry bread, a Native dance class and a look at the Anchorage Museum’s collection of unidentified photos and objects from the Bering Straits Region.

Simultaneously, the Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority will hold an Indian Housing Plan Session for IRA presidents that will take place each afternoon at Old St. Joe’s from 1:30pm-5:00pm. For more information please contact Meredith Ahmasuk at 907.443.5256.

In conjunction with the Regional Conference, Kawerak’s Community Planning & Development program and the Bering Strait Development Council (ARDOR) will host a two-day Energy Summit. It is open to the public and will be held at the Pioneer Hall on September 26 & 27, 9am – 5pm. If you have questions or plan to attend, please contact Barb Nickels at 907.443.4248.



For more information about the 2007 Bering Strait Regional Conference, please go to kawerak.org to pre-register, view the draft agenda and to nominate a special Elder, youth, parent or teacher for an award that will be presented at the conference. For more information please contact Kawerak’s Regional Conference Coordinator, **Anahma Saito** at 907.443.4341 or email her at asaito@kawerak.org



“Building on the Inherent Strength of Our Cultural Values, We Shall Assist Our Tribes to Take Control of Their Future.”

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak is increasing training and technical assistance services to tribes.

Kawerak Divisions are:
Community Services
Employment, Education & Training;
Children and Family Services; and
Natural Resources.

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF:

- BREVIG MISSION
- COUNCIL
- DIOMEDE
- ELIM
- GAMBELL
- GOLOVIN
- KING ISLAND
- KOYUK
- MARY’S IGLOO
- NOME
- SAVOONGA
- SHAKTOOLIK
- SHISHMAREF
- SOLOMON
- STEBBINS
- ST. MICHAEL
- TELLER
- UNALAKLEET
- WALES