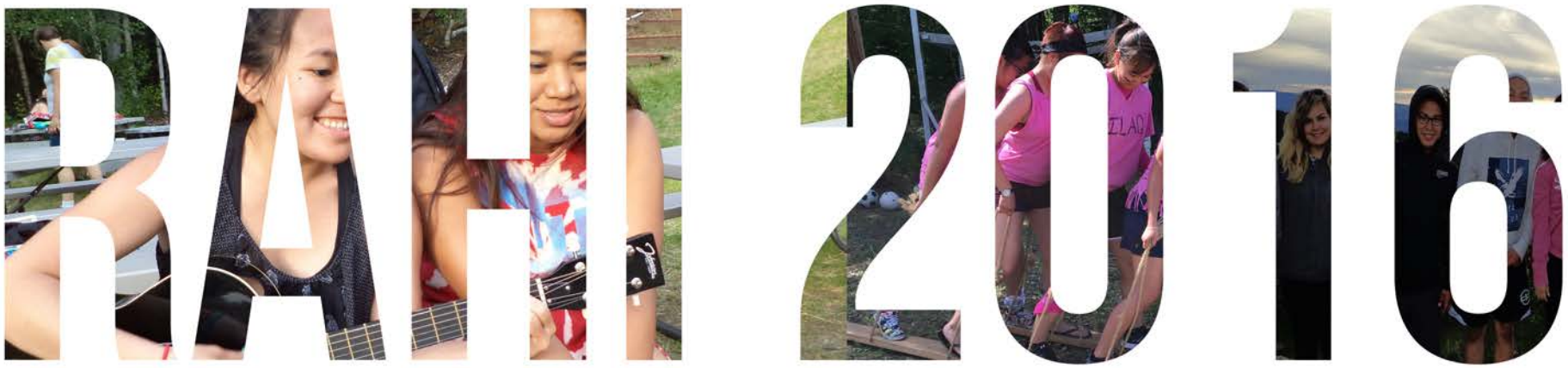

RAHI 2016

Yearbook

CONGRATULATIONS, RAHI 2016

by Denise Wartes

DENISE WARTES
RAHI PROGRAM MANAGER

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

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Rural Alaska Honors Institute honored the accomplishments of 68 RAHI students at a graduation ceremony in UAF's Schaible Auditorium with a public reception immediately following.

RAHI alumna January Scott (Kake, 1996) was selected as the graduation's keynote speaker. She served as the residence hall director for RAHI for a decade. She graduated from Reed College with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Scott also earned a master's degree in secondary education and teaching from the University of Alaska Southeast. Scott is the project director for Take Wing Program for the Alaska Humanities Forum in Anchorage.

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

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

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

Congratulations to the RAHI 2016 students on a job well done!

DREAM IT. PLAN IT. DO IT. *by Greg Owens*

I hope you have internalized this summer's RAHI motto. The research is pretty clear: those who devise their future path and then pursue it, are the ones who get where they wish to go.

As you leave the program, I want you to reflect on what you have been through this summer. We intentionally attempt to stretch you, maybe even bump you out of your comfort zone, so when this happens to you at college, you are not overwhelmed by the moment. The Angel Rocks hike, midterm exams, and final projects – all of these allow you to see how you react to new challenges. If you weren't pleased with how you did, learn from the experience and make a plan on how to improve the outcome next time. Once you are in the "Do it" phase, self-assessment is critical. On a regular basis, you should assess, adjust, and act to improve your outcomes.

In their recently published book, *Becoming Brilliant: What Science Tells us About Raising Successful Children*, authors Roberta Michnick and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek present a list of 21st-century skills that will be necessary for success in a quickly changing world. They call them the six C's: collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation, and confidence. While schools currently spend most of their time working on content, there are other seminal qualities, starting with collaboration. This ranges from impulse control to appreciating diversity. Next comes communication, or your ability to share and receive ideas through active listening. After watching your thumbs flying across the screen of your cell phones this summer, sharing your thoughts may be one of your strengths. Content, and tinkering with content through critical thinking and creative innovation are the exciting steps that give you a unique contribution. Finally, none of this can be accomplished without confidence. If you haven't got the chops to take risks and endure failure, your great ideas reside only with you.

A student asked me this summer for advice about how to make a decision about a future career. To me it's simple: find your passion and pursue it. Then prepare to put in the thousands of hours to become an expert in your chosen area. The world always has room for a passionate expert.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is watching you grow and pursuing your dreams. Don't be shy about checking in and giving me updates – it always makes me smile to think that RAHI may have had a small part in your development.

Enjoy your journey of self-discovery.

All the best,

Greg Owens
Academic Coordinator for RAHI

BEST OF RAHI - CLASS OF 2016

BEST LAUGH:	*Bradley L.*
BEST DANCE MOVES:	*Tandy V.*
BEST COOK:	*Sarah B.*
ALWAYS TALKING TO THEMSELVES:	*Morgan W.*
MOST CAPABLE OF SLEEPING ANYWHERE:	*Logan H.*
MOST LIKELY TO BE WEARING MAKE-UP:	*Jesslyn W.*
MOST LIKELY TO BECOME FAMOUS:	*Micah S.*
MOST LIKELY TO GET LOST IN NYC:	*Aurora H.*

RAHI STAFF 2016

From the back: Larry Duffy, Kjersti McElwee, Jim McDermott, Greg Owens, Sheila Evan, Caity Tozier, Baxter Bond, Francis Nicholai, Brianna Kirk, Tiana Elkins, Aurora Hoefferle, Nicole Misarti, Isabella Booth, Tim Murphrey, Holly McKinney, Howard Maxwell, Eran Eads, Jeremy Haire, Hannah Barkey, Ricky Lind, Paulette Davis, Sean McGee, Natalie Taylor, Alex Thornton, Samuel McElwee, Denise Wartes, Sarah Swartz, Tyson Rinio, Ralph Elook, and Yorise Yakunin.

Denise Wartes

PROGRAM MANAGER

Greg Owens

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Hannah Barkey
NENANA

From the deep dark jungles of Peru to the arid deserts of Abu Dhabi, Hannah's versatile background brings an international perspective to RAHI. Hannah moved to Alaska two years ago into a chicken coop and has spent the past two summers working for RAHI in the dorms and as a pretzel (yoga teacher). Her salty personality can only be matched by her amazing ability to drink coffee. Namaste!

Isabella Booth
METLAKATLA

I obtained my Pikachu during my summer at RAHI. Since then, he's been my companion nearly everywhere I go.
I'm from Southeast Alaska, love rain and adventures with my umbrella. I'm pursuing Special Education and wish to work rurally with Middle to High School ages.

Paulette Davis
KAKE

Originally from Oregon, I moved to Kake in southeast Alaska in 1979. It became my home for 20 years, and I still consider it so. Kake has several RAHI alumni which increased my interest in working for this program. I'm a retired teacher who has always supported post secondary education. Best of luck to all this years RAHI students!

Eran E. Eads
WHITESTONE

Eran was raised in a commune and escaped to RAHI. Everything about him can be explained by his status as a misunderstood poet. He is in charge of all the logistics at RAHI and likes commandeering people to help him go shopping and serving watermelon.

Ralph Elook
BUCKLAND

Ralph is a graduate of Buckland High School and the University of Alaska Fairbanks; he currently holds a Bachelor's Degree in English, is Dallas Cowboys fan, and NYO Coach. Ralph is a counselor at Anchorage's Service High School, who values culture, tradition, and family.

Sheila Evan
GOODNEWS BAY

Sheila Evan is from a small village named Goodnews Bay, Alaska. She lived there her whole life till she graduated from high school. She then attended RAHI in 2012, and then started her college career at the University of Alaska Fairbanks right after RAHI. She has one year left before graduating with her Elementary Education bachelors degree.

Jeremy Haire

KĀNE'OHE, HAWAII / NENANA

Jeremy is a native of Boston, Massachusetts who was raised in Kane'ohe, Hawaii and currently resides in Nenana, Alaska. Some may call him a jolly giant, others may call him a facetious troll. Either way, he's quick with a smile and loves seeing others succeed, especially when it comes to the SRC.

Aurora Hoefferle

DILLINGHAM

Aurora Hoefferle was born and raised in Dillingham, Alaska, and is currently attending the University of Alaska, Anchorage for a BS in Natural Sciences with a minor in Theatre. Her ultimate goals are to travel the world, teach Health and Science in rural Alaska, and question all authority other than herself.

Brianna Kirk

NOATAK

My name is Brianna Kirk and I am from Noatak, Alaska. This spring I graduated from UAF with a BA degree in communications and am interested in pursuing a career in either community relations or marketing. During my time at UAF, I played for the Alaska Nanooks women's basketball team and it was the highlight of college for me. Best of luck to the RAHI class of 2016!

Ricky Lind
DILLINGHAM

Ricky, RAHI's Dorm Director, attended RAHI as a student in 2001 and has worked for RAHI since 2014. Ricky is a UAF graduate from Dillingham, where he taught K-12 music for six years; while teaching in Dillingham, he saw 4 principals come and go, and decided to pursue the principal degree at UAA which he received in 2015.

Samuel McElwee
WHITE MOUNTAIN / ANCHORAGE

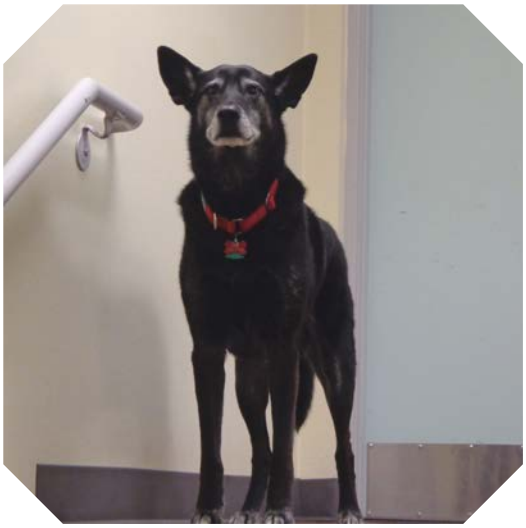
Samuel McElwee graduated from RAHI Research in 2010. He normally studies nursing at UAA, but everything changed when the fire nation attacked. He returned to torture students in the Karate class and play Ultimate Frisbee (with a flick of the wrist). He loves computer games, good food, and puns.

Kjersti McElwee
NORWAY / ANCHORAGE

Kjersti ‘KJ’ McElwee is a short, coffee-drinking viking who’s lived in Alaska since 2014. She’s working part-time in marketing and finishing a BA in Public Communication at UAA. She loves old books, deep philosophical conversations, and helping people realize their potential.

John Nelson
CALIFORNIA / FAIRBANKS

Humor is what I try to make my life about in order to fill other people's lives with happiness. I care about family, friends, and my pets. I wish we lived in a perfect world but it isn't, so make the most of every moment that you have with those around you.



Jake Nelson
FAIRBANKS

My name is Jake and I'm 11 years old. I live my dad John (and my mom Ruth) and I have a sibling named Tippy who is a cat. John loves me very much and takes me everywhere he goes.

Francis Nicholai
NAPASKIAK

Francis Nicholai is from Napaskiak, Alaska. He is a 2011 and 2012 RAHI Alumni. Graduated high school in 2012, following graduation he attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and just graduated with his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Justice this spring 2016. He hopes to get into law enforcement and travel as much as he can.

Bridget Tierney
OKLAHOMA / NENANA

Bridget was born in Oklahoma, but has traveled far from there to places including South Korea, Maine, NYC, Spain, and Scotland. She studied History and Secondary Education in college, and has plans to eventually be either a librarian or a history teacher. This is her first year with RAHI, but anticipates doing it for many years to come.

Caity Tozier
NOME

Vicious and delicious, Assistant Dorm Director Caity is known for her bubbly personality and contagious smile. After two summers at RAHI, Caity's developed into a seasoned pro, available 24/7 to help students with addition, subtraction, and other difficult math problems. Caity was once quoted, after musing out loud, "I wish that I could be someone else and hang out with myself for a day since I'm so much fun."

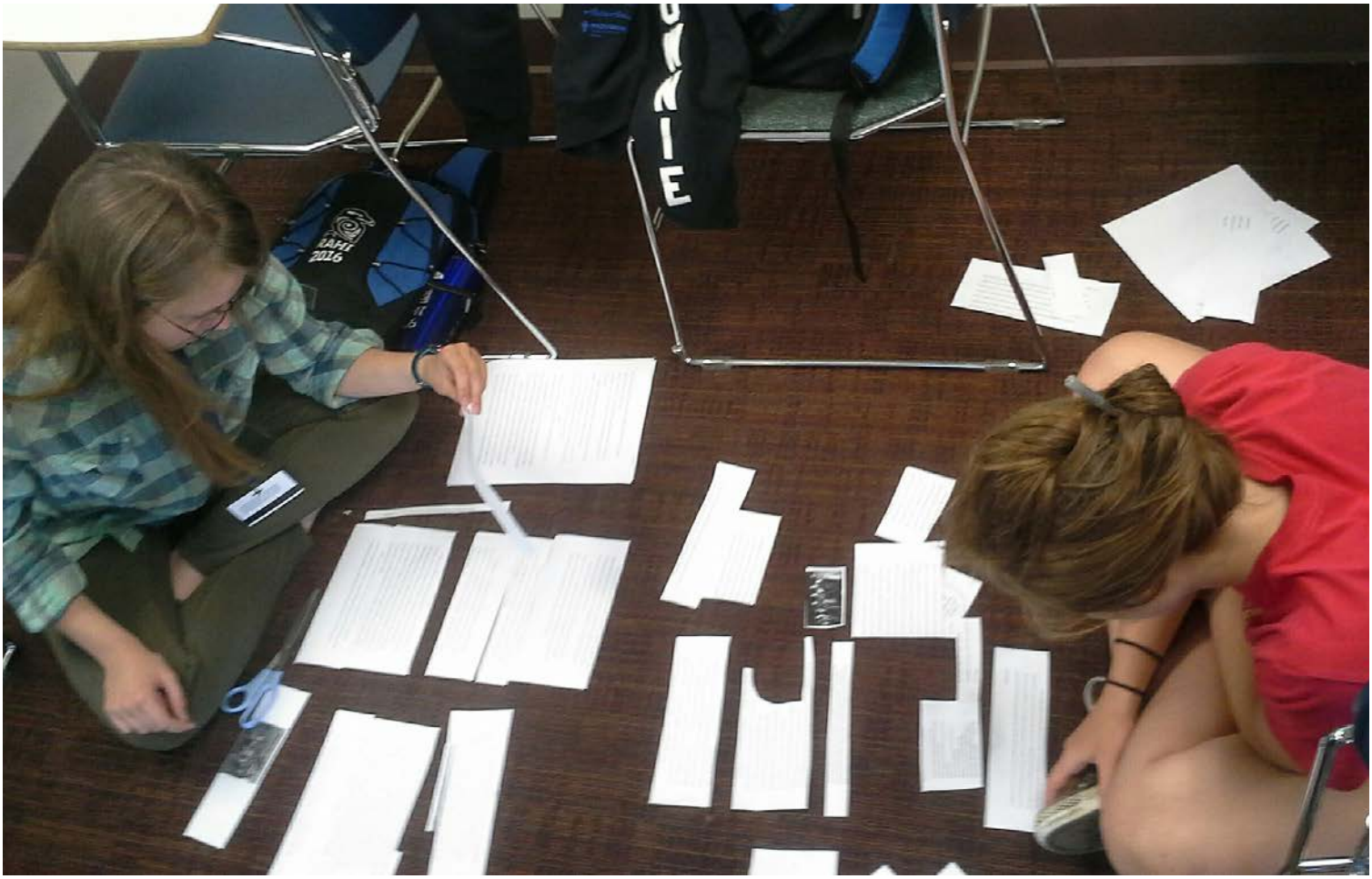
Yorise Yakunin
WHITE MOUNTAIN

I am from White Mountain, Alaska. I am lucky to have such a loving extended family to support me. My parents are my greatest advisors. I enjoy drinking tea, reading a book, cross country running, jumping into the river and catching up with a friend. I look forward to building a house in my village and in my husband’s village, as well as traveling the world.

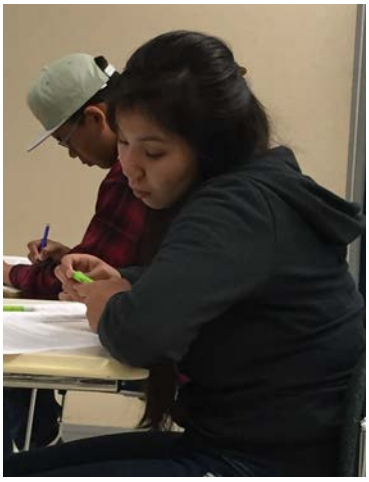
RAHI RESEARCH

ANTHROPOLOGY AND WALRUS ECOLOGY

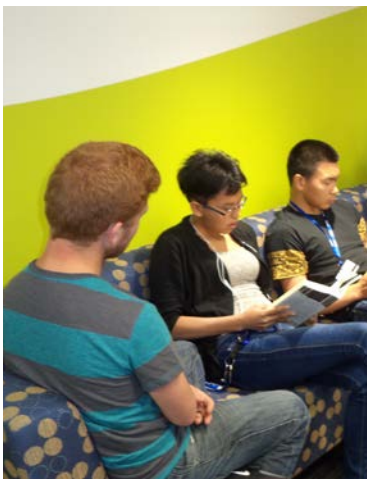
BUSINESS, CHEMISTRY & TEAM BUILDING

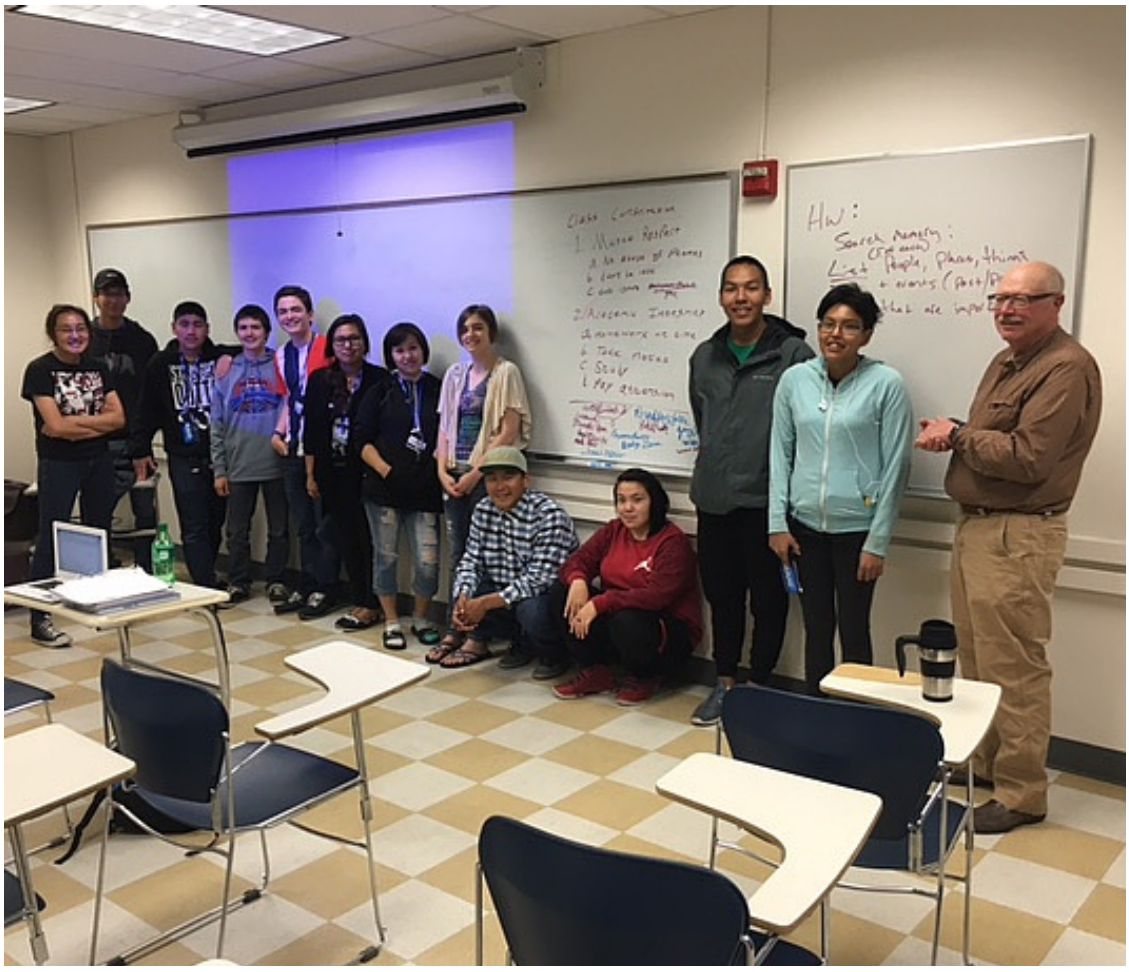


ENGLISH, STUDY SKILLS & LIBRARY SKILLS



READING & PROCESS TECHNOLOGY





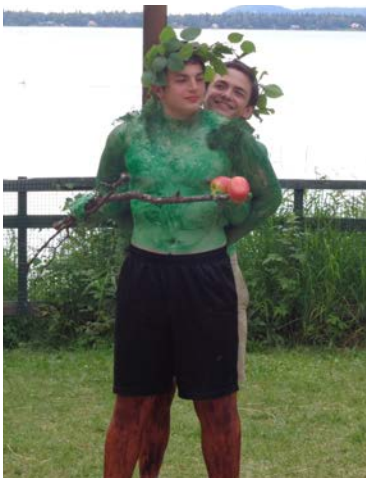
NATIVE DANCE

YOGA

KARATE

CAMP BINGLE

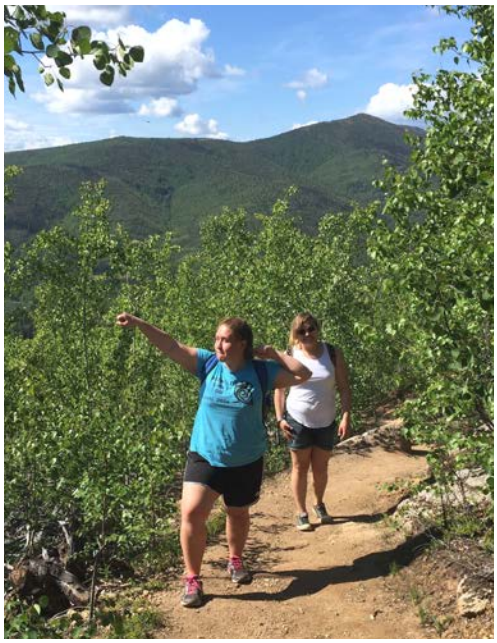
...and the fun olympics!



MAKIN' WAVES

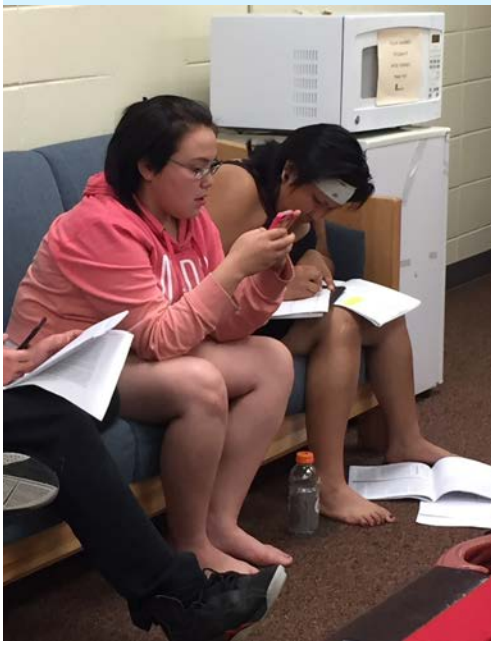
RAFTING IN DENALI

ANGEL ROCKS HIKE & CHENA HOT SPRINGS



MIDNIGHT SUN RUN & 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

DORM LIFE



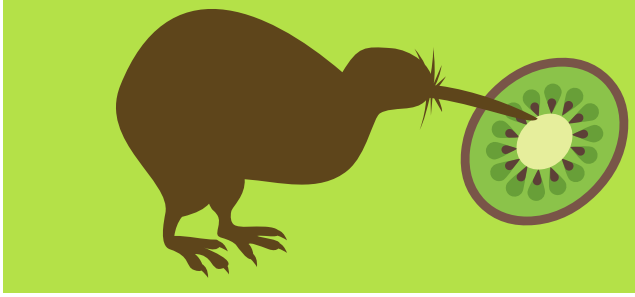
ILAQ

Autographs

FARQUAD STARSQUAD

Autographs

KANNIBAL KIWIS



Autographs

OHANA

Ohana means family!

Autographs

SKY HIGH

THE TREES

Autographs

Autographs

THE WHO

ZHANE AKEYA
Savoonga

TIFFANY ALEXIE
New Stuyahok

SAVANNAH ANARUK
Anchorage

ALYNNE BANKSTON
Barrow

KAYANA BARR
Kiana

RAHI STUDENTS

Summer 2016

ANGEL BROWN
Nenana

SARAH BROWN
Galena

ZACHARY CHALIAK
Nunapitchuk

YI CHAN
Barrow

USTINA CHERNISHOFF
Fritz Creek

CAITLIN CONNELL
Valdez

MATT DEBILT
Quinhagak

MICHELLE DELA ROSA
Barrow

DAVID ELAVGAK
Barrow

ANGEL EVAN
Akiak

MOLLIE FISHER
Kaktovik

JAMES FLEMINGS
Bethel

LOGAN HAMMERSLAND
Ketchikan

HALEY HANNA
Ketchikan

CELESTE HARRELL
Talkeetna

KIRSTIAN HAUGEN
Unalakleet

BRITTANY HENRY
Fort Yukon / Chalkyitsik

TAYLOR HOLMAN
Dutch Harbor

DANIELLE IVAN
Akiak

AUTUMN JENSEN-ROEHL
Pedro Bay

BREANNA KAKARUK
Anchorage

BRADLEY LAKE
Hooper Bay

AMBER LE
Dutch Harbor

HAYLEY LEKANOF
Yakutat

AMBER ROSE MARKLEY
Sitka

SEPTEMBER MASSEY
Manley Hot Springs

DELANNEY MCCONNELL
Dutch Harbor

LEAH MCELWEE
White Mountain / Soldotna

MADISON MELLICK
Sleetmute

MARILYN MOORE
Golovin / Nome

KRISTEN MORRY
Anaktuvuk Pass

JOLIE MURRAY
Beaver

JADON NASHOANAK
North Pole

RUTH NASHOOKPUK
Naknek

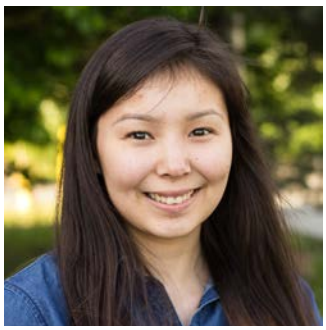
DARLENE OLIN-MARTIN
Nenana / Galena

EVELYN OXEREOK
Wales / Koyuk

DREW PEKAR
Bethel

MARIA PELKOLA
Nulato

SERVET PELLUMBI
Bethel



GAIL PETERSON
Mountain Village

MARJAME "MARJA" PILI
Dutch Harbor

CARTER PRICE
Dutch Harbor

KAMERON REITAN
Galena

SAVANNAH RIZZO
Nikiski

CIERA RUCKMAN
Dutch Harbor

JENNIFER SAGE
Noatak

IRENE "IVEY" SAM
Huslia

ANNIE SANFORD
Tok

IVY SMITH
Ketchikan

LORRAINE SOLOMON
Allakaket

MICAH STICKWAN
Klawock

LARISSA STRUNK
Bethel / Quinhagak

ALLISON TAYLOR
Nenana

TAMAR THEURER
Port Protection

BRADLEY THOMAS
Buckland

MONIKA VALDEZ
Barrow

THANAYUT "TANDY" VANGTAN
Dutch Harbor

JANESSA VINAS
Barrow

BARAK WAHL
Metlakatla

JESSLYN WEST
Galena

MORGAN WYATT
Craig

RYAN YORKE
Chugiak

WILFRIED ZIBELL
Noorvik

Autographs