The Student Voice

Announcements

- Just Desserts Concert, Nov 12, YPCC
- Spring Registration begins, Nov 14, KuC
- Open MIC night, Nov 18, YPCC
- Saturday Market, Nov 19 10am-3pm, YPCC
- Thanksgiving Holiday, Nov 24-27
- Holiday Saturday Market, YPCC, Nov 26

The Student Voice features:

- Student News
- Current Events
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Kuskokwim Campus

Graduating from high school is one of the best accomplishments anyone can ever achieve. Now that I have my high school diploma, my next step is to earn a college degree so that I can become a dental hygienist. Ever since I was a little girl going to the dentist, my mind was set on becoming a hygienist. I knew that if I wanted to make my dream come true, the only way I would be able to do so was to go to college. Now, here I am, a first year student, beginning my lifelong dream.

It was hard to decide where I wanted to begin my journey, either a big university or a community campus. I was all set and ready to attend classes at the University of Alaska Anchorage, but then I changed my mind; I choose to begin with an easy flow by coming to the Kuskokwim Campus (KuC) in Bethel, remaining closer to my significant other. I decided to start slow and complete my general studies at KuC. When I finally earn my Associate's degree here, I plan to transfer to a larger university, finish my education, and return to YKH in Bethel to work in my chosen profession as a dental hygienist.

The Student Voice

Following My Childhood Dream

by Carrie Tikiun

As I sat in my HUMS 105 class, writing an informal journal, I thought about going home for the weekend. Even though it was only Tuesday, I was already thinking about heading out Thursday evening, but I couldn't quite make up my mind. Wednesday came, and I was still wondering if it was a good idea to go to my village. That night, I called my mom to ask if she thought that it was a good idea to go home; all she said was that it was my choice. I had a free one-way ticket and I really wanted to use it. I couldn't sleep that night, thinking about my choice.

Thursday morning I decided to go home that day, so I made a last minute airline reservation. Now I was impatient to go. After all my classes were over, I went back to the dorm and received a call from my high school best friend, Nadene, who was here in Bethel for the weekend. After spending a quick hour with her, going home and leaving her here did not seem like such a good idea. Soon it was time for me to go to the airport to check in; even though I didn't want to leave my friend alone in town, I told her that I'd see her later, and left. During the ride to the airport, I still thought of cancelling my flight. Was I making a mistake by going home?

I arrived in Tununak and everyone was excited to see me. I was so happy and I thought the experience of being home for the weekend would be fun, but it turned out not to be as much fun as I had hoped. Everything was the same as when I left. My dad had told me that I had to adapt to being away from home and family, but I couldn't stand being away, didn't listen to him, and just came home anyway.

After being away for the weekend, I don't think I will need to go home for awhile. Being away from home is better now because as I am getting older, I am learning to be independent. I know that my dad was right because homesickness hits me, especially in college, I will have to stay away. It is good to be home sometimes, to see family and friends, and I will try not to stress out about being away.

To Go or Not to Go, That is the Question

by Aurie Hooper
An Interview with David Andrew  
by Erica Williams

David Andrew from Napakiak has been attending college here at KuC for about four years. David obtained his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Information Technology in May 2011, and is now pursuing his Bachelor’s Degree in Yup’ik Language and Culture. Although it is a challenge, it is fun to learn. David took developmental classes in math and English during his first year of college, applied what he learned, and is using this knowledge to his advantage in college. To overcome stress, he takes walks, takes breaks from homework, and sleeps in on weekends. But he makes sure that he is caught up with all his assignments first. He is going to college because he wants to get a high paying job, in a good position. David is also thinking of pursuing his Master’s degree in the future, working part-time to accomplish this goal. His words of advice are not to quit, keep working hard, and do your best to keep up with your homework. If you need help, there are resources at the college where you can get tutoring and counseling. You can find David most days working part-time for KuC in the Wade Computer Lab. Stop in and say hello.

Ice Fishing Fun  
by Erica Williams

Saturday night was a lot of fun because a bunch of us went ice fishing. Sam was the first one to start catching, so everyone decided to move over close to him. After a little while, Matilda caught the second fish, and then everyone started catching fish. Overall it was a very fun and exciting night for everyone. All together we caught 26 lush and are looking forward to having lush this coming Thursday at the dorm.

Fluffy White Winter Wonderland  
by Stephanie Maxie

Winter is on its way. The leaves are just about gone; there is a massive chill in the air. It is time to beware of slippery roads again. I feel sympathetic for the animals that are preparing themselves for an extensive hibernation because they will not get to enjoy this wonderful season with us.

You may not be ready for winter, but winter is surely ready to come with a bang. Most of us enjoy the feeling of the soft, bright, white snow falling down on our cheeks. But if you don’t like the cold winter, try to make the best of it anyway. For example, take your siblings or children out to play. Bring a sturdy sled to slide down a steep hill. Then after a day of fun in the snow, make yourself a cup of hot cocoa and relax.

Children seem to enjoy fun activities that their older siblings or parents get involved with; I know I appreciated it when my parents or older sibling participated in all the fun and excitement of winter. One of the best memories I have from growing up is that every winter my parents would bring my siblings and me to the bluffs. Once there, we would slide down with our shiny red sleds. Then we would put on our beginner ice skates and skate around the Kuskokwim River.

So make memories. Enjoy this delightful season and make the best of it, even if you don’t enjoy the blistering cold or the feeling of snow running down your rosy red cheeks.
Bass Player & Drummer Needed

by Michael Brink

My dream is of being in a heavy metal band, playing all sorts of music. I enjoy playing my guitar when I have the time, learning new ways of playing different techniques. I picture myself on stage, jamming with the band, playing my part of the song(s) with my group. To try to develop their types of guitar techniques, I listen to a lot of heavy metal bands.

My nephew started teaching me to play the guitar when I was in 7th grade and I am thankful to him for that. I started out by watching and listening as I played with my nephew. Since then I have thought about a career in music.

I have started to form a band, but we are still looking for a bass player and a drummer. Besides myself, I have two other guitarists in my band. One of us will be the singer, if we choose to have one; we might possibly have multiple singers as backup vocals. My band is called 2-Legged Freaks, a name I got by thinking of the movie 8-Legged Freaks, the one with the spiders, but I changed the number to 2. How interesting is that? I hope my band gradually expands to become a full band when we find good artists.

Making the Transition

by Mitchell Pete

The transition from high school to college is stressful, scary, and even harder if you have a part-time job and are going to college full-time. New college students tend to get distracted by friends and sometimes just want to give up. Peer pressure is one of the big things that new college students have to deal with; it is not that easy to deal with alone, without our parents’ help. Procrastination is be another big problem. My sister and friends told me that freshmen have horrible time management skills, making it hard to complete homework on time.

When I was in high school I liked to travel a lot. Right before graduation I went on a fun trip to Florida. A couple of days before I left I got a lot of homework to do; I didn’t do it until we were on our way back home. Because I procrastinated, I didn’t think I was going to do well on my finals or even be able to walk at graduation. Now that I am in college I am planning not to travel until our scheduled college breaks so I don’t get behind. I want to do well and succeed in college.

This is what I am going through with my transition from high school to college. I hope you learned a little from it. If you don’t know what your professor is talking about, ask questions so you don’t fall behind and fail the class just because you were too scared to ask a question.

This drawing was originally a small doodle that I worked on in my senior year of high school – it was only the bottom third of an 8”x10” page. Whenever I got nervous or irritated, I would work on the doodle; I put a lot of feeling into it. Every time I worked on it, it made me feel peaceful. 

By Tim Hare
Experiencing College

by Florence Ashepak

Getting used to the college experience was very stressful for me. As the start of classes got closer, I just kept on getting more and more nervous. Almost every one of my classmates is experiencing college life right now. Each time I logged into Facebook, their statuses showed that they were either off to college or were otherwise posting something pertaining to “college.” I found that to be even more stressful; I felt like writing back, “Good for you!!! You’re just making me even more nervous to get going too…hahaha.”

When classes started the first day, I was very nervous; I thought I wouldn’t be able to keep on track, handle my schedule and do all of the work. As the days went on I started to get a feel for what college life was like. I learned that college is different from high school. The schedule is very different from what I had experienced at Bethel Regional High School. I also had to get used to the campus which was very difficult the first week or two; I had to find my own way around.

In high school most books and supplies are provided. Nothing at college is given to you; you have to buy your own books, writing materials, computers, everything. This can be really expensive. All students take placement tests for English and math. Your scores determine which classes you will take and what your schedule will look like. Most classes do not meet on Fridays, so you can get some homework done or get some studying done on this day off from attending classes. We as students are expected to be mature adults. We are also expected to be in class every day, especially here at KuC because attendance is a big part of your grade.

Soon I learned that college isn’t so bad if you just do the work and come to class every day so you don’t get behind. I recommend you try not to miss any of your classes and stay on track. You have the time to study and do homework; I recommend you use that time wisely.

“Dream, Try, Win”
- John Baker
2011 Iditarod Champion