Ircinrraat

When I was between eleven and fourteen, my friends told me about a man in Tuluksak who was taken away by Ircinrraat (little, bad people). My friends said, “We heard a man got taken away by Ircinrraat. Our auntie told us he went punking alone and didn’t come home for five days. His family thought he was collecting a lot of punks when he didn’t come home after the second day, but on the third night that he was gone, they were worried and asked everyone whether they had seen him anywhere, but everyone said no. On the fourth day that he was missing, the VPOs decided to search for him. Some people volunteered, and they searched up river where he said he was going to go. At 11 pm it got dark, so everyone went home. The VPOs said they would try again the next day. Around 6:30 am, the man arrived home and told his family he was taken by Ircinrraat. He asked them how long he had been gone, and they told him for five days. He was shocked and said it felt like he had been gone for a year and a half. He told his family that the Ircinrraat lived in the mountains, and there were thousands of them. He also said he met seventeen people from different villages. The Ircinrraat made the people work as maids. The man had to choose one out of hundreds of doors, and if he chose the right door, he would be set free. Luckily he chose the right door and the Ircinrraat let him go back to where they took him from. After they let him go, he ran home and didn’t stop until he was close.” People reading this, don’t go anywhere alone like that man did because we never know what nature has in store for us.

Agnes McIntyre is the Emerging Scholars Program Coordinator and is also an Academic Advisor for first year students and some returning full time students. She is originally from Toksook Bay, AK, but moved to Eek, AK, her husband John’s hometown, for six years after they married. They have lived here in Bethel now for over 25 years.

Agnes is the daughter of George and Julia Nevak, both of Toksook Bay. She and John, who works for AVCP as the TANF Director, have 4 sons, Michael, Gilbert, Jonathan, and Carlie, and 5 grandchildren.

In 1999 Agnes obtained her Bachelor of Elementary Education degree right here at KuC. She began her college career at UAF in Fairbanks, but after her first year, she transferred to KuC and took her remaining classes through a combination of face-to-face and distance methods, completing her student teaching at Mikelnguut Elitnauriat.

Before working here at KuC, Agnes worked for the Lower Kuskokwim School District as a teacher in Eek and also at Ayaprun Elitnaurvik in Bethel. She also worked for AVCP and YKHC. Agnes loves working here at KuC and enjoys her job very much. Outside of work, Agnes enjoys quilting, knitting, cutting fish, and picking berries. She loves the outdoors, camping, moose hunting and spending time with her grandchildren.
Sound Research by Cindy Andrecheck

Tiana Lupie, a legally blind KuC student, is working on her Bachelor of Arts degree in Yup’ik Studies. One of her requirements is BIOL 103X, Biology and Society. In lieu of lab for this course, Tiana wrote a research paper entitled “Fundamental Frequency of Coastal and Inland Yup’ik Speakers” using bioacoustic software called RavenPro developed by Cornell University. This software allowed Tiana to analyze tapes and recordings of Native speakers and formulate her findings.

An excerpt from Tiana’s paper: “Yup’ik people are indigenous native Alaskans that inhabit villages in the areas surrounding the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers in south western and south central Alaska. The name Yup’ik also refers to the native dialect that Yup’ik people speak. It is well known that people from different regions develop characteristic accents due to their environment. When people travel a lot their accents may evolve, making it difficult to determine their original location. Even though Yup’ik people all speak the same language their dialects may change from region to region.

Sound analysis software allows us to measure the vocal differences between people from different regions… In this study, fundamental frequency of coastal Yup’ik males will be compared with the fundamental frequency of inland Yup’ik males. The same comparisons will be conducted for coastal and inland Yup’ik females.” To read Tiana’s paper in its entirety, go to the link http://tinyurl.com/lhtzhv

Students Advocate for Campus Needs by Jason Smith

Representing our KuC Student Government, in March I travelled to Juneau with the Associated Students of the University of Fairbanks (ASUAF) President Ayla O’Scannell and Vice-President Michael Mancill. We travelled to meet with legislators, including Senator Lyman Hoffman and Representative Bob Herron.

One of our main talking points included the Fairbanks campus major upgrade of the heat and power plant. This is “a major plant upgrade that will install modern, efficient coal and biomass boilers to support the campus operations for the next 50 years.” The project is estimated to cost $245 million dollars.

We also advocated for the completion of the new Engineering Building. Alaska needs engineers; UAF has doubled the number of student enrolling in and graduating from baccalaureate engineering programs.

During our meetings with legislators, we also advocated for Comprehensive Student Advising for UAF’s College of Rural and Community Development (CRCID) campuses. The funding would support student advisors at the Bristol Bay Campus in Dillingham and our Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel.

Overall this was a good learning experience and a fun, quick trip to Juneau. Members of the Coalition of Student Leaders were pleased to have the chance to go to Juneau and to speak with our legislators.

Are you feeling down, depressed, or lonely? Do you know someone who is? It’s OK to talk about it. Resources are available to anyone willing to make a change in their lives. Don’t want to speak with a counselor? Just find a friend or family member. One conversation can change your life.

Wellness Coordinator 543-4537
Bethel Family Clinic 543-3773
YKHC Behavioral Health 543-6100
Emergency Clinician 543-6000
Careline 1-877-266-4357

Kuskokwim Campus
PO Box 368
201 Akiak Dr
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 1-800-478-5822
907-543-4300
Fax: 907-543-4527

Contribute to the newsletter!
This newsletter is by students, for students, and everyone is welcome to participate or contribute any ideas or articles.
Contact Cindy Andrecheck at crandrecheck@alaska.edu
BE ACTIVE, GET INVOLVED, HAVE FUN!