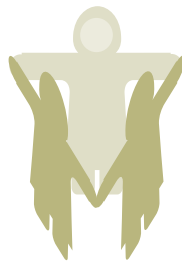


First Alaskans



Institute

AUGUST 2006

A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

meet our new
staff member

developing the next generation



Paneen Petersen has been appointed to the position of Director of Development. Paneen brings years of professional and volunteer experience in academia, private business and non-profit organizations.

Paneen received her degree in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and is currently pursuing an M.B.A at UAA. Her family roots are from Kotzebue.

Her knowledge of Alaska Native history, cultures and institutions is complemented by a strong commitment to the Alaskan community.

Paneen was the Grants Specialist and Financial Manager for Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. Prior to that, she served as Program Officer for the CIRI Foundation.

In her new position, she will focus on fundraising and grant-writing to support the mission of the Institute. She will garner funding for research and leadership development projects, and expansion of the Institute's endowment.

For more information regarding New Staff Additions, please visit www.firstalaskans.org.

"To be a leader, you have to give your people hope," said Willie Hensley in a discussion on the attributes of strong leadership.

One rarely hears this candid and seasoned insight, and that is why First Alaskans Institute's Summer Internship program is so important. This program targets management and policy-making positions and augments work experience with seminars in Alaska Native history, politics, culture and current challenges.

The intent is for Natives to gain work experience in fields that impact the Native community and to come away with an understanding of who they are and how to assist their people. This fits into the Institute's larger mission to *develop the capacities of Alaska Native people and communities to meet educational, economic and social challenges, while fostering positive relationships among all segments of our society.*

First Alaskans Institute selected



31 applicants to take part in its 2006 internship program. The interns come from a varied background—urban and rural, undergraduate to post-graduate, and range from age 20 to 54. Their studies include Native American Studies all the way to medicine and nearly everything in between. These interns are placed in 26 diverse organizations such as BP, Native Village of Kotzebue, St. Mary's Sub-regional Clinic and Sealaska Heritage Institute.

First Alaskans Institute designed the program to balance the need for work experience with the need for leadership development and cultural awareness. From Monday through Thursday interns work at their assigned placements and on Friday's listen to and dialogue with Alaska Native leaders who provide unique insights on a range of issues.

For more information regarding the Summer Internship Program, please visit www.firstalaskans.org.

new chairman of the board of trustees



Willie Hensley was recently appointed Chairman of the First Alaskans Institute Board of Trustees. He is Inupiaq originally from Kotzebue. He received his degree in Political Science and a minor in Economics from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Following graduation, Willie was elected to the Alaska State Legislature where he served four years in the House of Representatives and four years in the Senate. Willie has also served the Native Community in several capacities—first as President then as Co-Chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives, and

as President of NANA Corporation. He was later appointed Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development by former Governor Tony Knowles.

Willie is currently Manager of Federal Government Relations for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and works out of their Washington, DC office. He's currently writing a book which depicts significant times in Native life. Willie has served on the Board since 1989 and looks forward to this new role as Chairman of First Alaskans.

For more information regarding the Board of Trustees, please visit www.firstalaskans.org.

save the date

elders and youth conference on October 23 & 24, 2006 at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage.

message from the president

We're introducing a new format for our newsletter to provide you with monthly updates on the work we're doing at the First Alaskans Institute.

I hope you enjoy this new format and I welcome your comments! My direct phone line is 677-1704, and email is janie@firstalaskans.org.

This first issue is dedicated solely to the Summer Intern Program – a unique combination of internships and leadership development, and one that we're very proud of! What these young people show us is we have the talent, the intellect, the passion and the hunger in our young people, and that they have the energy and desire to contribute to the well-being of Alaska's Native Community.

Enjoy the summer!




*Janie Leask
President*

Future issues will highlight the third Alaska Native K-12 Education Indicators Report, the ongoing work of a senior intern about how Alaska Native educational leaders define student success, and the October 23-24 Elders and Youth Conference.

meet our summer interns



Aaron Peters
Alaska Native Science Commission
Koyukon Athabascan from Ruby, AK
Doyon Region
Nursing/Psychology—University of Alaska Anchorage



Alice Smith
UAA Institute of Social and Economic Research
Yup'ik from Scammon Bay, AK
Calista Region
Psychology—University of Alaska Anchorage



Amber Bradley
Alaska Growth Capital
Inupiaq from Unalakleet, AK
Bering Straits Region
Biology—University of Alaska Anchorage



Amber Thomas
SCF and Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital
Inupiaq from Barrow, AK
Arctic Slope Region
American Studies—University of Idaho



Andrea Sanders
Bureau of Land Management
Yup'ik from Quinhagak and Anchorage, AK
Calista Region
Government—Georgetown University



Candis Anderson
McDowell Group—Juneau
Tsimpshian from Metlakatla, AK
Sealaska Region
Nursing—University of Alaska Southeast



Carmaleeda Estrada
Kootznoowoo, Inc.—Angoon
Tlingit from Angoon, AK
Sealaska Region
Political Science/Rural Development—University of Alaska Fairbanks



Christine White
SEARHC—Sitka
Tlingit and Haida from Sitka, AK
Sealaska Region
Microbiology—University of Washington



Crystal Francis
Southcentral Foundation
Athabascan from Fort Yukon and Anchorage, AK
Doyon Region
Psychology—University of Alaska Anchorage



Dewey Hoffman
Alaska Native Policy Center
Athabascan from Ruby, AK
Doyon Region
International Developments—Dartmouth College

meet our summer interns...



Ella Tonuchuk
YWCA
Yup'ik from Kotlik, AK
Calista Region
Elementary Education—Alaska
Pacific University



Garret Nayokpuk
ConocoPhillips
Inupiaq from Shishmaref, AK
Bering Straits Region
Information Technology—Mount
Marty College



Hannah Kostiew
UAA Native Student Services
Inupiaq from Nome, AK
Bering Straits Region
Human Services—University of
Alaska Anchorage



Helen Gregorio
Southcentral Foundation
Yup'ik from Togiak, AK
Bristol Bay Region
Community Wellness Advocate—
University of Alaska Southeast



Jennine Stebing
CIRI, Inc.
Inupiaq from Unalakleet, AK
Bering Straits Region
Latin American Studies—University of
Arizona



Joe Hedstrom
Sealaska Heritage Center—Juneau
Tlingit from Angoon, AK
Sealaska Region
Human Services—UAA



Josh Muehlenkamp
The CIRI Foundation
Athabaskan from Nenana, AK
Doyon Region
Elementary Education—University of
Cincinnati



Lena Aloysius
Native Village of Kotzebue
Athabaskan from Holy Cross, AK
Doyon Region
Political Science—Pacific University



Mary Hiratsuka
Cuyung Tribal Council—Dillingham
Yup'ik/Aleut from Dillingham, AK
Bristol Bay Region
Native American Studies—
Dartmouth College



Matt Calhoun
UAA Alaska Native Science and
Engineering Program
Athabaskan from Takotna, AK
Doyon Region
Pre-Med—UAA



Minnie Naylor
Kotzebue IRA—Kotzebue
Inupiaq from Noatak/Shishmaref, AK
NANA Region
Rural Development—University of Alaska
Fairbanks



David "Mitch" Mork
SEARHC—Sitka
Tlingit from Wrangell, AK
Sealaska Region
Civil Engineering—UAA



Monica Chase
Doyon Human Resources
Athabaskan from Holy Cross, AK
Doyon Region
Business Management—University of
Alaska Northwest Campus



Monty Hawkins
St. Mary's Regional Hospital
Yup'ik from Tanana, AK
Doyon Region
Spanish Translation—Brigham
Young University



Raina Thiele
First Alaskans Institute
Dena'ina Athabaskan from Pedro Bay
and Alexander Creek, AK
CIRI Region
Political Science—Yale University



Shane McHale
Northstar Group
Inupiaq from Anchorage, AK
CIRI Region
Business Management—
University of Alaska Anchorage



Tamra Kornfield
VECO Alaska
Inupiaq from Kiana, AK
Mechanical Engineering—
University of Alaska Fairbanks



Travis Little
BP
Aleut/Indian from Salamatok, AK
CIRI Region
Industrial Process Instrumentation—Kenai
Peninsula



Verner Wilson
Municipality of Anchorage, Office of the
Mayor
Yup'ik from Dillingham, AK
Bristol Bay Region
Environmental Studies—Brown University



Weather Potdevin
The McDowell Group—
Juneau
Athabaskan from Tanana, AK
Doyon Region
Anthropology—Colby College



staff and interns

Janie Leask (Haida—Tsimpshian)
President
janie@firstalaskans.org

Greta L. Goto (Yup'ik)
Director, Alaska Native Policy Center
greta@firstalaskans.org

Sarah Scanlan (Inupiaq)
Director, Leadership Programs
sarah@firstalaskans.org

George Irvin (Non-Native)
Director, Special Projects
george@firstalaskans.org

Paneen Petersen (Inupiaq)
Director, Development
paneen@firstalaskans.org

Memry Dahl (Aleut)
Finance and Projects Manager
memry@firstalaskans.org

Sarah Sherry (Lower Tanana Athabascan)
Program Officer
ssherry@firstalaskans.org

Nancy Wesson (Dena'ina Athabascan)
Executive Assistant
nancy@firstalaskans.org

Trina Landlord (Yup'ik)
Communications and Special Projects
Coordinator
trina@firstalaskans.org

Krista Anderson (Inupiaq)
Project Assistant
krista@firstalaskans.org

Chris Kolerok (Cup'ik)
Intern Coordinator
chriskolerok@firstalaskans.org

Dewey Hoffman (Athabascan)
Intern, Alaska Native Policy Center
dewey@firstalaskans.org

Malia Villegas (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq)
Senior Intern,
Alaska Native Policy Center
malia@firstalaskans.org

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Albert Kookesh (Tlingit)
Alaska State Senator and Co-Chair,
Alaska Federation of Natives

Byron I. Mallott (Tlingit)
Alaska Native Policy Center

In Memoriam:
Morris Thompson
(Tanana Athabascan)
Our Friend and Colleague

In the photo:

First row, left to right: Paneen Petersen,
Helena Batman (Intern) and Sarah Scanlan

Second row, left to right: Nancy Wesson,
Trina Landlord and Memry Dahl

Third row, left to right: Sarah Sherry and
Krista Anderson

Fourth row, left to right: Janie Leask,
George Irvin, Greta Goto and Chris Kolerok

We invite you to tell us what you think of the work we are doing and the content of this newsletter. We value your feedback and advice. If you have comments, please contact:

Trina Landlord, Communications and Special Projects Coordinator Tele: 907-677-1705 Fax: 907-677-1780 trina@firstalaskans.org



First Alaskans Institute

606 E Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Tele: 907-677-1700
Fax: 907-677-1780
info@firstalaskans.org
www.firstalaskans.org

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notice the new newsletter? a monthly newsletter is one of the recent developments at the Institute.