

April 2008

THE PERSISTENCE

In Focus: TRiO Student Amanda Bremner, Another TRiO Winner!

TRiO participant Amanda Bremner won first place in the Oratory competition held March 8. Next she goes to Anchorage to compete in the Statewide competition. Congratulations Amanda!

Amanda exemplifies the meaning of the word "persistence". Amanda finished high school in Yakutat and came to UAS in the Fall of 2004 without any idea of what she wanted to do, but thinking college was a first step. When she first started, KTOO TV interviewed her as part of a feature story about Native Alaskans and university life. Shortly after she started school, her 15 year old brother, Nathan was diagnosed with leukemia. She signed up for distance classes and joined her family as they went South to obtain medical treatment for her brother. Understandably, Amanda forgot all about school and failed that semester.

Nathan passed away July 4th, 2005. Amanda chose to stay near her family during

that especially difficult time. She took a job in a fishing lodge in Tsiu and commuted by bush plane. In October she went back to Yakutat and involved herself in the building of a totem to honor her brother. After that, she worked in schools as a substitute teacher in special education classes K-12. She found that she loved the students and the teaching profession and decided that she wanted to be a teacher. With her new sense of direction, UAS was still her first choice of schools because of the new Language Program and the PITAAS program.

Before she could re-establish herself as a student, KTOO TV called her for an interview for their feature story on "Where Are They Now?" a follow up on their earlier story on Native Alaskans in college. Amanda's first thought was "Oh crap" (a direct quote). She explained that she took a nose dive in college and told them how she had spent her time. KTOO went to her



village and filmed the totem and did a story on that. Then they followed her around UAS to get information on how Alaskan Natives were doing in college. Amanda is doing just fine. She's a dean's- list student and will finish her AA degree next semester, then move on to work on her BA. Amanda has the attitude, ability, and persistence to reach her goals.

When asked what motivates her, she said: **"Some people worry that our culture will die, but we're here. The Oratory sponsors, PITAAS and TRiO give us a chance to step up and take a leadership position - UAS is a great place for opportunities for Native students."**

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Contact Information:

101B & 101D in
The Learning Center

Carol Comolli, Director

Phone: 907-796-6325
E-mail: ccmolli@uas.alaska.edu

Lisa Bogert Academic Coordinator

Phone: 907-796-6306
E-mail: lbogert@uas.alaska.edu

Kari Dammerman Peer Mentor

Email:
kjdammerman@uas.alaska.edu

Vicki Phillips Peer Mentor

Email: vfphillips@uas.alaska.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Amanda Bremner, Another TRiO Winner!	1
End of the Year Breakfast	2
Bus Passes	2
Suggestion Box	2
Final's around the Corner, Get Tutoring	2
TRiO Film Project	2
Summer and Fall Registration	2

End of the Year Breakfast

We will be having an End of the Year Breakfast on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Learning Center. Don't want to hire a babysitter? Bring your family! We will have a kid corner set up to keep your kids occupied. Along with a scrumptious breakfast, we will be announcing the TRiO scholarship recipients and will have an educational workshop titled, "Brain Research: It's effect on educational practice." Come eat breakfast, hang out with other TRiO participants, and leave with the knowledge of brain-based education.

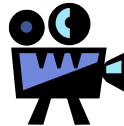
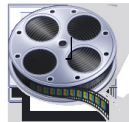


Yikes, Final's are Coming up!



Worried about finals? Stop by the TRiO office and ask for a tutor who can help you prepare for final's week! The semester is winding down quickly, so get help now.

TRiO Film Project



TRiO programs across the state of Alaska recently got two grants to make a film about TRiO in Alaska. Students will be interviewed and filmed on the Juneau campus this summer. If you would like to participate, stop by the office to let one of the TRiO staff members know or contact Carol at 796-6325 or ccomolli@uas.alaska.edu.

Coming Soon!

Have questions about life, love, school, or anything else? We will be adding a "Dear See See" section to our next newsletter where students can write to See See and ask her any questions that they have. Put your questions in the mailboxes on the TRiO office doors and See See will answer your questions.

*Summer registration and Fall Priority registration for Program students only began on Monday, April 7.

*Open registration for everyone begins on Monday, April 21st.

-Let us know if you need help registering.

Bus Passes



Do you ride the bus a lot and rely on it to get to school? Thanks to a grant from the Student Alumni Association, we now have **free** bus passes available for our TRiO students! We have a limited amount, so come by the office to request a bus pass. You must make your request at least 2 days prior to the beginning of the month. You can contact Carol at 796-6325 or ccomolli@uas.alaska.edu if you have any questions.

Suggestion Box

Have any suggestions for what you'd like to see TRiO do for you? We now have a suggestion box sitting in the Learning Center outside of Lisa's office. Please give us your suggestions, we want to hear what you have to say! For example, if you have any ideas for future workshops you would like to see TRiO put together, let us know.

FORMER TRiO Students who have gone on to achieve great things:

Angela Bassett is a famous actress.

Franklin Chang-Diaz is the first Hispanic Astronaut.

A.C. Green is a former NBA basketball player.

Wil Haygood is a Boston Globe feature writer.

Jimmy Jam and **Terry Lewis** are world renown music producers.

John Quiniones is an ABC news anchor for the hit show 20/20.

Joe Rogers is the current Lieutenant Governor of Colorado.

Oprah Winfrey is a famous talk show host and billionaire.

<http://web.missouri.edu/~umcastrioweb/famous.html>