

UNANGAN TIDE

Fall Issue 2017

Special points of interest:

- 28th Annual Election on Oct. 7 at the Senior Center. Remember to Vote!
- Success: 20th Anniversary of Camp Q! (See pg. 3)
- Thank you to our dedicated interns for all of the hard work!
- Watch for our winter newsletter in January, 2018.

—Qagaasakung—

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Ancient Excavation



By Henry Simmonds
Environmental Intern

It was a cloudy day like usual when I started my first day of work as an Environmental Intern. Virginia “Ginny” Hatfield was the Executive Director of the Museum and she sort of taught me everything I need to know along the way to the first site, UNL-92, or otherwise known as Summer Bay.

The river at the site had changed its direction quite drastically so it exposed a lot of the beach wall that we were supposed to profile or flatten out. By flattening out the wall, we are able to know what kind of natural and cultural (man-made) deposits are there so we can figure an estimate on how far to dig from above. But just by looking at the wall we saw many cultural deposits, griddle stones that were once used to cook on were just sticking out and a thick line of charcoal from old fire pits were easily seen. Even a projectile point knife (PPK) was found just protruding from the wall.

Once we found out how far we wanted to dig from above we

did exactly that. We used these tools called trowels which look like something you use to pick up slices of pie with and used that to scrape at the ground floor. We dug in a 2x2 meter square 10 cm at a time and after every 10 cm we drew on graph paper how the hole looked and described things like soil color and texture and if we found anything cultural. Every time we dug another 10 cm we would find something new and interesting to look at and describe like more PPK’s and bone tools. The work that was done at UNL-92 was a great experience to look into the archaeological world and what the Unangaġ culture was like in the past.

A Heated Election Calls for Votes



By Douglas G. Krukoff
Executive Administrative Assistant

The 28th Annual Election will be held on October 7, 2017 at Father Ishmail Gromoff Senior Center. Voting Polls open at 10:00am and will close at 1:00pm. The Annual Meeting will commence at 1:30pm and will end approximately at 3:30pm. Alphabetical by last name candidates are: Helen Brown, Tom Robinson, Marie Schliebe, Alena Syverson, Laresa Syverson, and Pauline Tutiakoff. The three (3) candi-

dates to receive the greatest amount of votes will secure a seat on the Tribal Council of Unalaska for the next three (3) consecutive years and will hold the responsibility to uphold its Federal Bylaws. Absentee ballots will too be available. To have the vote of each Tribal Member will account for the voice of the majority. A potluck will be held afterward let us not forget to bring a dish!



Summer Intern Thanks Tribal Opportunity



By Onya Enkibat
Summer Intern

I would like to thank the Qawalangin Tribe and APICDA for providing an amazing opportunity for me this summer! Even though the

summer has flown by working as the environmental and the office intern, I have learned so much and accomplished major projects. Some of my work highlights are filming the World War II Commemoration and Camp Qungaayuġ and working on the video post-production, helping reconstruct the Tribe's website and the environmental Facebook page, assisting research projects of Helena Schmidt and Elise Adams, developing Tribal Response Program (TRP) community data base, doing environmental research for my supervisors, Leticia and Chris,

and assisting office work such as, answering calls and checking and logging mail. As I wrap up my internship experience, I feel more knowledgeable of our environment and connected to this island. It opened my eyes to the environmental issues that we, as a community, face right here on this island. In addition, I got to meet Tribal members and learn about Unangaġ culture, traditions, and its values. Overall, I feel humbled to have had this opportunity and hope to come back next summer and to continue serving the Tribe and the community.



"As I wrap up my internship experience, I feel more knowledgeable of our environment and connected to this island."

—Onya Enkibat—



Native Youth Olympics



Photo By Cook Inlet Tribal Council

By Carter Price
Summer Intern

Native Youth Olympics (NYO) has been a sport for athletes to compete in for many decades in the state of Alaska.

NYO is a sport for all shapes and sizes of athletes. NYO tests aspects such as physical strength, balance, mental discipline, flexibility, and athletic challenge. NYO is an amazing sport to join that is recommended to all. NYO connects different cultures and really pushes limits. Many students by senior year can place at State with a good deal of work on the event. Events such as One-Foot High Kick, One-Arm Reach, Wrist Carry, and Eskimo Stick Pull are some NYO

events that students from Unalaska have competed in and won a medal for during State each April. The earlier an athlete joins in their academic career the better chance they will have at succeeding in the sport. For the kids that haven't tried NYO, alumni urge you to try it. You'll have the best coaches for the sport, Coach Gregory and Coach Shaishnikoff want to see the best out of you and see your growth throughout the season.

Elise Adams PCB Research Project

By Onya Enkibat
Summer Intern

On June 17th, Elise Adams, a graduate student in Biological Sciences at the University of Arizona, visited Unalaska Island with a determination to collect samples of fish and mussel species for a possible polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)

testing for her master's research project. As a summer environmental intern at the Tribe, I have been working on assisting Elise on her research and helping her place and collect fish traps as well as collecting blue mussels around the island. According to Elise, she will be analyzing the collected samples in order "to determine whether the

PCB contamination comes from local sources (e.g. formerly used defense sites) or global distillation." The research project went very well as we collected samples from 53 different sites both by land and by water. Elise will be working on testing the samples this fall and will release the test results to the public once she is finished analyzing her data.



Photo by Berett Wilber, KUCB

20 Years A Celebration

By Douglas G. Krukoff

Executive Administrative Assistant

The 20th Anniversary of Camp Qungaayuġ, an annual event held at The Humpy Cove of Unalaska, Alaska, was a celebration of participants from across Alaska and down into the continental that gave the opportunity to learn to youth, parents, and elders about the stories and traditions and the way of life of the Unangaġ from centuries past. Attendees were met with many traditional techniques that covered topics such as seal hunting, gutting, spear throwing, fish filleting, and smoking salmon in smoke houses. The perseveration of fish was taught by the method of drying fish. Several large scale tents covered the grounds and inside them were different booths with various activities such as grass basket weaving, head dress beading, bent wood hat carving, Olympic games, and tool making. Hidden from the barreling Bering gusts, many enjoyed the relaxation of sitting beside the circular campfire pit to eat yummy food and conversed among themselves and with mentors about the day's activities and the plan for the day after. Camp Q marked its twentieth year with a record breaking amount of participants. We plan for the success of this year for the years to come!



ALPAR Youth Litter Patrol



By Leticia Pureza
Environmental Coordinator

The ALPAR Youth Litter Patrol (YLP) had an excellent turn around! We have hired Brian

Conwell, Louella Tan, Henry Simmonds, and Alex Schliebe to be our YLPs. Leticia Pureza was their supervisor and Onya Enkbat had assisted as a supervisor for 1 day. We'd collected 20 yellow bags total

by the end of the 4th day of clean-up. The collection composition was about half-half regular litter and marine debris. We've covered the following locations: Memorial Park, Unalaska Lake, Margaret's Bay, The Spit, Ballyhoo Road, Summer's Bay, Morris Cove, Humpy Cove, Little South America, roads behind Westward, road to Captain's Bay. We were also able to talk to campers about litter prevention one of the days. Thank you YLPs and supervisors for the hard work. A special thanks to the city of Unalaska Landfill for receiving the litter collected at no charge and to ALPAR for funding this activity!



*"We have hired
Brian Conwell,
Louella Tan, Henry
Simmonds and
Alex Schliebe to be
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—Leticia Pureza—

Tribal Response Program: Community Data Base Development



Chris Price (above), Director of Environmental Department, examining possible contamination site.

By Onya Enkbat
Summer Intern

This summer I have been working as an intern for the tribe in the Environmental Department. I have specifically been working on developing an excel spreadsheet, creating a list of community sites that may be contaminated on

Unalaska Island. So far we have 95 sites listed in our data base. Data was collected from the public throughout the process. The first eight sites were recommended by the public during Helena Schmidt's research presentation on the PCB affiliated contamination in seals and seal consumers on the island last June. Another major data source is data collected by Elise Adam's PCB sampling project that she worked on with the tribe earlier this summer. Her project started on June 17th and finished on the 28th. Her samples include salmonids, sticklebacks, and blue mussels at specific locations throughout the island. We acquired Elise's project data and added information about the collected samples

and the amounts on each site on the spreadsheet. We are expecting test results of both Helena's and Elise's projects later this fall. The rest of the data included in the TRP Database is from Chilkat Environmental (SPIP) assessment in 2015.

Some major features of the database spreadsheet include location, type of contamination, quantity, identification date, project affiliation, FUDS Program eligibility (Formerly Used Defense Sites Program), land ownership, and space for notes on each specific site. I have been working with my supervisor, Chris Price, to pinpoint specific land owners for each site, so that we can contact the owners of the potentially contaminated sites regarding the opportunities for future clean up.





The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, a federally recognized sovereign nation of the United States since 1989, vows to exercise its powers to further the economic and social well-being of all its members, and in doing so, will safeguard and support the Unangan language, culture, customs and traditions for those generations to come.

Find us on the web!
www.theqawalangintribe.com

Like us on Facebook!
Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska



An Interns Experience with the Qawalangin Tribe

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri: 9-5pm
(closed 12-1 for lunch)
Sun & Sat: Closed

Contact Information:

Phone: 907-581-2920
Fax: 907-581-3644
Email: qtuunga@gmail.com

Physical Address:

51 Driftwood Way
Dutch Harbor, Alaska 99692

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 334
Unalaska, Alaska 99685

By Onya Enkhat
Summer Intern

I have interned at the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska this summer as an environmental and office intern.

First of all, I want to express how grateful I am to have had this opportunity this summer. Not only did the internship help me save for my study abroad expenses in Madrid, Spain this year but also, I learned so much about office etiquette, my community, and the environmental issues we have here in Unalaska.

To start off my experience, I and the other interns helped record the *75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Dutch Harbor and Aleut Evacuation* event for three days and were available anywhere help was needed. The goal of this project for us was to capture this special

event and create a short video for the community.

I also worked with Elise Adam's PCB sampling research project for two weeks. Elise Adams, a graduate student from Northern Arizona University, is doing research about PCB contamination in fish and mussels on Unalaska Island. I assisted her set up and collected fish traps and mussel samples around the island. The Tribe's Environmental Department is hoping that Elise's research will reveal more about our habitat environment for the public.

Including the different sites Elise sampled from, I created a Community Data Base spreadsheet for the Tribe's Environmental Department. The data spreadsheet features site name, location, type of contamination and quantity, identified date, project affilia-

tion, FUDS eligibility (Formerly Used Defense Sites Program), land ownership, and many more features. The three main sources of this spreadsheet are Elise Adam and Helena Schmidt's research projects and Chilkat Environmental's SPIP assessment in 2015.

Last but not least, I was part of the culture camp, Camp Qungaayuĭ 2017. Besides helping camp organizers, I majorly filmed events and classes. During the last week of my internship, I worked on all the footages the interns got from both the World War II event and Camp Qungaayuĭ. I created two short video productions for the Tribe to post on their website and social media.

This internship truly has been a learning experience and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity.

