



Student Project House Ahead of Schedule

The house being built by the AEC class of 2005-2006 is proceeding at an amazing pace. As of Nov. 18 the roof has been shingled and most of the windows have been installed. Electrical wiring and plumbing are now underway and the sheetrock has been delivered. People in the communities of Soldotna and Kenai continue to be a big part of this project, which is the core of the AEC con-



struction curriculum. A local plumber has agreed to oversee the plumbing work on the house and instruct our students as the work is being done. This allows the students to receive quality, professional oversight while they learn to do the work for themselves. This shared "work & learning" model will be used for the house's electrical system as well. Two local realtors have been to the property and given

preliminary market evaluations that confirm the likelihood of a very profitable sale of the home in the spring of 2006. The AEC students are working very hard and taking real pride in the quality work they are doing each day. Even more important, however, is that their daily attitude reflects an understanding that God is doing an amazing, transformational work in their lives.



Interview with Student Zane Paniptchuk

Where did you grow up? "Unalakleet, AK, which is one of the larger Bering Strait villages."

What do you do for fun? "I love to go hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and driving anything that can be driven. The most fun thing I do is rough-house with my three year old son."

What were your childhood and teen years like? "My childhood was tough. My mother left and I have never heard from her again. My father drank a lot and I followed in his footsteps as I grew up. I also started doing drugs, which became a real struggle."

Why did you come to AEC? "Two main reasons: 1) To get an education to support my two sons. In the village it is hard to get a job, and an education will improve my chances of starting a career. 2) I came to AEC to get out of my bad lifestyle (smoking marijuana). After getting out and getting positive support I was able to break free from it, and it is so awesome to be free. Thank you Lord for this school and the staff here at AEC."

What have you gained from your AEC experience thus far? "I have learned a lot about carpentry, life, and how to help myself to stay off of drugs. This has let me see the world and the people in it with a new set of eyes. I now look forward to the next day, no longer dreading what is in store."



Critical Vehicles & Equipment Needed

AEC is in need of two quality new or "lightly-used" vehicles. The quality of the home construction program at AEC partially depends upon the quality of our equipment. As he has made the need known to churches and individuals, Al Nelson has been instrumental in improving the amount and quality of equipment available to the school. However, we rely daily on our work truck to get to and from the building site and haul our 20 ft. enclosed trailer with tools and materials. While the engine underwent a complete overhaul in the capable hands of Alex Schwartz last spring, the truck has been in for repairs three times this semester. In order to ensure our building program continues to advance successfully, a new work truck is needed in the near future.

AEC's minivan is also showing its age and should be retired soon. We rely on this van to transport staff and students to off campus activities, as well as weekly grocery shopping trips for the student body. As our ministry grows, a larger van will be necessary.

A Bobcat and flatbed trailer would also be of great benefit to the construction program as AEC grows.

Specific vehicle needs are as follows:

Work Truck: one-ton 4x4 truck (less than 6 years old) with full 8 ft bed. Seating capacity for 6 is essential.

Van: low mileage 12-passenger van preferred, but an eight passenger mini-van in excellent condition may also serve our needs.

Bobcat: 763 model or larger

Flatbed Trailer: Tandem axle, 10,000 lb capacity

2005 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2005 will be mailed in early January, 2006. These statements will summarize your tax deductible giving for the year.

Write, call (907) 260-8041, or email info@amundseneducationalcenter.org for details.

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 22
Soldotna, AK
Zip Code 99669

amundseneducationalcenter.org
(907) 260-8041 Fax (907) 260-8042
Soldotna, AK 99669
P.O. Box 4006



Staff Profile: Al & Judy Nelson

Al & Judy Nelson, of Red Wing, Minnesota, have joined the AEC staff for the 05-06 academic year. Al is working full time as the **Construction Instructor**, overseeing work on the project house. Al retired from a Red Wing, MN juvenile correctional center after teaching math for 26 years. Following his retirement from teaching he continued with his long standing snow plowing business as well as getting his general contractor's license, allowing him to build and remodel homes. Al acted as the Project Supervisor for a church building project at Prairie View Covenant Church in New Richmond, Wisconsin in 2001. Completing the intensive 12,000 sq. ft. building project with constantly changing volunteer labor uniquely prepared Al for the task of overseeing AEC's first commercial house-building project.



Judy Nelson came to AEC expecting to work a few hours a week as the chapel coordinator and Director Kevin Maples' occasional administrative assistant. When it became obvious that purchasing all of the food and planning menus each week for the students was a much larger job than anyone realized, Judy quickly took on the critical role of **Food Services Coordinator**. Judy spends many hours each week behind the scenes planning menus, monitoring the food supplies, shopping at local stores and the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, and cooking 3 or 4 meals each week. Judy also shares devotions with our students regularly and prays for them each day as they work.

Al and Judy are at the center of what makes the Amundsen Educational Center a special ministry. They unselfishly give of their time and energy week after week. We thank them for their commitment and pray for God to bless them in this time that they are away from their home and family.

A Note from Director Kevin Maples

"God's hand is in this thing" was AEC board member **Rev. Ronald Mancini's** response when he walked through the house our students are building in Kenai, AK. I must confess that I felt pride. I am not talking about the type of pride that hinders God from growing us to be more like Christ. Instead, I mean the type of pride I feel when my daughter does something kind for someone when she does not even know I am watching. Oscar Active, Zane Paniptchuk, and Ted Landlord are three men who are giving nine months to learn valuable carpentry skills that will allow them to provide financially for themselves and their families. More than that, however, I see them working each day to give this time as an offering to God. They have a unique opportunity to live, work, learn, and grow together as brothers in Christ. They are giving their labor and learning as an offering to God, and it shows in the quality of their work. I am proud of them and the hard physical, emotional, and spiritual work they are willing to do in an effort to become men who are not just capable providers, but men who are wholly devoted to God. Ultimately, it is God who is making this possible, and all of our efforts are flawed and miniscule in comparison. I am thankful that I can play a small role in God's exciting plans for the students of the Amundsen Educational Center. I am also thankful to you, our faithful supporters, for heeding God's leading in your life and making this vital work possible through your contributions as AEC partners.

- Kevin Maples, Executive Director