Amundsen Amundsen Educational Center



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Class of 2005 - 2006 Arrives at AEC

AEC welcomed an enrollment of five new students for the fall 2005 semester. These men are all from Western Alaska, and represent five different villages. Up to three additional students are expected to enroll for the second semester beginning in Jan. 2006.



Oscar Active is a Yup'ik Eskimo and is from Kongiganak, a coastal fishing village of about 400, approximately 450 miles west of Anchorage. Oscar was attracted to AEC because of the opportunity to build a house from the ground up. Oscar was a student in Director Kevin Maples' New Testament class when he was enrolled at sister school Alaska Christian College in 2004-2005.

Tyrone Buffas is from White Mountain, an Inupiat Eskimo village of about 200 in the Norton Sound region east of Nome. Tyrone came to AEC to further his education and learn a trade that he can use in Rural Alaska to better support himself.





Ted Landlord is from the Yup'ik community of Mountain Village, which is located on the banks of the Yukon River and has a population of about 800. Ted came to AEC with a desire to grow in his relationship with God and knowledge of the Bible. He also hopes to develop his skills with the intention of one day starting his own construction business.

Geoff Milligrock grew up on the tiny island of Little Diomede in the middle of the Bering Sea. Little Diomede is only about two miles from Russia's Big Diomede Island, and the International Date Line separates the two remote islands. Geoff, like all of our students, is at AEC for the opportunity to learn a trade with which to better support himself.





Zane Paniptchuk is from the Norton Sound village of Unalakleet, which is an important economic and transportation center in the region. Unalakleet is also where the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska's Bible camp is located. Zane was a student at Alaska Christian College previously and he is at AEC to learn building skills that will help him better support his three-year-old son.

Volunteers Help Begin School Year

AEC was blessed to have two volunteers help launch the Fall 2005 semester. Rev. Paul Swanson of Golden Valley, MN and Josh Julien of Minnetonka, MN each joined our students on campus for several weeks at the beginning of the semester. Josh lived in one of the cabins with students Zane & Oscar, worked on the Brucker Building several days, and joined the students for meals and their Spiritual Formation classes. Rev. Swanson recently retired from teaching Sacred Studies at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, MN. Paul was gracious enough to sleep in a camper as he labored to mud, sand and paint the interior of the Bruckner Building over five weeks in Sept. and Oct. These men's presence at AEC was a blessing, and the staff and students thank them for their hard work & willing spirit.

Bruckner Building Nears Completion, Funds Still Needed

During the spring and summer of 2005 AEC's summer work program focused on the Bruckner Building, our multipurpose facility named in honor of Rev. Don Bruckner. The building program was very successful. In the spring the building had only a foundation and the first floor framed. By the end of the summer our limited staff and many volunteers completed framing, sheeting, roofing, wiring, plumbing, insulating, and sheet rocking the building. Unfortunately, the building could not be completed before students arrived on August 24th. At this point \$5000.00 is still needed to complete the flooring, heat, trim, cabinets, sinks, ceiling insulation, paint, and electrical & lighting fixtures in the building. Furthermore, we had to use our credit line with local merchants to purchase many of the materials this summer. This left AEC with more than \$12,000.00 in debt directly related to the Bruckner Building. This brings our total remaining Bruckner Building expenses to about \$17,000.00.

This building is essential to the daily life of the AEC community. An Alaska Native couple has accepted an offer to join our staff as the Director of Student Life. They will live in the Bruckner Building and oversee the residential life of our students, as well as serve in the key role as Native mentors. This critical function cannot begin, however, until the Bruckner Building is complete and ready for them to live in.

Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible donation to AEC for the purpose of paying off this debt, completing this building constructed in honor of one of our school founders, finishing a living space for critical staff members, and providing a classroom for our students. Please mark your contribution as "Bruckner Building." We would also love to host one or two volunteers at a time that would be willing to stay for a week or more and help complete the work on the building.

Call (907) 260-8041 or email info@amundseneducationalcenter.org for details.

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Students Building New House & Brighter Future

On Monday August 29th, AEC's first day of classes, five students and Al Nelson, their instructor, broke ground on their year-long building project. As reported in the previous newsletter, AEC pursued financing to build a house with the intention of selling it following its completion. First National Bank of Alaska agreed to give the school a construction loan with very favorable terms. At this point the land is cleared, the foundation poured, framing completed, and roofing is in progress. The house will be almost 1900 sq. ft. plus a 2 car garage and will have several quality upgrades, including insulated concrete forms, spray foam insulation, architectural shingles, and vaulted ceilings. These students are building a quality home & laying the foundation of successful careers.





All of the students have a strong work ethic and have learned & labored 32 hours each week at the construction site 16 miles from Soldotna in Kenai. With fuel costs high in the wake of hurricane Katrina, a 32 mile round-trip four days a week dramatically impacts our construction budget. We are trusting God to provide for our budget shortfall in this area. The house is planned to be complete by graduation, which is May 6, 2006.



Record Number of Summer Volunteers

AEC is pleased to report that 2005 saw the most successful summer work program in our school's history. More then 60 people from Alaska and the Lower-48 were hosted on the AEC campus between late June and mid-August. We would like to thank the men, women, and teens representing the following churches for their generous support and hundreds of hours of hard work:



Calvary Covenant, Evansville, MN



Rev. Paul Swanson

- Grace Covenant Church, Little Falls, MN
- Mat-Su Covenant Church, Wasilla, AK
- Harbor Covenant Church, Gig Harbor, WA
- Calvary Covenant Church, Evansville, MN
- First Reformed Church, Sibley, IA
- First Reformed Church, Sioux Center, IA
- Excelsior Covenant Church, Excelsior, MN
- Bridgepoint Church, Eagan, MN