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April 3, 2008

## Surprise Visitor



**Doyon Foundation enjoyed a surprise visitor recently - this moose stopped outside the Foundation office just to say hello. We invite all of our students to do the same (but students are welcome to come inside).**

## Doyon Foundation Student Selected as Gates Millennium Scholar

Doyon Foundation student Sigourney Walker recently became one of 1,000 students from across the entire country to be selected for the 2008 - 2009 Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) award, a prestigious award given to outstanding, low-income, minority students.

The GMS program is much more than just a scholarship - the program offers funding for undergraduate degrees in any discipline, as well as renewable awards for maintaining satisfactory academic progress; graduate school funding in the areas of education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and sciences; and leadership development programs.

"Essentially, being a Gates Scholar means you are funded through your bachelor's degree and even graduate school. It is an amazing opportunity to continue my education without facing significant financial barriers," said Walker, who is the daughter of Hugh and Susan Walker of Fairbanks, and the granddaughter of Irene and the late James Walker from Holy Cross, and Betty and Mike Meyers from Reno, Nev.

Walker, a 2007 graduate of West Valley High School, is currently attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), where she is pursuing a degree in biochemistry. After graduating in 2011, Walker said she hopes to go on to medical or graduate school.

"I'd love to work in a hospital one day. There are many wonderful opportunities and many professions to choose from in that arena," she said.

In addition to her studies, Walker also plays the harp, participates in the UAF

Leadership Program, and is part of a student-led TV production called "Diversity Matters," which airs every Saturday at 2:30 p.m. on Channel 7 in Fairbanks. During high school, Walker participated in band and gymnastics and took advanced placement (AP) classes - experiences that helped her through the GMS award's extensive application process, which called for numerous essays and letters of recommendation.

"Take your time," Walker advised other students interested in applying for GMS. "Filling out the form online is nice because you can save it and return periodically to add and edit. For your letters, find people who are well-acquainted with your skills and abilities. Most of all, let your application reflect yourself and how proud you are of your accomplishments!"

Walker recently shared some of her insights with students when she joined Doris Miller, Doyon Foundation's scholarship program manager, in addressing youth delegates at the Tanana Chiefs Conference Youth Convention. The Foundation thanks Walker for her assistance and participation.



In addition to the GMS award, Walker is also a Doyon Foundation 2007 - 2008 competitive scholarship recipient.

"The Foundation encourages students and helps them achieve their academic and vocational dreams. I think it is very important for Alaska Native students to have a bridge to join their cultural roots and educational goals together," she said. "Knowing that the corporation believes in me and supports my education goals feels great!"

For more information on the Gates Millennium Scholars award, including application information for 2009 - 2010, visit [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org).

**Doyon Foundation student Sigourney Walker is one of 1,000 students from across the country to be selected for the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholars award for 2008 - 2009.**

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## Thank You to New Donors

Doyon Foundation extends our deep gratitude to our newest donors, including:

- Dawn Dinwoodie and Rod Worl, Nee Ts'e Neyh donors
- McKinley Capital Management, Inc., Competitive Scholarship Fund donor
- Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP, Competitive Scholarship Fund donor
- Usibelli Foundation, Nee Ts'e Neyh donor

The Foundation's annual fundraising campaign is still underway. If you wish to make a donation, please visit [www.doyonfoundation.com](http://www.doyonfoundation.com) or contact Sharon McConnell Gillis, Doyon Foundation's executive director, at 907.459.2051 or [gilliss@doyon.com](mailto:gilliss@doyon.com).

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## April 15 Competitive Scholarship Application Deadline

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for a Doyon Foundation 2008 - 2009 competitive scholarship! The deadline to apply is April 15, 2008.

There are 64 awards totaling \$257,000 available during the 2008 - 2009 school year, and students may now apply online. All students are encouraged to create an online account and apply for scholarships at [www.doyonfoundation.com/CreateAccount.aspx](http://www.doyonfoundation.com/CreateAccount.aspx).

For details on the application and selection process, view the new competitive scholarship application process booklet, posted at [www.doyonfoundation.com/static/files/CompAppProcessInfo.pdf](http://www.doyonfoundation.com/static/files/CompAppProcessInfo.pdf). A full list of 2008 - 2009 competitive scholarships is also available at [www.doyonfoundation.com/static/Scholarships/Scholarships\\_2008\\_2009.aspx](http://www.doyonfoundation.com/static/Scholarships/Scholarships_2008_2009.aspx).

For more information, contact Doris Miller, scholarship program manager, at 907.459.2050 or [millerd@doyon.com](mailto:millerd@doyon.com).

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## Let Alumni Review Your Scholarship Application

Want to make sure your competitive scholarship application is the best it can be? Take advantage of the assistance offered by the Doyon Foundation Alumni Association! Members are offering to review competitive scholarship packets for the first 40 students requesting help.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact Doris Miller, scholarship program manager, at [millerd@doyon.com](mailto:millerd@doyon.com) or 1.866.478.4755 ext. 2050.

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## Troth Yeddha' Park Blessed at UAF



**The Minto Dancers performed at the blessing and dedication for the newly named Troth Yeddha' Park at UAF in late February.**

On February 29, a blessing and dedication was held for the newly named Troth Yeddha' Park, which is located near the Paul Reichardt Building and the UA Museum at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF).

The naming of the park is significant, as the land now occupied by the UAF campus was called Troth Yeddha' ("wild potato") by the Tanana Athabascans, who once used the area to pick troth and as a meeting place.

According to the UAF Rural Students Services Web site, the late Chief Peter John of Tanana Chiefs Conference said, "When they learned this place would be used for a school, they came here one last time to decide what they should do. They decided that the school would be good and would carry on a very similar traditional use of this hill (a place where good thinking and working together would happen). They placed an eagle feather on a pole. This was to let all the people know that the Dena would no longer be using the ridge for a meeting place or to pick wild potatoes. They were also giving a blessing so their grandchildren would be part of the new school."

The park blessing included a reading of the proclamation, a reading of the late Chief Peter John's Troth Yeddha' history, a blessing by Rev. Anna Frank, and a performance by the Minto Singers. The event was organized by the UAF Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Native Education, which Doyon Foundation is a member of.

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## Sue McHenry Honored at UAF Festival

Sue McHenry, a long-time adviser at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' (UAF) Rural Student Services, was recently honored at the 35th annual Festival of Native Arts. The festival, which was hosted by UAF's Alaska Native Studies department, took place February 28 - March 1, 2008 at the Charles Davis Concert Hall at UAF.

Each night of the festival was dedicated to an individual who has served the Native community through a lifetime of work and commitment. Thursday night honored McHenry for her service to Alaska Native students at UAF, as well as for her contributions to the Festival of Native Arts starting in 1973.

"Doyon Foundation congratulates Sue on her recognition and thanks her for all the help she has given to students, including Doyon Foundation students," said Sharon McConnell Gillis, Doyon Foundation's executive director.



The festival also honored the late Chief Marie Smith Jones of the Eyak Nation, and the late Rev. Chief Salmon of the Athabaskan Nation.

**Sue McHenry, a long-time adviser at UAF's Rural Student Services, was recently honored for her lifetime of work and commitment to the Native community.**

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## Foundation Seeks Scholarship Review Committee Candidates

Doyon Foundation is seeking candidates for three open seats on the competitive scholarship review committee. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a letter of interest outlining why they'd like to serve by April 11, 2008. The Doyon Foundation board of directors will select the members at their April 26, 2008 meeting in Fairbanks.

For details on candidate qualifications and responsibilities, please visit [www.doyonfoundation.com](http://www.doyonfoundation.com). For additional information, please contact Doris Miller, scholarship program manager, at 907.459.2050 or [millerd@doyon.com](mailto:millerd@doyon.com).

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## Internships, Scholarships and Other Educational Opportunities

Looking for a summer job or internship? Need help paying for school? Here are just a few of the many opportunities currently available. Be sure to visit [www.doyonfoundation.com/static/employment.aspx](http://www.doyonfoundation.com/static/employment.aspx) for the full list!

- The Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Fairbanks is seeking summer hires to work in the visitor center. This full-time position runs from May 12 - September 13, 2008. For more information, call 907.456.0527 or visit 250 Cushman Street, Suite 1A in Fairbanks. Applications accepted until April 4, 2008.
- Applications are being accepted for the 2008 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) Summer Bridge Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The program is open to high school seniors who will graduate in spring 2008. For more information, contact 907.786.1853 or [michele@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:michele@uaa.alaska.edu), or visit [ansep.uaa.alaska.edu/](http://ansep.uaa.alaska.edu/). Applications due April 4, 2008.
- Bristol Bay Native Corporation is offering higher education scholarships

based on academic standing, leadership, financial need and life experiences. Awards range from \$750 - \$3,000. For more information, visit [www.bbnc.net](http://www.bbnc.net). Applications due April 4, 2008.

- The American Indian Education Foundation is offering \$2,000 competitive scholarships, as well as mentoring and support for college success. For more information, visit [www.aiefprograms.org](http://www.aiefprograms.org). Applications due April 4, 2008.
- The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) has launched the NIHB Public Health Summer Fellowship Program for American Indian and Alaska Native students. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, fellows will receive 10 weeks of mentorship and training in health policy, programming and research practices. Housing, meals, local transportation, travel allowances and a stipend will be provided. For more information, visit [web.msm.edu/public\\_health/phsf/Summer\\_Fellows\\_Application\\_2005.asp](http://web.msm.edu/public_health/phsf/Summer_Fellows_Application_2005.asp) or contact 404.752.1924. Applications due April 7, 2008.
- The Anchorage Gateway Rotary is offering \$1,000 scholarships to students planning to attend a college, university or vocational/trade school in Alaska. For more information, contact 907.632.4594 or [MNelsonRealEstate@gmail.com](mailto:MNelsonRealEstate@gmail.com). Applications due April 7, 2008.

To view a full list of opportunities, please visit [www.doyonfoundation.com/static/employment.aspx](http://www.doyonfoundation.com/static/employment.aspx).

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### Tips for Student Success

In an effort to help students successfully navigate the end of the semester, the University of Minnesota has produced a series of free podcasts, which may be downloaded and played on iPods, digital media players or computers. The audio podcasts, which are three to eight minutes long, include "preparing for final exams," "avoiding procrastination" and "finishing the semester strong." To download the podcasts, visit the University of Minnesota's Office for Student Affairs Web site at [www.osa.umn.edu/podcasts/](http://www.osa.umn.edu/podcasts/).

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