

# Native Student Center opens at UAA

by Sharon G. Eluska  
for the Tundra Times

The Native Student Center at the University of Alaska-Anchorage was formally opened last month to the sound of Eskimo skin drums and the singing and dancing of the Greatland Traditional Dancers.

Father Jim Laudwein said the invocation and those present, about 65 people, listened as Michael Jack, Native Student Organization president, chronicled the perseverance of former organization presidents, Perfina Pletnikoff and Beverly Grinage, and many

others who helped make the opening possible.

The space, Library Room 106, had been given to the Native Student Organization in the fall of 1986 by the University of Alaska after three years of lobbying for the use of Native students who were enrolled in the university.

The motto of the Native Student Center is: "Look back with pride and forward to success." It was chosen by NSO officers.

John Aiken of Barrow, student, spoke to the gathering about the motto, and he discussed the respon-

sibilities that Native people have to aid their elders and the young.

Dr. Ted Mala told those present that the university has been very positive, and he pointed out that officials have been willing to work with the Native Student Center staff to enhance the opportunities for Native students in need of services.

Rosita Worl, publisher of the *Alaska Native Magazine*, encouraged students to strive for success because the Native peoples need them now.

The University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Anchorage Community

College and the Alaska Pacific University have programs aimed at providing services to Native students to ensure success in their higher education goals. The center staff at UAA hopes to match the programs and services provided at these other institutions.

Currently, the center has two typewriters and a computer/printer for the students to use. Also, the coffee pot is always on.

UAA's Native Student Center will host its first potluck March 20 in honor of its graduating students.