

Knudson focuses on Athabascan beadwork for senior project

Athabascan beadwork is one form of beautiful Indian artwork. Talk to Sarah Knudson, an Athabascan woman from Fort Yukon, Alaska who teaches this art form and has some of her own work available at the Sheldon Jackson Museums gift shop. She spent six months researching Athabascan beadwork for her Senior Project at Sheldon Jackson College.

Sarah graduated from Sheldon Jackson in the 1970s as a dental assistant and has returned as a Liberal Arts student .

Although being separated from her husband while away at school is difficult for her, she says she returned to SJC because SJC offers excellence in academic fields and facilities. Because of the small number of students, classes are small and students get to know the faculty and staff who are strong supporters academically and socially.

Sarah plans to graduate this spring from SJC. After graduation, she wants to be an advocate for indigenous people as well as a representative for the students of the interior and those at Mt.

Edgecumbe High School, where her son is a student. Three of the family are currently students. Sarah's daughter is taking college courses in Sitka also. Her husband

is Magistrate for the State of Alaska in Ft. Yukon.

Sarah will continue her avocation of teaching , doing native art demonstrations

and working with Athabascan beadwork that she was taught by her mother and grandma. As she says, "It's just something I grew up with."