

# Ft. Yukon holds first UA commencement

More than 200 people attended the first commencement exercises held at the Fort Yukon Rural Education Center of the University of Alaska recently.

Associate Arts degrees were conferred on seven graduates, all of Fort Yukon: Delma Bohn, Delma Fields, Mary Fields, Juanita Diane Firmin, Susan Firmin, Nancy Shewfelt and Twila Strom. Shewfelt graduated with high honors, Juanita Firmin with honors.

Also participating was Agnes Kelly, who received a Bachelor of Education degree earned through the Cross-Cultural Edu-

cation Development Program (XCED) and conferred by the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Formerly of Mountain Village, Kelly now lives in Fort Yukon.

Rural Education Dean Margery Walker and Nesl Petersen, chairman of the Rural Education/XCED panel, welcomed guests to the ceremony. The commencement address was given by Nancy James of the Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation, and University of Alaska regents Sam Kito and Tim Burgess presented the degrees.

Nancy Shewfelt delivered the student address and Dean Char-

les Ray of the UAF School of Education recognized graduate Nancy Kelly.

Music was provided by Ted Narrow and the Fort Yukon Community Chorus. Reverend John Phillips and Reverend Trimble Gilbert delivered the invocation and benediction.

The rural education program first brought classes to Fort Yukon in the winter of 1976, when a few community education courses were offered. The program has continued to grow since that time and will soon move into its first permanent home. Construction of the new facility is expected to be finished by September, according to Vincent Pellitier, rural education coordinator for the Fort Yukon region.