

Family has double-header in education field

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The spring of 1981 has been filled with academic honors for Anchorage's Gilbert Gutierrez family. One family member was awarded the prestigious Sohio scholarship to study petroleum technology and another received

his Master's of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Kristen Wirth, stepdaughter of Gilbert and daughter of Sophie Gutierrez, received the scholarship.

One of the 40 winners throughout the state, she says she will use the \$3,500 scholarship to attend Kenai Peninsula

Community College as a petroleum technology major.

Wirth says "It was hard for me to believe I was really picked. I've always loved Kenai." She described her feelings as "exuberant."

Besides being able to attend school in Kenai, Wirth is guaranteed a summer job on the North Slope with Sohio.

Wirth is manager of her shift at a fast food restaurant call "The Works." Last summer Wirth worked for the Bureau of Land Management. She worked on lawns, built wooden signs and

gained experience in carpentry. Prior to her BLM job she delivered morning newspapers. She was awake by 4:30 a.m. to get the newspapers out on time.

As a student at Service High School, in Anchorage, Wirth excelled in Algebra. When not working or attending school Wirth enjoys horseback riding, playing volleyball and reading.

She attended Romig Junior High School and Clark before going to Service High School. As an elementary student she attended Nenaka Valley and four years in a Fairbanks school.

She became interested in the petroleum field after talking about it with a truck driver.

Gilbert Gutierrez just received his Master's of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. He wrote a thesis on "Labor Relations Impact During the Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline in the years of 1976-77."

He wrote his thesis in three and one-half months. He said the research took one and one-half months. He was working full-time while attending school full-time. He would get off work at 5 p.m. then attended classes from 6-10 p.m. nightly.

Before receiving his master's

degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, he went to the University of Albuquerque in New Mexico. In 1967, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. He worked in Nome, then came to Anchorage, after getting his first degree. He is employed at the State Department of Transportation, Minority Business Energy Program.

As a scholarship recipient, Wirth was selected on the basis of her test scores and an interview. Hilary Hilscher, a Sohio spokesperson, said scholarship requirements and interviews "were pretty much left up to the colleges."

But the five colleges and universities that received the Sohio scholarship funds had to follow affirmative action guidelines. The basis for selection was demonstrated academic ability with consideration given to grade average, class rank, test scores, and leadership qualities.

Sohio donated the money for scholarships to five Alaskan universities and colleges. Student recipients were required to attend Alaska Pacific University, University of Alaska, Anchorage or Fairbanks, Tanana Valley Community College or Kenai Peninsula Community College.