

Sealaska interns view business world in Anchorage

By BILL HESS

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Seven Sealaska shareholders, all college students, participated in a special internship program this summer which gave them an inside look at the workings of their corporation.

"This is the first year that we

have had the intern program in operation," says Maxine Richart, the program's coordinator. "Our purpose was to hire shareholders to work in Sealaska or its subsidiaries in areas such as business administration, natural resources, law, and public information." This, she says, not

only would give the students good practical experience, but it would be good for Sealaska. The interns, four of whom were graduate students and the rest undergraduate, all received challenging assignments and performed worthwhile tasks, Richart says. "One of our interns, Paul Young,

put together a personnel manual for us. Dolly Garza did a fisheries survey of the Sealaska area. It is a status report on what is happening in the fishing industry throughout Southeast Alaska. It will give our board of directors information which will be valuable in planning future fishing activities." Richart notes that another intern, Rick Breseman worked on a computer project which transforms pages of complicated written information into charts and graphic illustrations which are more readily understood.

Paul Young agrees that the internship was valuable to him. "It allowed me to develop a first-hand knowledge of Sealaska," he explains. "I worked on a useful project (the personnel manual). There was no 'go-for' type work." Young, a graduate student, also enjoyed sitting in on sessions of the board of the directors, as they planned fishing activities and debated investment possibilities.

Young plans to complete his studies by June of next year.

His academic emphasis has been in public affairs, and he says he would definitely be interested in returning to work for Sealaska, or a subsidiary, probably in an administrative area.

Richart feels the program will have benefited Sealaska even if some of the interns go to work elsewhere after leaving school. During a trip to Anchorage last week, the interns not only visited the Alaska Brick Company, a Sealaska subsidiary, but they also toured Sohio, the Native-Corporation owned United Bank of Alaska, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. "Some of the interns thought they might like to work for other companies first, and then come back to Sealaska," Richart explains. She believes this would be good as Sealaska is still a young and growing corporation, and the knowledge and experience they would gain elsewhere could

Richart also expects that some of the interns may be back, along with new recruits, to work next summer as the internship continues.



Sealaska interns leave the Cook Inlet Region, Inc.