

Mary Miller of Nome completes Masters

Mary Miller, a 29-year-old Inupiaq and a lifelong Nome resident, recently returned home after completing a two-

year master's program in the School of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon in Eugene. She graduated with hon-

ors on June 12 with a Master's degree in Public Management.

Because of her outstanding academic performance, Ms. Miller was selected for membership in the National Honorary Society for Public Affairs and Administration whose purpose is to encourage and recognize scholarship and accomplishment among students and practitioners in the field of public management.

Ms. Miller's master's thesis, entitled **ALASKA NATIVES: A CONTINUING QUEST FOR SURVIVAL**, focuses on the implications of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) on the future status of Native lands in Alaska. The paper examines alternatives to protecting the Native land base after 1991.

As a result of her research in this area, she is convinced that Native corporations should develop closer working relationships with their stockholders, to assure future retention of Native ownership of their lands

and human resource development.

She credits her success to the unqualified support of her people, including the generosity of the Sitnasuak Native Corporation, of which she is a stockholder.

Although her career plans are indefinite at this time, she and her family hope to remain in the Bering Straits Region.



Mary Miller of Nome just completed her Masters Degree in Public Policy and Planning at the University of Oregon.

She was employed at Norton Sound Health Corporation in the Finance Department from 1977 through 1981. She graduated in 1976 from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington with a Bachelor of

Arts degree, where her major was Economics.

She is married to Andrew Miller, Jr. They have a 6-year-old son, Patkotak. She is the daughter of Lester and Martha Keller, of Nome.