

Rerooted in a Frozen Place: Meghan Crow '93

By Rebekah C. Linga '09

MEGHAN CROW '93 is following the mission of being a person for others, even 5,000 miles outside of her comfort zone. Recently, Alaskan Gov. Sean Parnell selected Crow to serve on his Suicide Prevention Council. "We are faced with a daunting task because the rate of suicide for Alaska natives is nearly four times the national average," she says.

Crow, a Walpole, Mass., native, played basketball and majored in English at Holy Cross. A transformative experience in rural Alaska as a volunteer with the Tundra Women's Coalition through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps prompted her to return to the 49th state after receiving her masters' in social work from Boston College in 1998.

Now, with her husband Jack and their three children, Katie, Jamin and Peter, Crow lives in Bethel, Alaska, located about 400 miles west of Anchorage and accessible only by plane. She has been a social worker in the secondary school system there for 12 years. Crow recalls that her desire to pursue a career of service had its foundations on Mount St. James. "Never before or since have I been part of a community where the majority of people are truly focused on both how to better themselves and help make a difference in their world," she says. She credits two staff members for aiding her success. "My coach Bill Gibbons is the embodiment of the Holy Cross mission," she says, adding, "and Father LaBran guided me through my spiritual development while at Holy Cross."

Crow doesn't have to go far if she misses the Hill: Fellow public school social worker Nicholas Naneng '77 keeps the purple pride flowing up north. "When Meghan started working in Bethel and said she graduated from Holy Cross, it brought back many good memories of the school," says Naneng, a sociology major who played in-

tramural sports, participated in SPUD and took photos for *The Crusader* and *The Purple Patcher* at Holy Cross. Naneng, who chose Holy Cross partly because it was so far from his Alaskan hometown and he would have to "stick with it, if I got homesick," suspects he may be the first Yupik Eskimo to graduate from Holy Cross.



Social workers Meghan Crow '93 and Nicholas Naneng '77