

NEWS

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505 866-6128 /80

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Barry Roderick, a senior at The Evergreen State College, has been awarded a \$3832 Youthgrant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to study the mythic motifs of the Inuit tribe in Alaska.

Roderick, 25, plans to spend the next seven months living with an Eskimo family in an Inuit village, recording and writing folk tales and documenting oral traditions of the tribe.

The Evergreen student has already spent considerable time in Alaska and was recently ritually adopted by an Inuit family and acquired the additional name of Akpiq Aluraq.

His grant, the first one received at Evergreen through the NEH Youthgrant program, will enable him to "provide future researchers with a complete collection of the oral traditions on which to base their research and analyses of Inuit and Arctic studies," according to Evergreen Academic Dean Charles Teske, who has worked with Roderick on the grant.

"It will also provide the U.S. Bicentennial Committee with a potentially neglected area of Americana --- America's latest and most distinct citizenry, the Eskimo," Teske said.

The Youthgrants are part of a new program sponsored by NEH to provide young persons --- in and out of school --- a chance to explore their own concerns in the humanities, to enlarge their educational experience and to provide studies of broad humanistic interest, Teske added.

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Dick Nichols, Director
Information Services