

Soundings

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Favorable bond ratings help UA save money

The University of Alaska will save \$826,000 in debt service charges over the next 15 years because it refinanced \$6.7 million worth of bonds at more favorable interest rates, according to Brian Rogers, vice president for finance.

The refinancing was successful, in large part, due to very favorable bond ratings for the university by both Moody's and Standard and Poor, two of the largest rating agencies in the U.S. Moody's gave the university a rating of A1 and Standard and Poor's rating was AA-

"The university has a strong market position as the only public education institution in the state," the Moody's report said. "Matriculation rates are well above average and enrollment continues to increase, supporting the university's importance within Alaska."

Both rating firms looked favorably at the recent success of a UAF fundraising campaign, the first major effort of its kind within the university system. The UAF drive has a goal of \$10 million and \$9 million has been raised.

"We are rated above or equal to all but the few top institutions in the country," Rogers said. "We would need very substantial unrestricted endowments and elimination of deferred maintenance to improve our rating."

Student leaders to convene in Juneau

Student leaders from throughout the University of Alaska system will convene in Juneau February 18-21 for the Ninth Annual Alaska Student Legislative Conference.

The purpose of the conference is to bring students and lawmakers together to share visions of Alaska's educational services and their impact on the future of the state. Workshops will focus on encouraging, informing and challenging participants in their role as student leaders.

The United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast Juneau Campus will serve as hosts for the event, which will follow the February 17-18 meeting in Juneau of the Board of Regents.

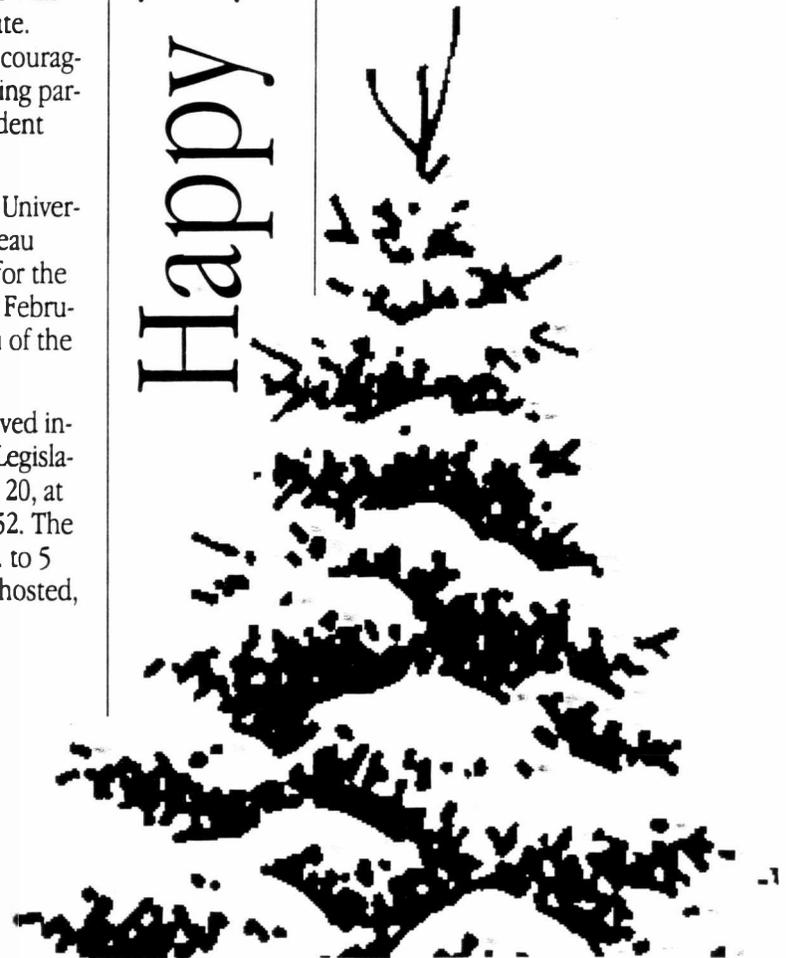
Alaska legislators have received invitations to participate in a Legislative Forum on Sunday, Feb. 20, at the Bill Ray Center, room 152. The forum, scheduled for 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., will be preceded by a hosted, noon lunch.

Happy Holidays!

Community schedule: It's in the mail

The 1994 Winter/Spring Community Schedule will be in the mail the week of Dec. 26.

The first day of registration is Jan. 8 at the Nugget Mall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call Terese Rummell at 465-6358.



Capital improvements underway in Ketchikan

Upstairs plumbing in the Paul Building and improved surroundings for staff and student personnel should be ready for Spring semester as capital improvements near completion on the Ketchikan campus.

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and a drive to catch up with deferred maintenance are prompting the campus-wide improvements. UAS is putting the bulk of deferred-maintenance funds into Ketchikan campus needs this fiscal year.

In addition to the new restroom, a new office for the student association will be complete when the Spring term opens.

UAS will also be seeking bids soon for summer construction projects, including an elevator for the Ziegler Building and two restrooms and two offices on the first floor of the building.

Soundings is published by the UAS Office of Public Information. It is distributed to UAS employees each pay period, and to others upon written request. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday noon prior to that Friday's publication. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801, 465-6530 or 465-8759.

Trudeau to take sabbatical in Russia

Bill Trudeau, assistant director of the UAS Ketchikan campus, will take a sabbatical from his job during Spring semester to teach at two post-secondary schools in Magadan, Russia.

He will teach an English language philosophy course at Magadan Pedagogical Institute and an English course at a humanities center. He will leave in January and return in July.

Trudeau said he wants to go to Russia to observe how adults are learning in their changing society. Officially, there is no education system in Russia for adults older than 35 years, Trudeau said.

And the raffle winner is: Estelle Bentley

Estelle Bentley, an administrative officer at the state Department of Education, was the winner of the UAS Alumni Association's raffle for a Westours Caribbean cruise and free airfare for two to any domestic location served by Alaska Airlines.

Proceeds from the raffle, about \$4,000 so far, will be used for UAS scholarships. The prizes were donated by Westmark Hotels and Alaska Airlines.

Bentley reported that she has never before won any kind of raffle. UAS Alumni Association member Rosemary Hagevig sold her the winning ticket.

Review due in January

The written recommendations of a review team that evaluated University of Alaska vocational education programs should be available sometime in January, according to Dr. Roberta Stell, dean of academic affairs and graduate studies.

The review team, consisting of three educators with vocational education experience in other states, visited university campuses in late November, including Juneau and Ketchikan.