

SOUNDINGS



Faculty & Staff Newsletter

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Komisar speaks to UAS gathering

UA president Dr. Jerome Komisar discussed issues facing the UA system with a group of about 50 UAS students, faculty and staff on February 19 in the Hendrickson Building. Komisar delivered a 45-minute convocation similar to those he recently gave in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Komisar began by addressing the financial needs of the university, stressing that while the university's state budget appropriations have increased in recent years, the rise in real costs has outpaced the higher budgets.

"The obvious reading of the budget numbers is misleading," said Komisar. "In terms of money you see increased resources going to the university, but increased demands have taken much of that dollar power away."

Such demands, he said, include increasing university obligations to students. He also pointed to a growing sense of public confidence in the university.

"There is a real trend of students staying in the state for education. The growth in full-time students right now is more rapid than the growth in part-time students.

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UAS participates in J.C. Penney opening

UAS will be one of the beneficiaries of a preview benefit event at the new J.C. Penney store in Juneau. The public opening of the store is set for March 4, but on March 1, a special gathering will benefit both UAS and the Juneau Fire Training Center.

Invitations are being sent to Juneau and UAS community members for a hosted evening in the new store at the Mendenhall Center. Guests will enjoy an evening featuring a fashion show, hors d'oeuvres, music and welcome by J.C. Penney officials and Mayor Jamie Parsons. Don Dickey will be M.C.

The fashion show will feature spring apparel and is being coordinated by Laraine Glenn and the UAS Alumni Association, with help from Mary Beth Parsons, Shirley Andersen and Tish Griffin. UAS staff, students and faculty will be serving as models.

UAS efforts are being coordinated by J. Allan MacKinnon.

"J.C. Penney is making a real effort to get involved with the community," says MacKinnon. "They've been very eager to work with the university."

Presentations will be made on March 1 to Chancellor Marshall L. Lind and Fire Chief Larry Fanning.

Black History Month celebrated

"Black history should be looked at as a motivator for all people, not just blacks," says Nu-Gina Rogers, the UAS student who is coordinating a series of events to help celebrate February as Black History Month. Activities on campus and at community locations will include food, film, music and drama. All events are free.

Highlights include "The Meeting," a nationally popular play about a meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. Featured will be the same cast which presented the play at Perseverance Theatre in January.

"They had to turn people away at the door for 'The Meeting' when it was performed at Perseverance Theatre," says Rogers.

"The Meeting" will be presented in the Hendrickson Theatre on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 29, UAS and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church will co-sponsor "Blacks in Music," a program which will offer a retrospective of slave music. Among other topics,

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News Briefs

Book earns UAS national recognition

A new book aimed at writing assessment professionals is giving UAS some national exposure among experts in the field. "Portfolios: Process and Product," published by Boynton/Cook Publishers of Portsmouth, N.H. includes a chapter written by Joey Wauters, associate professor of English at UAS. The chapter, titled "Evaluation for Empowerment," reviews the development of the writing across the curriculum program at UAS.

"The most exciting thing about getting in the book is that it puts the UAS program in the forefront of the industry," says Wauters. "People at national conferences on this subject now know about this university and our program up here."

Curriculum

To help students approach their writing assignments, there are several easy, yet important, guidelines you can give them; include the following on your written assignment guidelines: (1) Remind them to plug into the writing process (analyzing the assignments, brainstorming, planning, drafting and revising, and editing and proofreading); (2) provide a sample student essay to help clarify the assignment requirements (strong AND weak samples are effective learning tools); and (3) encourage students to use the Learning Center tutors and faculty for help with ANY stage of the writing process. Our next WAC brownbag lunch/get-together will be Feb. 28 at noon in the Mourant study room.

Classified Association News

The proposal for the new leave share bank will be presented to the board of regents at their Feb. 21 meeting, and if passed will be in effect immediately.

A victory for classified employees statewide: Employees who were on maternity leave last year have received their bonus in full, and in the future, all employees on maternity leave will be eligible for any bonuses.

Please be thinking about officers for next year... we will need a president, vice president, secretary and member at large. Everyone needs to be involved in governance to set and achieve our goals. Get involved today.

Komisar *continued from front*

"The reputation of the university has grown. There has been an improvement in the quality of programs offered and we've drawn a very good faculty in recent years. Alaskans are recognizing this."

A 45-minute question and answer session followed the speech, and several questions reflected a fear of many Alaskans: declining oil revenues. Komisar responded by calling on Alaska to use its university system to help diversify the state's economy.

"There is a reason to invest in ourselves. Alaska is important to the world and it is not replaceable."

Komisar said the UA system not only has an obligation to the state, but to the entire country as well as the global community.

"We're unique," he said. "People will want to come to this school in Juneau to get an experience they couldn't get anywhere else in the world."

Notes From Personnel



University pension plan expanding

The university's pension plan is expanding its investment options to meet the following objectives: provide participants with more diverse and more flexible investment options; provide faculty with investment options which will allow them to better coordinate their pension and optional retirement programs; minimize the fiduciary liability of the university and the retirement committee; minimize the cost of administering the plan.

These objectives were developed by the University's Retirement Committee, with input from the university's benefit consultant firm, William M. Mercer. To accomplish these objectives the Retirement Committee has added four fund sponsors to the plan.

Each fund sponsor offers a wide range of investment options. On July 1, you will be able to choose among these fund sponsors and select an investment program that meets your needs. The fund sponsors are: Fidelity Investments, Lincoln National Life, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association/College Retirement Equities Fund, and The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company.

More information regarding your options under the current plan and the fund sponsors will be distributed as the final details of the plan have been completed.

On March 5 and 6, Robin Quinn-Dowling, Personnel Manager, will attend a meeting in Seattle with university officials, the university's benefit consultants, and the fund sponsors to complete the final details of the new Pension Plan. If you have any questions or concerns please contact her at ext. 534.

Pension investment changes due March 13

March 13 is the deadline to change your Pension investment selection. All changes are effective April 1. Forms are available in Personnel Services, from Irene (ext. 479) or Ron (ext. 507).

Auroral science examined

Say you lived on Jupiter, not in Juneau (It only feels like Jupiter here sometimes). Would you still be able to enjoy the Northern Lights? Yes, and your chance to find out about this and other amazing aurora-related facts is coming. Dr. Syun-ichi Akasofu, director of the Geophysical Institute at UAF will present an aurora talk Feb. 26, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Hendrickson Building room 206. The presentation will incorporate slides and videotape.

"Auroral science has progressed in association with the advance of human activity toward the polar regions and into space," according to Dr. Akasofu.

Black History Month

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the program will explore the musical means through which many black slaves in America sent messages about secret meetings and escaped slaves. The production, which will also include creative dance and a short play, is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 12480 Glacier Highway.

Calendar

February

- 26** Auroral Talk
Hendrickson Building, rm 206
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 28** Names Project AIDS Quilt goes on display at Centennial Hall.
Hours: Fri. 1-9; Sat. 10-9; Sun. 12-6; Mon. 9-1.
- 28** WAC Brown Bag Lunch
Mourant Study Room, noon

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