

# on the MOVE

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA  
STATEWIDE

## UA, Partners Aim to Double Nursing Graduates by 2006



From left to right: Laraine Derr, Gene O'Hara, Paul Sherry, Tina DeLapp, President Mark Hamilton, Karen Perdue, Mike Powers, Gene Peltola, and Chancellor Lee Gorsuch.

Alaska's five largest health care providers have committed \$1.8 million over the next three years, including \$500,000 for the current academic year, to share the cost of expanding the University of Alaska's nursing education programs. The university is matching that commitment through capital and other resources.

The donations and legislative appropriations will mean that the University of Alaska can implement its plan to double the number of nursing graduates by 2006.

The health care industry partners are the Provi-

dence Health System of Alaska, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Alaska Regional Hospital and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium/Alaska Native Medical Center. Additional partners are expected as the program is implemented.

In the face of worsening statewide and national nursing shortages, and with the support of the Alaska Legislature, the Board of Regents established a task force of industry professionals and nursing educators to develop recommendations to meet

the state's current and future nursing workforce needs.

The task force's recommended strategies included increased use of dispersed clinical sites, developing or expanding delivery at seven distance sites (Fairbanks, Kodiak, Juneau, Bethel, Kenai, Ketchikan and Sitka), and incorporating or expanding the distance delivery of courses allowing students to remain in their communities while pursuing a degree.

## Murkowski to Meet with UA Regents

U. S. Senator Frank Murkowski, the Republican nominee for governor, will meet with University of Alaska regents on Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 3 pm at the University Commons, Room 107 on the UAA campus.

Regents invited both Murkowski and Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer, the Democratic nominee for governor, to meet with them at the September meeting, but only Ulmer was able to appear. Murkowski was in Washington, D.C.

Murkowski said he was eager to meet with the regents to talk about his vision for Alaska's future, and the importance of the university to Alaska's economic development.

Regents are meeting in Anchorage on October 16 for committee meetings and talks about strategic planning and budget development.

## Health Talks Focus on Arthritis, Depression

HealthTalks, sponsored by Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, is offering programs on arthritis and depression in separate sessions scheduled in the McGown Room, first floor at Denali Center/Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Blue Cross administers the university's health care program. The session on Arthritis: Bone and Joint Problems will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at 7 p.m. with Dr. Mark Wade, orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Wade will focus on the symptoms of arthritis and

what can be done to take care of ourselves to prevent further injury. On October 23, Dr. Duane Hopson, psychiatrist, will discuss the topic of depression with emphasis on the different types and what kinds of therapeutic remedies or assistance are available. Dr. Hopson's program also begins at 7 p. m. in the McGown Room. HealthTalks are free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged and may be made by calling Corlis Taylor at 907-458-5585.



Sculpture on the UAA campus: "Transaction" - 1999, by Bright Bimpong

## University and Employees Will Be Paying More for Health Care

The nation is back to double-digit inflation in health care costs, and that means that employers and employees across the country are experiencing rising costs with no end in sight.

There are several cost drivers starting with aging," said Janet Jacobs, executive director of Human Resources for the university system. "The average age for UA staff is about 42 and closer to 48 for faculty - considerably higher than the national norm."

There are other factors that lead to higher costs, too. For example, more services are often provided at a doctor's visit. Technological advances and access to the latest procedures and tests are expensive. Nursing shortages, malpractice insurance and other costs within the medical profession create inflation. Prescription drug costs are rising at more than 20% per year.

The university community pays the cost of the health care we consume. For the 2002 fiscal year, claims and

administrative costs totaled more than eighteen million dollars for the plan covering non-exempt, exempt and executive staff (UA2000). In 2002, the university committed \$5,596 for each employee. The university is not making premium payments for current and future costs; rather, the employee charge is to cover the remaining bill for care consumed during the last fiscal year.

The university portion goes up each year. In 2003, it is \$5764. There was no employee charge for the UA2000 plan last year. This year employees pay \$184 for coverage. The 2003 charge is \$1095. Other employer rates were escalating while the university's rates were relatively flat. The university's costs have caught up with a vengeance. These increases showed up last year in the plan covering UA fac-

ulty and labor/trades staff.

These employees are paying \$935 this calendar year compared to \$184 for UA2000. The news is worse under many other employers. State employees in the General Government Unit will pay \$1944 in 2003, and also see a reduction in the scope of their coverage.

The UA executive team is currently evaluating the dependent charge structure for next year. Competitiveness is a guiding principle - a fee structure that costs more than primary public sector competitors, especially the state, is not desirable, Jacobs said. She said the university is also looking

forward to future costs and forming committees to look at more sweeping changes - moving to a "pay-as-you-go" approach for setting rates instead of rates based on last year's bill and evaluating the feasibility of greater choice regarding plans and coverage.

*"It was fortunate to have three years of low/no cost," Jacobs said. "Now our consumption pattern and the cost drivers outlined in the first paragraph put the university fully where other businesses and governments are."*

### Conflict Management Training Session

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sherman Charter Conference Room 204

Butrovich Bldg. Yukon Drive

Open to all University of Alaska Employees

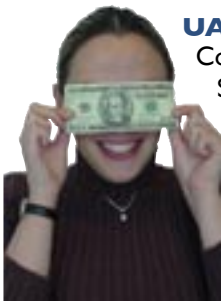
UA Fairbanks, Tanana Valley Campus, Geophysical Institute, & Statewide -

To sign up please call 474-2730 or email [melissa.hill@alaska.edu](mailto:melissa.hill@alaska.edu)

### UA Star Lisa Villano Wins \$25 Bucks

Congratulations to Lisa Villano the lucky UA Star and winner of \$25 bucks. Lisa, a student assistant in the Office of Public Affairs, won the money in Professional Development's UA Star program.

Next months drawing will be on Friday, **November 1st**, and Melissa will be reminding everybody in plenty of time to get your nominations in.



## For Sale or Trade

Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: [bob.miller@alaska.edu](mailto:bob.miller@alaska.edu)

### Dave Read: x6568

150,000 BTU Master Heater \$200. Plus an older model Simplicity (Sears) snowblower \$100.

### Ben Shilling: 479.8214

2000 Millennium Edition Bigfoot Camper. Purchased new spring of 2001. Immaculate condition, used very little, 8.2' long, made for short bed pickups. Must see to appreciate. Fall special price \$13,000 obo.

### Bess Rounds: x6301

Fire Wood (birch and aspen) - you cut and haul - easy access! Chena Ridge area.

### Jenn Wagaman: x6551

Full-time student/single mom looking for an extremely cheap but some-what reliable used car. Please contact Jenn to relay message.

### Nettie LaBelle-Hamer 474.6167

Excellent condition Lifestyle Cardiofit exercise machine. Total body motion with low impact. 10 resistance settings with speed, calories and distance computed and displayed. Purchased new for \$250. Make an offer.

Stainless steel over the stove hood fan and light. Broan microtek system I, very good condition. Make an offer.

### Jana Canary: x7130 or 479.3796

1989 Chevy S-10 Pickup. 4WD, 5-speed, extended cab, 118k, one owner. \$3300.

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