University Gains Additional $8 Million in State Funds

By Ann Ringstad
Director, UA State Relations

You may not have seen me in the halls of the Butovich Building over the past 4 months, but rest assured I am working diligently and do occasionally hang out in the Butovich Room in the State Capitol building in Juneau. It’s been an interesting year, to say the least! I feel almost like a foreign correspondent, although Juneau doesn’t compare to, say, Pakistan or Paris.

Thanks to the efforts of many active university advocates, once again, the University of Alaska prevailed in its quest for additional funding for its FY03 operating budget. While most state agencies experienced a cut in funding from last year’s numbers, the university managed to gain an additional $8 million in operating funds for the upcoming fiscal year. While this isn’t the full $16.9 million that the Board of Regents requested, it does cover salary increases and some fixed cost increases. In the scheme of things, the university fared fairly well.

Although both the House and Senate agreed to pass the FY03 operating budget, the votes needed to dip into the Constitutional Budget Reserve to balance the budget were not there at the end of the regular session. Typically, the minority holds out for capital projects in their home districts prior to giving a green light to this piece of the budget. The majority and minority could not come to a consensus on this issue, and aside from transportation projects, and a small debt-re-imbursalment bill (HB 528 - including the University Center facility for UAA and the Readiness Center in Juneau), no other capital budget items were passed before the constitutionally mandated end of session. The regular session of the 22nd Alaska State Legislature adjourned at midnight on May 14th, leaving many issues still on the table.

This certainly created a quandary for the legislative leadership; hence the special sessions after the regular session had adjourned. The Governor had already called a special session to deal with subsistence. A second special session was called by the legislative leadership to deal with the capital budget, the constitutional budget reserve, and rural school construction. The first special session on subsistence is running concurrently with the second special session called by the legislature, and the Governor has called yet another special session to deal with veteran’s bills and the state regulatory agency on utilities. Confused? Well, it will all end soon, and we can look forward to doing it all again next year.

The good news is that the second special session produced over $80 million in capital projects for the university and the necessary votes for the Constitutional Budget Reserve for the operating budget. The bad news is that $61 million of these capital projects are tied (continued on the back)

UA Sponsors Webcast of Rural Health Conference

The 2002 Alaska Rural Health Conference, the first statewide conference devoted solely to rural health issues in almost a decade, was webcast through the university’s Alaska Teleconference Network, and participants were pleased that the webcast enabled other individuals and organizations to monitor the conference proceedings.

Karen Perdue, associate vice president of the university for health programs, expressed her thanks to the individuals who made the webcast possible. “They did a fantastic job,” she said.

Singly out for their work at ATN were Bob Carr, Christopher Pousche, Ken Jerstrom and Donna Rohwer. Others involved were Richard Machida of UAF, and staff members at the Net (continued on the back)
John Mitchell New President of SAA

Congratulations to the new Statewide Administration Assembly (SAA) officers for 2002-2003 who were elected at the SAA Annual Meeting on May 13.

John Mitchell of ITS Advanced Technologies and Special Projects was elected President. John has served as Vice President this past year. He succeeds Kerry Digou, who is stepping down after two terms at the helm of SAA.

Melissa Hill, a newly elected member who leads the Professional Development Program - Career Planning for the Statewide Office of Human Resources, was elected Vice President.

Lisa Sporleder of ITS Production Services was elected Secretary. She succeeds Laura Jackson of SW Risk Management in Anchorage. Lisa previously served as the SAA Secretary in 1998-1999 and as Vice President in 1996-1997.

The Assembly also approved certificates of appreciation to:
- Jeannie Phillips for being the United Way Representative for 19 years.
- Public Affairs (Bob Miller and Adela Batin) for starting the On the Move newsletter.
- Laura Letulligasenoa for chairing the Outstanding Employee Awards Selection Committee.
- Chris Garris for organizing employee potlucks.
- Carol Pickett for chairing elections.
- David Rohwer for serving on the parking advisory committee.

The next SAA meeting will be Wednesday, June 5, 2002, in the Sherman Carter Conference Room. SAA meetings are open to the public. All statewide employees are encouraged to attend.

Webcast continued

work Control Center, Mike Brase, Dan Brodigan, and Vincent Yelmene. Videotaping for the webcast was done by Jeff Silverman of Blueberry Productions in Anchorage.

The University of Alaska sponsored the live and archived webcast in order to increase access to rural health care providers who could not attend the conference in person, Perdue said.

In addition the conference hosted the top federal officials in rural health care today: Dr. Betty Duke, Administrator of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Dr. Sam Shekar, head of the Bureau of Health Professions; and Dr. Marcia Brand, Director of the Office of Rural Health. Officials in DHHS in Washington D.C., including the Secretary's office, were able to tune in to the webcast and watch Dr. Duke make a major policy address on rural health.

Bob Carr and his staff worked for more than two months to ensure the webcast of two full days worked smoothly, Perdue said. She added that Steve Smith, the university's chief technology officer, gave his full support to the effort.

Regents to Meet in Fairbanks June 11-13

The University of Alaska Board of Regents will meet on the UAF campus in Fairbanks June 11-13.

The board and its committees will meet in the Butrovich Building and all meetings, except for executive sessions, are open to the public. Public testimony is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. and on Thursday at 8 a.m.

Amanda Wall Graduates

Amanda Wall, coordinator for the UA Foundation and the Statewide Office of Development, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from UAF at commencement on May 12. Her degree is in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in English.

For Sale or Trade

Send your items for sale or trade by e-mail to: bob.miller@alaska.edu

From Betty Studebaker 479-4925
Like New - 2 HermanMiller Task Chairs, Dove Grey color, tall, pneumatic stool with full foot ring, seat and foot ring have height adjustment. A great deal at $250 for pair.

From Collin Lichtenberger, 474-5411
Two tickets to Hawaii leaving July 8th returning July 21st. Price for both is $750.

From Matthew Miranda, 474-5452
Gateway Solo 9550 Laptop, 1.13 Ghz, 512 mb Ram, 30 Gb Hard Drive, Geforce290 32 mb DVD/CDRW Combo Drive, Modular 20 Gb Hard Drive (replaces C Drive), Extra Battery (for 7 Hours of battery life!) Ac/Flawless Condition, Brand New: $2,400

From Sarah M. Rittgers, 474-6280
Responsible college student looking for a housesitting position. Experienced with references. E-mail Sarah, saraphmichelle@hotmail.com

From Mary Dwyer 474-5892
Computer desk- unusual design. $75 OBO.

From David Bunzow 479-2692
1992 Mazda B-2200 2WD winterized P/U Truck, black with camper shell and pass thru windows, 84K miles; 4 new tires; 2 new rear studded tires. All major maintenance and repair records available. Very reliable vehicle in pretty good condition! Emissions sticker good to 1/04. Asking $2,950.

From Stephanie Held 474-5069
1999 Pontiac Grand Am, white, 4 door, 28K miles, power windows/locks, Am/Fm, cassette, 6 disc CD changer, Astro auto start, new Blizzak winter tires! Well taken care of, $10,900 obo.

From Alesia Willey at 467-1699
Suzuki GZ50 Street Bike $2,000 obo.

On the Move is Online
Go to: www.alaska.edu/opa/onthemove. Deadline for the next issue is Monday, June 3rd by the end of the day.