

What a turkey! He's got alot to risk this Thanksgiving!!! He better be on the move!

On The Move

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University of Alaska Statewide







Anchorage staff Brenda Vannoy and Laura Jackson

Risk Management: Protecting University's Property and People

Spotlight



Statewide Office of Risk Management



Fairbanks staff

(continued from last issue)

The University of Alaska has had a formal Risk Management Program since 1979, and the purpose of the office is really pretty simple according to Director Julie Baecker.

"We're charged with protecting the university's assets, its property and people," she said. There are three distinct but complementary areas of Statewide Risk Management. In the last issue, ***On the Move*** covered Environmental Health and Safety. The other two areas are claims and risk management itself.

"We also train and educate," says Julie. "Our office looks at different situations to determine the risks involved, and then advises program managers so they can make informed decisions." Not long ago, for example, UAA wanted to add flight instruction to the aviation program's curriculum, and the department head called on Risk Management to help. "We worked with them to analyze all the risks involved, and then helped them make decisions on program structure that were in the university's best interest," Julie said. In most cases, it is possible to structure programs in ways that minimize the university's exposure.

The University of Alaska is self-insured. That means we maintain a reserve fund to pay claims instead of buying insurance. For that reason, and also to ensure high quality service, Statewide Risk Management has the staff in-house to handle worker's compensation, general liability, auto liability, property, employee and marine liability. Health insurance is handled by Human Resources.

Two members of Julie's risk management claims team, **Laura Jackson**, claims manager, and

(continued on the back)

Regents Approve Budget; Okay Staff Salary Grid Adjustment

Seeking to continue the upward momentum of the University of Alaska over the last two years, University President Mark R. Hamilton and the Board of Regents are submitting to the state an operating budget request that calls for a $17 million increase in general funds for FY03, and also asks for $800,000 to support the UA Scholars program.

The proposed increases would move the state's general fund investment in the university from $203 million to $221 million. The university would generate more than $400 million from other sources for a total operating budget statewide of $621.6 million. From the proposed $17 million increase, the university estimates it could raise another $50 million in grants and other funding over FY02.

Meeting in Fairbanks on Nov. 9, Regents also approved a $221.8 million capital budget request, specifying that for new facility construction, the top four priorities are the Fisheries and Ocean Sciences facility at Lena Point near Juneau, phase one of the Bio Science building at UAF, the acquisition of space as necessary for growth by UAA and UAF, and phase one of the integrated science facility at UAA. Specific to the category of Attracting and Retaining Alaska's Students, the Board of Regents prioritized the UAS joint recreation facility and small renovation projects around the system.

Statewide Risk Director, Julie Baecker has created a warm and friendly environment in her office with the addition of large hanging ferns and trailing ivy. Green plants keep us in touch with the earth, and despite the white winter cloak that covers the ground, remind us that winter won't last forever. So far, this winter has been amazingly mild, with warmer than usual temperatures, minimal snowfall and chinook winds.



In other action, the board approved a 1.5 percent increase to the university's non-union staff salary schedule for FY03, contingent upon legislative funding. A similar grid adjustment was made this year following six years with a static grid. President Hamilton told regents that he considered these adjustments vital to protect the university's ability to recruit and retain high quality staff.

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UNIVERSITY of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Spotlight *continued*

Brenda Vannoy, claims technician, are located in Anchorage. The claims manager makes sure the program works efficiently, and oversees and manages all litigation and claims funded by risk management. Laura is the claim manager for both southeast and southcentral Alaska. Julie said having staff on the campus of UAA has made it easier to interact and network with people in that region.

"Knowing the people and being there enables us to better work with people and their programs to prevent and control losses," says Julie. Laura and Brenda handle claims for the southeast and southcentral campuses. Yvonne Boyce, adjuster, and claims technician, Amaya Spencer, in Fairbanks, handle claims for the northern campuses. There are really only two ways to prevent loss effectively: address the frequency of claims (as in worker's comp cases) and reduce severity of claims (controlling the overall cost).

At Statewide, Risk Management serves employees directly through the ergonomics program. Special chairs with proper armrests are loaned to employees to determine whether an alternate chair might help allay their discomfort and reduce sore tendons or carpal tunnel syndrome they are experiencing at work. Baecker says they will also help you secure your computers and other devices to help prevent theft.

In the Fairbanks office, Carla Yurkovich, risk management analyst, manages special risk policies geared toward the unique activities of a college campus. Examples include Student Professional Liability coverage for student interns, students and practicums. There is accident insurance to cover field trips and on-the-job training, students property insurance for dorm residents, and the Federally required insurance for foreign visitors sponsored by the University.

You can also contact Carla if you would like to become a Notary Public.

Providing support for this wide array of services is Alesia Willey, administrative assistant. To learn more about SW Risk Management, visit their website at **www.alaska.edu/swrisk/.**



Ryan Wilson

Ryan Wilson Wins Award

Student employee, Ryan Wilson, who works as a student assistant in the President's office was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society November 15th. Ryan was also awarded a national scholarship from the organization. The $500 award was for the top junior inductee into the UAF chapter. Criteria for the award includes academic achievement, community service and work experience. Ryan is a wildlife biology major.

Time to Add, Drop or Change Your Benefits

It's time to add, drop or change your health benefit selections during this month's open enrollment period. All employees, except those hired after Oct. 1, 2001, should have received a packet of information in the mail to make any changes such as adding or dropping dependents, supplemental life insurance, accidental death or dismemberment insurance or reimbursement accounts for health or dependent care.

Completed forms are due in the Human Resources office by Nov. 30, and changes will become effective Jan. 1, 2002. Current benefit selections will remain the same if changes are not made except for reimbursement accounts, which must be applied for each tax year. If you have questions, call Human Resources at 474-7894.



University's Health Care Costs Go Up

The university's health care costs are on the rise this year, just as they are across Alaska and the rest of the country. Despite efforts to slow the rise in costs, market forces and claims experience will result in an increase in employee charges this year for both of the university's plans: the UA2000 plan which covers non-union staff, and the Traditional Plan which was chosen by the unions for the faculty and staff they represent.

Despite increases, the university continues to pay over 90 percent of employee health care costs through a defined contribution on behalf of every faculty and staff member. University costs have increased because of an increase in the average number of claims submitted, a higher average cost per claim, and several very large claims, according to Janet Jacobs, executive director of the university's Human Resources office.

Beginning with the paychecks for January 11, 2002, those employees in the UA2000 Plan will pay an employee health care charge of $7.10 per pay period. For union-represented employees on the Traditional Plan, the charge per pay period will be $35.94.

A Special Thank-You!

To the WONDERFUL people in the Butrovich Building!!

I would like to say thanks to all the many people who assisted me in looking for the dogs that I was missing. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that I work with such great people who are always willing to help out in my time of need!

Thanks Again!

-Laura Letuligasenoa

Deadline for the next issue is Monday, December 5th by the end of the day.

From the staff of *On The Move*
Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

For Sale or Trade

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

From Ron Allen, 485-3965:
1991 (?) Polaris G.T. Sport long track snowmachine. $900 obo.

From Amanda Wall 457-9300:
Matching coffee and end tables, oak with brass trim and glass inlay tops. $100 for all obo.

From Betty Dupee, 7123 or 479-4590 eve:
2BD 2nd floor apt in duplex in Aurora. Available Dec 1, W/D/DW/utilities included, Cathedral ceilings, fireplace. $895/month plus deposit.

From David Bunzow, 474-5005:
Used in good condition appliances including dishwasher, washer, dryer and electric range. Will sell as a group for $400, or individually at $125 each (you pick up at my home).

From Adela Batin, 455-6691:
Keep your feathered friends happy: large bird cage on rollers. Will accommodate macaw, cockatoo or amazon, $175 obo. Brand new large accordian-style folding doors, 10'x 20' oak with rails, $800 obo, 8'x 15' mahogany with rails, $500 obo. Large metal quonset hut frame, approx. 20'x30', perfect for chicken coop or cover for horse barn or greenhouse $400 obo. Beautiful sheepskin coat from Germany, worn only once, women's size 8, $400 obo.

From Mike Brase, at 474-7989
1994 Nissan Pathfinder SUV. 4WD, 4 DR, AT/PW/PD, cruise, AM/FM cassette, extra studs on rims, fully loaded. Even heated mirrors! Great family rig and sporty enough for college student. 67K miles, asking $9850 obo.

