On The Move

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University of Alaska Statewide

On the Move and Making Waves





Above: Pat Pitney, Director of Budget Development and Institutional Research. Left: Adela & Larry Jackson on Baldwin Beach, Maui, Hawaii. The surf is beautiful to look at, but beware of the power of the ocean.

During the dark, cold days of winter, every Alaskan dreams of spending Christmas vacation frollicking on a sunny beach, whether it's in Florida, Mexico or Hawaii. This past Christmas break, **Adela Batin** headed to Maui for a honeymoon with her new husband Larry Jackson.

Adela reflected, " On Christmas Day we boarded the Alaska Airlines flight in Fairbanks. We walked down the aisle, and as we reached our seats, **Todd Paris**, UAF University Relations Editor, jumped up and gave me a big Aloha hug. Todd was on his way with his wife to the Caribbean and was already wearing his flowered island shirt, shorts and straw hat! His son, a UAF exchange student, had spent the fall semester in the Caribbean, so Todd thought it would be the perfect time to plan a vacation in that part of the world."

"I was surprised," said Adela, " as I glanced towards the seats behind us to see Pastor Philip Kuehnert and his family. Pastor Kuehnert was the one who recently married Larry and me. They were headed south to spend the holidays with family."

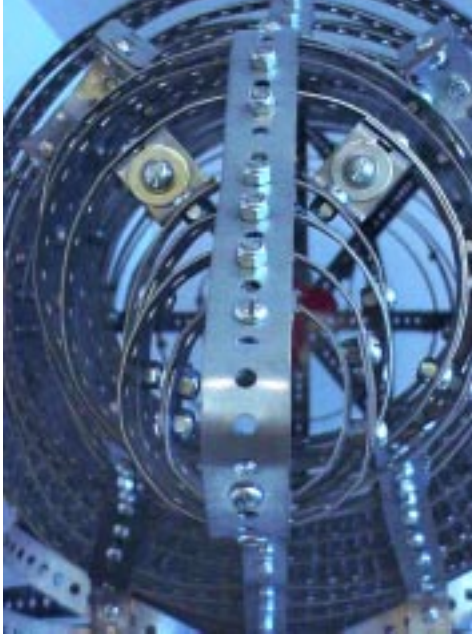
"Our connecting flight in Anchorage was delayed for twelve hours due to problems with the plane. There was a hole in the stabilizer the size of a football. While a new replacement plane was being flown from Honolulu and the mass of displaced passengers was being reorganized by the Hawaiian Vacations crew, we ran into **Jeannie Phillips** and family and Dan Callahan and family, who were scheduled on our flight. As we finally boarded the Hawaiian Airlines flight late that evening, we ran into **Tammi Ganguli** and her husband, Rajive, who were also on their honeymoon."

Adela continued, " During the return flight from Honolulu to Anchorage on January 11th, I glanced up to see **Pat Pitney** and her daughter Crystal strolling the aisle to stretch their legs during the 5 1/2 hour flight."

Pat and her family had flown to the Big Island of Hawaii on December 22nd. Their vacation had scarcely begun, when tragedy struck on Christmas Day. Pat's 11-year-old daughter Crystal was wading in the ocean. She turned to walk into a small wave, and as she did, the wave came up, hit her in the chest and knocked her over backwards. As she struggled to get up, she knew something was wrong with her back. After she got out of the water, she was assisted by the lifeguard and paramedics, placed on a back board and taken to the local hospital. Xrays revealed her back was broken!

The family flew to Honolulu where Crystal was placed in the hospital. Her 4th, 5th and 6th thoracics had been fractured but were all still intact. The 7th and 8th were broken apart and doctors used some of the bone from her hip to repair the break. The 9th, 10th and 11th thoracics were compressed. The doctors placed a metal rod in her back

(continued on the back)



Feeling a little wirey?

This is how most of us felt before the holiday vacation. The Mexican potluck on the shortest day of the year, included sunshine and delicious food that warmed the belly. Thanks to Chris Garris and his wonderful Mexican Fiesta theme!

Hopefully you had a refreshing vacation and are starting the new year with enthusiasm!



Barb Stockwell being tempted by the delicious Mexican chocolate cake served at the potluck.

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Making Waves

(continued from front)
extending from the 3rd to the 12th thoracic. Crystal spent her Christmas vacation in the hospital from December 25 until January 3rd, when she moved to an apartment next to the hospital, where she stayed until January 11th.

Crystal is now in school and has special chairs she is able to sit in. It will be 2 1/2 months before she is able to start physical therapy and swimming. She's doing better and Pat sincerely appreciates all the get well wishes and support from friends and co-workers. Pat said that during this whole ordeal, she really got a sense of support from the Fairbanks the community.

Adela concluded, "On Wednesday, January 9th, Larry and I were walking along our favorite beach in Maui. We were supposed to meet a friend from Fairbanks who had recently moved to Paia, Maui. We wondered why the beach was so deserted on such a beautiful, sunny day, until we noticed a sign posted in the middle of the beach. It warned us of the undertow of the quick, shallow waves. I noticed how much quicker the surf lapped up on the beach that day. The day before, Maui had 20-foot waves, and it was a surfer's delight. But in that evening's newspaper, several articles reported people being hurt in the surf. It amazed me how something so soft and fluid could also be so hard and treacherous. I gained a new respect for the water and surf."

From Lisa Sporleder:
Had a nice, quiet Christmas here in town. Breakfast with a friend's family, dinner with another friend's family. December 29, I had my Open House so folks could see what the new place looks like in it's unfinished splendor! I spent most of my time off getting ready for the party, finishing up things that you only do when company is going to come and check it out. :-)

On the Move is Online

Go to: www.alaska.edu/opa/onthemove. **Deadline** for the next issue is Monday, January 28th by the end of the day.

Office Switching Set For Next Month

Now that the General Counsel's office has moved back up to its re-done digs on the second floor, some more offices will be switched in the first week of February.

Mike Sfraga and Dave Veazey will be moving from the President's Suite to the first floor offices previously occupied temporarily by the General Counsel's office. Karen Perdue will move from her office into the office previously occupied by Mike Sfraga on the second floor.

Karen has been using the office designated for the new Vice President for Research, who will assume his new position sometime in March.

During the same time period, there will also be some rewiring for the new, faster Internet that is already available in the basement and on the first floor. At first only the General Counsel's office will be rewired, but John Dickinson said the rest of the second floor will be rewired later this year.

SW Risk Mgmt Handles UA Claims; Saves Money

By Julie Baecker, Director

Back when the earth was young and I started working for Risk Management, and that was in (1979), all claims funded by Risk Management (auto, liability, property, workers' comp) were handled by contract claims adjusting companies. In 1985, the majority of the claims were brought in-house. Contract claims adjusters were still hired to handle workers' compensation claims for time lost from work. The reason for this was that these particular types of claims require the university to process wage replacement payments, separate from regular payroll, within time constraints required by state law. Then there was no mechanism nor adequate staff to handle these claims effectively.

Further aggravating the claims-handling operation was the downsizing of the department that took place in January 1995. The number of claims outsourced doubled and program costs increased.

Between the fiscal years 1997 and 1999, the university was paying an average of $142,000 per year to outside contract adjusters to handle out-sourced claims. In addition to the cost of the program, there were ongoing problems with quality control with the adjusting companies and some employees were not being adequately served.

Based, in part, on identified program cost savings of a minimum of $70,000 (difference between new adjuster salary and the cost of out-sourcing), there was a decision to hire an additional in-house adjuster. Yvonne Boyce was hired in March of 2000 and, after four months to gear up, the SW Office of Risk Management was able to bring all claims in house July 1, 2000.

We could not have instituted this program change on our own and would like to acknowledge the efforts of Raye Ann Robinson, Val Amarillas, and Diana Carr. Without their assistance and willingness to help develop a system to promptly issue checks, the program change wouldn't have been possible.

Spearheading and managing the labor intensive and stressful transition from outside adjusting to in-house was Laura Jackson, Claims Manager from the Anchorage office. She was assisted by Yvonne Boyce, Adjuster, and Brenda Vannoy and Amaya Spencer, Claims Technicians. They made the difficult transition without missing a single payment to a claimant.

The success of programs like this is difficult to quantify in the short term due to the normal claims experience peaks and valleys and the length of time it takes for workers' compensation claims to fully develop. However, as of October 31st, the university's average cost per claim has dropped more than $1,800 as compared to the prior five-year history. If this trend holds, it would mean a savings to the University of approximately $431,000 on FY01 claims alone. Adding the $70,000 savings from the discontinuation of out-sourcing, the FY01 savings could be in the range of $501,000.

The average cost per claim in FY02 is currently only $2,000 as compared to FY01 at $3,000. We would like to think this indicates a continuing downward trend but, the year is still young and we will have to wait and see.

For Sale or Trade

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

From Mike Humphrey, 474-3701:
Wife wants new tires!! Must sell these: 4 215/75 R 14 snow tires, make an offer.

From Bonnie Carroll, 474-8664:
300 gallon reef-ready aquarium with filter, fish and custom made stand & hood. $2,250 obo.

From Kathy Tamburello, 474-7213:
97-Toyota Tacoma, extcab, 4x4, 5speed, 4cyl., new tires and brakes, CD player, EXCELLENT shape in & out. $12,800 obo.

From Jennifer Dunn at 356-3608:
For sale: 1997 Dodge Dakota Ext Cab 4x4. Automatic with V8 engine. Maroon/gray with 67,000 miles, matching Leer highrise truck topper, bedliner, a/c, am/fm cassette, pwr steering, and pwr brakes. 32 x 11.50 x 15 tires on aluminum rims and tow pkg.$15,000 obo.

From Tammi Ganguli, 451-6767:
For sale: Pro Form 595LE Treadmill. $400 obo. Features include: Wide Track, Incline, and Heart Rate Monitor. Top speed is 10 mph. Maintains time, pace and calories burned for each work out session. Has book holder and bottle holder. 3 years old but like new.

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

From Betty Dupee, 7123 or 479-4590 eve:
HELP! Need RV's or trailers that would be available for a pittance for housing for relatives coming up for a June wedding. Would need June 5th through the 17th. Will be set up on a lot adjacent to our house and not moved.

From Gene McGill at 5507:
4 1997 GMC Sierra 1500 OEM aluminum 6 bolt rims with LT245/R16 tires in various conditions. Includes lug nuts. $300 or offer. Leer pickup topper to fit 1997 GMC x-cab short-bed pickup or similar. Red, with clamps. $400 or offer.