



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA

*Many Traditions One Alaska*

# Regents' Recap

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UA BOARD OF REGENTS' MEETING April 2007

## Governor Appoints Fairbanks Resident to Board of Regents



*UAF Alumnus Erik Drygas, left, addresses a crowd at the Downtown Rotary luncheon in Fairbanks Thursday, May 3. Gov. Sarah Palin, holding the microphone at right, appointed Drygas to the Board of Regents. Photo by UA Staff ©2007 University of Alaska.*

Gov. Sarah Palin announced Thursday, May 3, her appointment of Erik Drygas to the University of Alaska Board of Regents. Drygas will fill the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Jim Hayes.

"Erik's strong educational commitment to the state's children is very evident," said Palin. "In his young life, Erik's already established himself as someone with focus and determination to inspire the next generation through strong academic skills and a tireless work ethic. He will serve the State of Alaska and its students very well as a Regent."

A 2000 graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with a degree in elementary education, Drygas was a student teacher at Weller Elementary School in Fairbanks and currently serves as the head hockey coach at West Valley High School. With Drygas as coach, the team was awarded the State Academic Award for hockey in 2003, 2004, and 2006, for its academic excellence. The award reflects the highest cumulative grade point average of team members statewide. Drygas also provides radio and Internet color commentary and game analysis for

UAF hockey.

Drygas has received numerous awards, including "Alaskan of the Year" in 1999, presented by the Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities. He was also selected by the President's Committee on Employment with Disabilities in 2000, to serve as part of the National Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities. Drygas is an active member of the Fairbanks community. Among other activities, he serves as a volunteer instructor at the Laura Stamm International Power Skating School.

"I am honored that Governor Palin has selected me to serve on the University of Alaska Board of Regents," said Drygas. "This is an exciting time in Alaska. I look forward to making sure the University of Alaska, the faculty and especially the students are prepared to meet the diverse needs of Alaska's future."

Drygas must now move through the confirmation process with state legislators.

*\*This press release was provided by the governor's office and is reprinted here with permission.*

### BOARD OF REGENTS

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Mary K. Hughes (2002-2009)

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Tim Brady (2005-2015)

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Erik Drygas (2007-2011)

Pat Jacobson (2007-2015)

Bob Martin (2005-2013)

Kirk Wickersham (2007-2015)

#### Board Office

Jeannie Phillips

202 Butrovich Bldg.

P.O. Box 755300

907.450.8010

[www.alaska.edu/bor](http://www.alaska.edu/bor)

email: [sybor@alaska.edu](mailto:sybor@alaska.edu)

*The University of Alaska Board of Regents is the governing body responsible for the university policy and management through the president. Regents are appointed by the governor for eight-year terms, subject to legislative confirmation. A student regent is appointed for two years from candidates nominated on each campus. (Regents' term of office shown in parentheses.)*

## Regents visit Homer, approve new program & facilities

Homer residents came out in force during the University of Alaska Board of Regents' two-day meeting at the Kachemak Bay Campus on April 18 & 19, 2007, demonstrating strong support for the branch campus and university system as a whole.

## Kachemak Bay Campus



*KBC Director Carol Swartz presents an overview to the Board of Regents. Photo by UA Staff ©2007 University of Alaska.*

Many who testified offered personal thoughts and stories about how much the campus means to the town and region.

Author and adjunct faculty member Rich Chiappone of Homer, who received both his bachelor's and master's degrees at University of Alaska Anchorage, said the diversity of students is striking. The first semester Chiappone taught, for instance, his class featured a "crusty cod fisherman," a paintball enthusiast, some high school students earning college credit and an elderly woman.

"Alaskan colleges are the gathering places for the citizens of our communities--they are the new grange halls and sewing circles. They are the campfires that we gather around to tell our stories and share our opinions, and learn from others," Chiappone said.

They also are an economic engine for their communities, said Tina Day of the Homer Chamber of Commerce.

"Everywhere you look, you see the economic benefits that this campus has generated for our community, whether it's the nurses at South Peninsula Hospital, the accountants, the bookkeepers, the teachers, the charter industry, artists and welders," Day said. "Kachemak Bay campus continues to provide opportunity for the residents of Homer."

## City Hall purchase urged

Many citizens urged the board to acquire additional space for the campus. For the last two years, the Board of Regents' capital budget request has included \$2.5 million to purchase and renovate Homer City Hall, next door to the main campus building, for faculty offices and additional classroom space. The project, however, has not yet received funding as major maintenance and other projects are higher on the priority list.

Faculty offices at the Kachemak Bay Campus are located 1 1/2 miles away from the main campus facility in an old school. Regents toured college facilities with campus director Carol Swartz and attended a reception with members of the campus advisory board and community.

## Programs approved

The board approved five graduate certificates in elementary education, reading, early childhood education, mathematics education and educational technology at the University of Alaska Southeast. UAS already offers the classes that lead to those specialized endorsements on state teaching certificates, but the new certificated program officially recognizes the programs and will allow students to apply for financial aid.

Regents also approved a 38-credit certificate in power generation at UAF's Tanana Valley Campus, answering a call from industry.

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## Future Board Meetings

June 6-7, 2007  
Fairbanks

September 18-19, 2007  
Anchorage

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## "Thank you"



*Board Chair Mary K. Hughes thanks friends and supporters of KBC during a reception held Wednesday night. Photo by UA Staff ©2007 University of Alaska.*

## In other business: regents took the following action

- \* Gave formal project approval for a \$17 million, 445-space parking garage in conjunction with the Integrated Sciences building at UAA;
- \* Approved formal and schematic design of a \$3.5 million remodel of UAA's Allied Health Sciences Dental Clinic;
- \* Named Prince William Sound Community College's museum addition the Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum, after the pioneering Alaska couple who donated an extensive collection of Native art and artifacts to the Valdez campus. Maxine now lives in Fairbanks; Jesse passed away in 1990.
- \* Named the Commons building at UAA the Edward Lee Gorsuch Commons, after the former UAA chancellor who began his long career in public service at the university in 1976;
- \* Named the Natural Sciences building at UAF the Paul B. Reichardt Building, after the longtime UAF professor, administrator and provost who will retire this year;
- \* Passed resolutions of appreciation for student regent Jacob Gondek of UAA, whose two-year term expires May 31; longtime UAF scientist and founder of the International Arctic Research Center Syun-Ichi Akasofu, who retired in February; UAA Chancellor Elaine Maimon, who is stepping down next month to take a job at another college in Illinois; and Reichardt.