

**Major Accomplishments**

University Relations

The University Relations office is leading several committees working on an exciting series of events celebrating UAA's 51<sup>st</sup> birthday. "The Next 50 Years" weekend, Feb. 4-5, will have three main components:

- **Public seminars.** In keeping with the vision of UAA as Alaska's "public square," the campus and Anchorage community is invited to attend a series of lectures and panel discussions exploring areas of interest to our state. Topics include diversity, aging in Alaska, the future of salmon fishing and the economy and the environment.
- **The History Wall.** This visually interesting piece highlighting UAA's evolution and contributions to the state will be unveiled at a special event on the third floor of the library Feb. 4. RIM Architects and Aldrich-Pears Associates developed the design; Dr. Will Jacobs was primarily responsible for developing the content.
- **Chancellor Installation.** This will be the first-ever formal installation of a chancellor at UAA. However, the tradition — a symbolic exchange of support between a chancellor and the community — has been carried out at universities all over the world for centuries. The event will include a color guard, music by UAA Professor Mari Hahn and a children's choir, and be emceed by KTUU news director and anchorman John Tracy.

University Relations also worked hand-in-hand with ISER to publicize the appointment of the new ISER director. Former Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer has accepted the position and will begin her duties Feb. 14.

Development

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign continues to be remarkable successful. The latest numbers show UAA closing in on 75 percent of its \$12 million goal — with only half the fiscal year completed!

UAA will also finish the year with a new record for alumni contributions. With only half the year gone, the development office has raised more than \$125,000 — twice the amount raised over the entire previous year (which itself was twice as much as the year before that). Development staff give a great deal of credit for this to a student "phone-a-thon" program supervised by Annual Giving Manager Jennifer Simeonoff.

Alumni Relations

The Alumni Relations Office is investigating the possibility of a Student Alumni Association as a way of networking students and alumni as well as fostering long-term support of UAA. Student Alumni Associations have been very successful at other universities including the University of Alaska Southeast.

The office has obtained the voting districts of 17,000 alumni, employees and donors in the Anchorage area in order to better communicate legislative concerns and leverage support for UAA with legislators. Alumni relations also created a program for matching addresses with legislative districts. The office hopes to gather districts for the Mat-Su alumni, donors and employees next. Finally, the office will gather students' legislative districts.

## **Coming Up. . . .**

### University Relations

The University Relations office will continue to put the finishing touches on plans for "The Next 50 Years" weekend. Also coming up are efforts to publicize a Jan. 27 lecture by Nobel Prize laureate Vernon Smith; a push to help students learn about and apply for financial aid; and a lecture and book release by former Gen. William Tuttle, Jr., the UAA Logistics Department's new President's Professor of Logistics.

### Development

Using a locator service, the Development Office has identified 5,000 alumni missing from existing records. The office will incorporate this new information into the Phone-a-thon fundraising effort scheduled to take place in the spring.

### Alumni Relations

The Alumni Relations Office is working with the Department of Anthropology to host Dr. Patricia McAnany, a UAA alumna and one of the world's foremost experts on Mayan culture, for a lecture on Thursday, March 10. More details will follow.