

OFFICE of STUDENT AFFAIRS

This spring, the Office of Student Affairs and the School of Engineering faculty are piloting mandatory academic advising in order to strengthen the retention and degree completion rates for Civil Engineering majors. It includes 296 undergraduate Civil Engineering majors and pre-major students. They are now required to meet with an advisor prior to the course registration period each academic term.

The phase II of planning and development work for the new division of Student Access, Advising, and Transition (AAT) is complete. It included 30 group forums with students, staff and faculty with the goal of identifying UAA's strengths and challenges relative to first-year student access, advising and transition. These findings will inform the reorganizing of programs, services and resources to best support a first-year student success pathway. Establishing this new division will position Student Affairs to more effectively partner with academic affairs and administrative services using a student-centered approach, giving students comprehensive support and guidance through the admissions process, orientation, and advising in first-year experience programs.

On March 5 and 6, the two finalists for the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Access, Advising and Transition position, Dr. Lacy Karpilo and Dr. Laurel Hummel, will be interviewed.

The Military and Veteran Student Resource Center, located in Student Union room 102, is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7. The ceremony will recognize the efforts of individuals, departments and community members who dedicated resources, support and a lot of hard work to bring the vision of a Center on the Anchorage campus to fruition.

The Assessment Team (A-Team) recently served as the search committee for a new Student Affairs Research, Assessment and Staff Development Coordinator. The search resulted in Whitney Brown from the University at Albany accepting the position. She comes with a wealth of knowledge in the areas of student learning outcomes, data collection and analysis and Campus Labs tools. She will be starting in the position June 10.

The A-Team has also been working with Student Affairs directors to develop student learning outcomes for each office. Refresher workshops on writing and measuring SLOs will begin by mid-March. In preparation, the directors are reading Dr. Maggie Culp's *Building a Culture of Evidence in Student Affairs* and participating in a biweekly book club to discuss ideas from the book.

David Weaver, formerly the MAP-Works Coordinator, transitioned to the position of director of Housing, Dining and Conference Services. On-campus interviews to fill the vacant position occurred last week. The outcome of the search process should be announced soon.

The MAP-Works Peer Mentorship pilot program started in February. This collaborative program has matched 13 student mentors, all of whom work in various Student Affairs departments, with 32 first-time, full-time baccalaureate-seeking freshmen who expressed an interest in having a peer mentor at UAA.

After successfully partnering with over ten faculty last semester, the Faculty Referral component of MAP-Works continues this semester. This system enables faculty of all 100 level and below classes to refer students who are faltering and in need of help to MAP-Works.

Over 40 students were targeted and contacted for financial aid outreach by the MAP-Works team, after expressing concern over paying for school and financial aid on the MAP-Works survey. FAFSA and the scholarship deadlines were reviewed, as well as any other questions the students may have had.

ACADEMIC & MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES

The annual TRiO National Day of Service was hosted by Educational Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Center, and Student Support Services on February 18, 2013 in the Student Union. This program highlights the students served through TRiO grant funding and their stories; as well as provides an opportunity for the students to give back to the Anchorage residents through community service. This year 150 persons were in attendance (students, family members, community representatives, etc.). The keynote speaker was former TRiO student, Mr. Tyrone Flowers, J.D., founder of M-Pact. The Proclamation was presented by Dan Kendall of Mayor Dan Sullivan's Office; Greetings from Congressman Don Young's Office was presented by Tara Risinger, and a letter from Senator Mark Begich was read by Thelma Snow-Jackson. Dances were performed by Anchorage School District Cultural Clubs; Alaska Native, Polynesian, African, and Hmong. Forty-eight (48) TRiO students participated in the United Way Alaska service project of 90% by 2020.

The Multicultural Center in partnership with the Black History Month Committee coordinated a Health Fair on Thursday, February 28, 2013 in the Student Union. Students were able to learn about healthy food choices, how to relieve stress, their body mass index, mental health resources, facts & figures about strokes, etc. Partner participants were UAA Student Health and Counseling Center, Win Wellness Representatives, and several Anchorage community health services.

New Student Orientation hosted UAA FUSION (For Unity and Service In Our Neighborhoods), a volunteer service opportunity for new students; February 21-22, 2013. Twenty-six (26) UAA students participated and completed 86 service hours at Kid's Corp (Mt. View, 20th Street, & South); Habitat for Humanities; Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission; Catholic Social Services; Alaska Native Cultural Charter School; and Mt. View Elementary.

Native Student Services Director, Willy Templeton, visited the Kenai Peninsula College campus to meet with their Intercultural Committee to share ideas about the opportunities for KPC's new Rural Student Coordinator.

AMSS welcomes new staff member Mr. Nick Jordan, who will serve as Educational Talent Search middle school Advisor for students at Begich, Clark, Romig, and Wendler middle schools.

Coming up on March 23, 2013, the Multicultural Center will host the Men and Women of Excellence Scholarship Program at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel from 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm.

ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Enrollment Services leadership continues to follow developments in the looming federal budget sequestration. Should sequestration-based cuts happen, currently enrolled students will see no changes to their financial aid for spring semester – nor will those who enroll for summer term. Predicting what might happen for fall 2014 students is more difficult as both sequestration-based cuts and negotiations for the fiscal year 13/14 federal budget come into play. Information released by the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) indicates sequestration based cuts could cause an estimated \$12,000 reduction in UAA's Federal Work-study allocation next year. Cuts may also be felt in the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) but estimates have not been released.

The more immediate impact of sequestration to UAA students will be loss of personal and/or family income due to furlough or layoffs from federal jobs, jobs related to federal grants, or Department of Defense contracts. A student experiencing an immediate financial emergency, or with questions about financial assistance for next school year, should contact the UAA One-Stop in person or by phone. Each student's situation will be different and will require an individual response.

The deadline to apply for UAA scholarships passed on February 15; 2,883 UAA students submitted an application. This represents 16% of fall headcount; down slightly from 17% last year. The next step is for the Standing Scholarship Committee to read and score each application, with the goal of making awards in May. Shauna Grant, Interim Assistant Director of Student Financial Assistance, will Chair the Committee and organize the scoring of applications using a new standardized rubric, which should make the task easier. She will be sending an appeal for volunteers. Anyone interesting in helping can volunteer online at: www.uaa.alaska.edu/financialaid/sscform.cfm. Reading the applications is a difficult but rewarding job; volunteers will have eye-opening experiences as they learn about some of the best and brightest students at UAA and some of the amazing stories of perseverance to earn a college degree.

Enrollment Services is already gearing up for priority registration for fall 2014. It begins with graduate students on March 29 and seniors on April 1. On March 27, the Office of the Registrar will be on the top floor of the Student Union from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. to assist students with questions regarding priority registration, including eligibility and class standing. There will be free ice cream and students with questions regarding registration eligibility or when they are allowed to register are invited to "Chill Out" with registration staff and find answers to their questions. This event is in addition to the One-Stop Kiosk which will be open in the Student Union Building starting on March 19 and running through the end of April. Watch the Northern Light for locations and hours.

Applications for fall 2013 admissions are strong, running 14% ahead of last year based upon total freshmen and transfer applications received.

	Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013	
	Freshmen	Transfer	Freshmen	Transfer	Freshmen	Transfer
International	35	23	26	13	25	15
Alaskans	1357	320	1331	279	1744	243
Outside	356	279	333	255	285	242
Subtotal	1748	622	1690	547	2054	500
Grand Total	2370		2237		2554	

Source: UAA Office of New Student Recruitment, Banner SI, live data for February 27, 2013.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Career Services Center (CSC) is planning the 2013 Seasonal & Part-Time Career Fair to be held on Thursday, March 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the UAA Student Union. CSC expects about 20 companies to participate; this will be a great opportunity for UAA students and alumni to gain information on part-time and summer positions.

CSC is planning to partner with the student club, Public Relations Students Society of America, to host the Resume Review program in March. This is a great opportunity for companies to send representatives to review students' resumes and give suggestions on what makes a resume great.

CSC is planning to hold a second clothing drive for the Professional Clothes Closet and collect gently-used professional attire from UAA staff and faculty. The drive is tentatively scheduled for March 25 - April 5.

Through the UAA Student Affairs initiative funding process, the Dean of Students Office was awarded monies to hire a consultant from the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management (NCHERM) to review the UA Student Code of Conduct.

The Dean of Students Office is preparing for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

SafeZone hired the first ever SafeZone Student Worker. The worker is responsible for developing a marketing plan for SafeZone, co-chairing the SafeZone Celebration Week planning committee and supporting the growth of SafeZone across campus.

The ANROP Coordinator will host Wellness Kuspuk Sewing on March 3, 7, and 8 in the Cama-i Room.

Student Body elections will be April 9 and 10. This election is for the President and Vice President of USUAA as well as members of the student Assembly, Concert Board, and Media Board. These students are significant leaders on campus and within our state.

Student Showcase conference is April 4-5 and will feature 37 presentations from UAA's top academic students. Community commentators will attend and review student presentation. Winners will be awarded \$300 and be published in the 2014 Student Showcase Journal.

Valentine's Day isn't about flowers and chocolate for the Student Health and Counseling Center....but rather promoting healthy relationships! On February 13, the SHCC was active in screening 105 individuals for sexually transmitted infections, and providing further information to over 200 individuals who attended the Healthy Sexuality Resource Fair. On February 8 the center hosted a breakfast for Dan Savage and interested students. Sexy Jeopardy was played in The Commons and Student Union on February 11 and 12.

The SHCC facilitated a discussion on "Stress and the Nursing Student," with the RRANN Students on February 22.

Student Union & Commuter Student Services hosted the 3rd annual Beard n Mustache competition on February 28. Fifty competitors competed and 200 people attended.

Baristas and a Coffee Shop Student Manager were hired and trained to operate the Coffee Shop. Soft Opening is March 4.