

2000-32-03

Laura Jones

Steven Sherman, host

Series: This is Your University series tapes

196u?

University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska

Produced by the University of Alaska Department of News Service in cooperation with KUAC

Steven Sherman said while college enrollment was climbing 6.3 percent across the nation the University of Alaska had a record 2,224 students enrolled at the main University of Alaska campus in the fall semester which was a twenty and a half percent increase over registration last fall. As the only state institution of higher education the university carries a statewide responsibility. Laura Jones, registrar and director of admissions, will discuss the increase in enrollment on a statewide basis.

Sherman asked Laura Jones if she has any figures on the statewide growth of the university this fall. Jones said generally speaking the growth throughout all of their operations in the state shows a 12.6 percent increase. There are 6,172 students enrolled in just academic courses this year compared to 5,480 last year. There are also many non-degree programs. Sherman asked why the record enrollment. Jones said there are two or three factors. She thought the university has developed many fine, new programs. There is also a population increase in Alaska and it will continue to increase with economic opportunities. Many people are attracted to this. In keeping with this potential the university is getting ready for it and is developing programs to prepare people for employment. All these factors together are contributing to the growth of the student population.

Sherman said most of us are aware that the University of Alaska has several community colleges and asked about their enrollment. Jones said there is a community college at Anchorage which has an enrollment of 1,772 students in degree programs which is an increase of 41.4 percent over last year. They have 102 percent increase in the number of credits being carried by the students in Anchorage. Also in Anchorage they have a program at Elmendorf. They have 1,145 students at the base. The Juneau-Douglas campus has 160 students this year. Ketchikan has 93 students this year. Kenai community college had 47 students last year and this year there are 84. Kodiak community college has 65 students in its first year of operation. They don't have statistics from Sitka and Palmer since they have a later opening date.