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Dr. Tom Royer, speaker

Karen Cedzo, moderator

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Karen Cedzo said if you are looking for a place to locate a marine institute would you choose Fairbanks. According to Tom Royer, a physical oceanographer with the Institute of Marine Science (IMS), Fairbanks is a logical location for the institute. Royer said in other states they put laboratories on the coast such as Friday Harbor on San Juan Island and others. They have been there for some period of time. No Institute of Marine Science has grown with them. They remained marine laboratories. With the exception of the Ritter Laboratory which evolved into Scripps Institution of Oceanography. There is clearly something necessary other than to be in sight of the ocean to establish a marine science institute. He said he has found the thing that is important is a university. That determines where you do your teaching research. Students need access to quality facilities and faculty. The quality of the institution becomes even more important when you try to attract top notch students. IMS competes with other leading marine science institutes nationally and internationally. He said in the past they have been competing quite well. Now they have forty students in the program. Their studies last from two to eight years. Once they graduate they have been highly successful in obtaining positions. Former students are found in nearly all the major oceanographic institutions in the United States. They are also in Alaska state government. There are also a number of students working in private industry. For every few days at sea there might be years of data analysis. He said they have established a marine center in Seward that has a salt water laboratory. They are also attempting to build a modest public education facility similar to the one found in Newport, Oregon. The facility will house displays and an aquarium. Seward is also home port for their research vessel, the Alpha Helix. Seward is their avenue to the sea.

Karen Cedzo reports on the campus calendar and activities.