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60<sup>th</sup> University of Alaska celebration

John Gilmore, interviewee

Stephen Lay, interviewer

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Stephen Lay said athletics have always been a part of the University of Alaska. Even in the early years of the college a university team played against local basketball teams. As a salute to the role athletics have played at the university in the last sixty years there will be a designated Athletic and Physical Education Day during the Salute Higher Education Celebration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The salute commemorates the first day of classes at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. Dr. John Gilmore, director of intercollegiate athletics, has planned a full day of activities for visitors. Gilmore said the first thing that will be available is the free use of the facilities all day long including the weight lifting room, the gym conditioning room, ice skating, and lap swimming. Visitors will be invited to watch and even participate in some of the physical education classes. There will be a reception at the Patty Center and everyone is invited. Gilmore said there will be a coaches and faculty reception in the Patty Building foyer. People can meet the new coaches. Dr. George Sheehan will be presenting a lecture on running. Lay said athletics and physical education plays an essential role at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Gilmore said they wanted some activities for the university's anniversary and he thinks physical activity has been a part of the university ever since it began. The old museum building in the Eielson Building was the gymnasium. The Patty Building was opened in 1962 after a more formal program began. Physical Education is a member of the Arts and Sciences. There are about fifty or sixty majors. Students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks needs lots of activities and their facilities provide recreation and intramural events. The intercollegiate athletic program serves as an activity for elite athletes and provides a focus of student interest and loyalty and alumnae interest.

Lay reported on anniversary and other activities on campus.