

ORAL HISTORY 87-108-08

Todd Ray

Steve Lay, interviewer.

Series: University Focus series

Todd Ray talked about enrollment at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He said they are always cautiously optimistic. They are continuing the twelve week summer semester for the second year. They have added a number of courses this year. He talked about the enrollment over the years. In 1981 they started moving up in enrollment. They have expanded rapidly. They have tripled their enrollment since 1977. They won't continue with the dramatic increases but they do expect increases in their enrollment. Increased enrollment is due to the attractiveness of the student loan program and expansion of the curriculum. Ray talked about some of the courses offered in the summer. It is a continuation of an effort started a few years ago to move into a broader array of disciplines. They have expanded the physical and natural sciences. He would like to see them take advantage of the geography and offer more field courses. Several areas such as mathematics has had very strong enrollment. They do try to offer some of the courses that are of high demand in the fall and spring semesters. Computer science has been in strong demand. There are courses for newly hired teachers in Alaska. They still direct course offerings toward teachers, but they are moving to a more comprehensive program. He talked about options for summer school registration. They are currently registering students. They will have a continuous registration until the first day or two of classes. They will allow students to register by mail. They have retained a three week session in June for shorter classes. The longer six week session starts in July. There is also the twelve week semester. He discussed the married and family housing problem. He didn't think there would be a problem with housing in the regular dormitories.