



# *2013 Student Commencement Speaker*

## **Application Materials**

### *Purpose*

The Student Commencement Speaker offers an address during the Commencement Ceremony in May and serves as the representative of the entire graduating class. Providing the student address during this important University event is an opportunity for the selected student to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class, reflect upon the past few years, and convey a message for the future. As the representative of the graduating class the Student Commencement Speaker is expected to have made significant contributions to the campus communication and have achieved academic success. Along with notable members of the UAA and UA community as well as other important Alaskan representatives, the Student Commencement Speaker will participate in pre-Commencement activities and be seated on the main stage during the program.

### *Criteria for Eligibility*

- Applicants must have graduated in fall 2012 or be graduating in spring 2013
- Demonstrate academic success by achieving a minimum 3.0 cumulative UAA GPA (at time of application)
- Currently in good disciplinary standing
- On-going leadership involvement at UAA for three semesters if receiving a bachelor's degree, or two semesters if receiving other degrees or certificates
  - The student's involvement may include memberships with campus groups, coordinating events on campus, holding campus job or being appointed or elected to a leadership position with an organization, board, or committee
  - The student's involvement must have contributed to the improvement of student life on campus (i.e.: the student identified a need and filled it. They did not just watch from the sidelines, but instead made a significant difference by their involvement).
- Submitted a complete application

### *Selection Process*

- The Student Commencement Speaker Advisory Board is composed of two UAA faculty members and three members of the class of 2013 students *not* applying for this honor. The Assistant Director of Student Leadership facilitates the selection process.
- The Advisory Board reviews all applications and selects finalists. Finalists interview and are asked to present their address as they would at the Commencement Ceremony. All addresses and interviews will be videotaped.
- Copies of the videotaped interviews and addresses are presented to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs who selects the Student Commencement Speaker.

### *Application Deadline*

To be considered for the 2013 Student Commencement Speaker, Student Life and Leadership must receive a completed application by **5pm on Monday, February 18, 2013 in room 218 Student Union.**

### *Questions*

Should you have questions regarding the Student Commencement Speaker or this process, please contact Paula A. Fish, Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership at 907-786-1371 or via e-mail at [anpau@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:anpau@uaa.alaska.edu).



## 2013 Student Commencement Speaker Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the following application materials to this form:

**1. Narrative Essay**

Essays should be no more than 3 typed pages and address the following questions:

1. Describe why you want to be the 2013 Student Commencement Speaker.
2. In what ways have your leadership contributions or general campus involvement strengthened the UAA campus community, aided in the creation of a positive campus environment, or bettered the collegiate experience for your fellow students?
3. Why do you feel you are the best representative of the graduating class of 2013?

**2. Written Draft of Your Proposed Commencement Address**

When read, this address should not exceed five minutes in length.

**3. Leadership Resume**

Resumes should include dates associated with each experience and describe the following:

1. Elected or appointed leadership positions and jobs with your areas of responsibilities, accomplishments, and/or skills acquired
2. Organizations, committees, or boards for which you hold or have held membership with during your academic career at UAA and any details of your work with these groups
3. Scholarships, honors, awards, or special recognitions

**4. 3 Letters of Recommendation from Current UAA faculty, staff members, or students**

Letters should attest to the student's achievements and ability to be a successful Commencement Speaker – 2 letters must be from current UAA faculty or staff members. Please provide each reference with the included form.

**5. A Copy of your Application for Graduation or Letter of Degree Completion with Approval Date**

**Applications must be received with all required materials by 5pm on Monday, February 18, 2013.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Student Life and Leadership to verify my cumulative UAA G.P.A. I hereby attest that the information in this application is my original work and is true and correct.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To be considered for the 2013 Student Commencement Speaker, please submit your complete application to:

**Student Life and Leadership**  
**University of Alaska Anchorage**  
**3211 Providence Drive, Student Union 218**  
**Anchorage, AK 99508**  
**Attn: Student Commencement Speaker Committee**

For Office Use Only

Date/Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Complete: € Yes € No Meets Eligibility Requirements: € Yes € No Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



*2013 Student Commencement Speaker*  
**Letter of Recommendation**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**To the Applicant:** You may give this form to any staff or faculty member who can speak directly and specifically about your leadership experience, ability, and potential at UAA.

**To the Recommender:** This student is applying to be the 2013 Student Commencement Speaker. Your letter of recommendation will be reviewed by the Speaker Advisory Board and scored as part of this student's application packet. The Board awards points to students who submit letters containing the following information:

1. Examples of the student's strengths in regard to leadership, co-curricular involvement, and/or character and the influence said assets have had upon the UAA campus community or a specific student population.
2. A clear explanation of why you personally feel this student is deserving of such a high honor.

We strongly encourage all recommenders to support your statements with references to your personal experiences with the student.

Please return your completed, signed letter of recommendation to the student applicant. Letters should be provided to the student directly and not enclosed in envelopes. The student's application will be considered incomplete if your letter is not included with his and/or her application packet.

*Please Print Legibly*

Recommender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position or Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return the completed recommendation to the student.**

**All application materials must be submitted together.**

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