

New SOS Director: Frank White



New Student Orientation Services Director Frank White. White has spent several years in bush education.

Fairbanks—A former teacher from Fort Yukon and Special Education Specialist at Nome, Frank White has been appointed director of Student Orientation Services (S.O.S.) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

White replaces Toni Jones who resigned to become director of the Southcentral Unit of UA's Rural Educational Affairs office. White joined the UAF staff in mid-August.

Formerly from Montana, White was a guidance counselor in Fort Yukon last year where he also taught psychology and sociology. Prior to that, he served as the Regional Special Education Specialist in Nome.

Commenting on his new appointment, White said he is particularly excited by S.O.S. because of his rural experience. He was aware of the "fantastic need" for such a program.

S.O.S. was developed in 1969 as the result of studies and projects concerned with the general lack of success in post secondary education by Alaska natives. White said UAF was concerned specifically with the small number of Alaska natives earning college degrees.

He said there are many reasons for this situation including poor academic background and inappropriate adjustment to college life.

Through S.O.S., the university provides services such as special courses and counseling to help rural students succeed during their first year.