New ISER Director in 2013

December 3, 2012

Heather Hudson has decided to step down at the end of 2012, after three years as director of UAA’s Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER). Gunnar Knapp, professor of economics at ISER, has been appointed interim director effective January 1, 2013.

Heather Hudson will be on leave during spring 2013, writing a book on the history of telecommunications in Alaska and carrying out other research projects before returning to the ISER faculty later in the year. Dr. Hudson came to ISER in January 2010 from the University of San Francisco, where she founded the Telecommunications Management and Policy Program. Earlier in her career, she had worked in Alaska on telemedicine evaluation and rural communications planning, and she brought ISER expertise in communications policy and project evaluation as well as international development. During her time as ISER director, she led the recruitment of several new faculty members, who will play a major role in ISER’s future research. In 2011, ISER’s 50th anniversary, she oversaw many outreach activities, including establishment of the George Rogers Fund for Emerging Scholars. She also helped ISER increase its visibility in Canada, across the Arctic, and in other regions with remote and indigenous populations.

Gunnar Knapp holds a PhD in economics from Yale University and has been on the ISER faculty since 1981. He is an internationally recognized scholar for his work on fisheries markets and management of fisheries resources, in Alaska and worldwide. Much of his work has focused on the Alaska salmon industry. He is the co-author of a book on competition between wild and farmed salmon and is currently writing a book, The Economics of Fish. He has also undertaken research on a wide variety of other Alaska economic and public policy issues. For many years he has taught UAA courses on the economy of Alaska and the economics of fish, and he frequently talks to public and private groups around Alaska about fisheries and other issues important to Alaskans. After thirty-one years at ISER, he is honored by the opportunity to serve as ISER’s ninth director.