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Dolly Deiter talks about Alpha Helix Research vessel.

Karen Cedzo

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Series: University focus

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Dolly Deiter talks about the operation of the Alpha Helix Research vessel. Karen Cedzo said she talked with Deiter in Juneau aboard the ship which was docked in Juneau for several open houses. The vessel was in route to Seattle for extensive modifications. Deiter said the engine room would be remodeled, the fuel and ballast tank top would be replaced, the engine room will be remodeled, some tank work would be done, re-wiring will be done, and it will be painted. It will be in Seattle about three months. The Alpha Helix was operated by the Scripps Institution from 1966 to 1979. It was transferred to the University of Alaska in 1980. It was originally designed to conduct biological research. The ship is now being converted to a general purpose oceanographic vessel suitable for the north. A shipboard mini-computer assists in data acquisition and real time data analysis. It carries nine crew members and can accommodate up to fifteen scientists on a cruise. Fuel efficiency is obtained by traveling at 11 knots and Deiter explains traveling slower takes more time and actually uses more fuel. It traveled from Seward to Juneau at five knots because of harsh weather conditions. Seward is home base for the ship. Deiter said they use a large warehouse where they do a lot of their ship operations out of. They have an old lab building, housing unit and a shop. They have had the operations since 1970. She is the marine superintendent in Seward. She talked about her different responsibilities. Cedzo said there is a new dock in Seward, but the ship is exposed and subject to damage during major storms. The length of the dock will be changed and the new bumper system will help, but they need a protective place. Deiter has been with the Marine Institute of Science since 1962.

Karen Cedzo reports on campus activities.