

# Elaine's Installation

By Diane Kaplan - President, Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska

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Several mornings ago I awoke with a start  
I said to myself, simply, "oy"  
In just a few days I'm addressing a crowd  
In University Park, Illinois

I come from a place - the 49th state  
The land of the bright midnight sun  
With snowy topped mountains and big polar bears  
Where salmon and halibut run

Let me tell you a little of why Elaine's special  
Please indulge me a moment, at least  
Her beginnings were humble, I thought you should know  
From the city called Philly back East

The place that makes cheesesteaks, the place that makes scrapple  
And home to the Liberty Bell  
The place of Ben Franklin, the home of the Phillies  
A place that I know very well

There she learned all her loving and loved all her learning  
She was wide-eyed and bright as a star  
She knew education would be her vocation  
And everyone knew she'd go far

After a fashion, she developed a passion  
For researching, writing and teaching  
It took her to Penn, to Brown and to Queens  
She kept on with her learning and reaching

She polished her writing, but Mort was inviting  
There soon came a girl and a boy  
Her children--they're here today--Alan and Gill  
The family that brings her such joy

I'm not sure if you knew, that it's at ASU  
She senses there's something she's needing  
She wants more control, that would be her new role  
She discovers her talent for leading

She loves every student, she cheers every one  
She learns each department, each course  
She immerses herself in the campus's life  
She becomes a phenomenal force

A few years ago - the Great Land was blessed  
She landed with Mort on a plane  
A woman whose heart was as big as Alaska  
Our new UA Chancellor, Elaine

She landed so charmingly into our midst  
She soared up to bald eagle heights  
She charted a path so beautifully bright  
It mirrored our famed northern lights

She touched all our lives, the young and the old  
Lived among us without any fuss  
It didn't take me--very long--not at all  
To know that she was one of us

She raised the school's profile, captured our city  
She put out a call to the town  
"Come to the campus, we want you to know us  
Just come here and wander around"

She and Mort stayed, what a difference they made  
They really sensed Anchorage was home  
They loved all Alaska from Barrow to Fairbanks  
To Dillingham, Juneau and Nome

But you came a calling, and soon we heard bawling  
All over the 49th state  
"Maimon is leaving," Alaskans were grieving  
"She's going to Governors State"

We can't get much pleasure, that you stole our treasure  
But Alaskans are generous souls  
When one of our best is fulfilling a quest  
And meeting her personal goals

She was meant to be President, meant to be here  
She was destined to be one of you  
So I have a duty, as a good Alaskan  
To give Illinois what it's due

To Alaskans it's better to give than receive  
And that is what we'll therefore do  
We give you our treasure, our own Dr. Maimon  
To lead you, to lead GSU