We, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, have been working closely with NASA for the last two years to consolidate ideas and visions in anticipation of the IPY. We strongly believe that in the IPY we should focus on furthering our understanding of "Earth as a System". We also believe that space-based observations will play a critical role in providing the base data for understanding the earth as a system. Besides the operational Earth observing satellites, the "A-train" series of satellites will provide the synoptic overview of the polar regions, and the much required data for polar research.

Another thing that we would like to emphasize is that the IPY needs to have a very strong focus on educational outreach. Much has been said about strengthening one or the other research activities of scientific groups, but we believe that the overall all success of the IPY can only be achieved if the education and outreach component of the program is strong. Our ideas on how this can be realized were presented recently at several meetings. The latest reference is :

Kelley J., Prakash A., Gens R., Yanow G., Alexander V., and Johnson L., 2004, Observing the arctic from space: Educational opportunities for

an International Polar Year. Proceedings 19 International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea and Sea Ice. Mombetsu, Hokkaido, Japan, February 22-26, 2004, 6pp.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us anytime. We stand committed to support and make the IPY a success.