



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, March 2009

CONTENTS

University of Tromsø.....2

Arctic Siberia ...3

World Water Forum4

International Week Events5

University of Pécs6

IP Directory6

University of Tromsø

By Hayden Ausland

Department of Modern & Classical Languages and Literatures



Tromsø at noon on Christmas day

An article in the September 2007 Newsletter outlined hopes for a new international partnership between UM and the University of Tromsø (UiT). This partnership -- UM's first with an institution in Norway -- became a reality later that same Fall, when both institutions endorsed an institution-wide Exchange Agreement. Various academic exchanges flowing from it are already underway. During 2008-9, three Norwegian students have been studying at UM, and one UM student at UiT. In addition, I have been visiting on faculty exchange at UiT's Institute for Philosophy in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

A special attraction of a partnership with UiT is its Centre for Sámi Studies, which offers an English-taught Master's program in Indigenous Studies. Talks about a possible collaboration with UM's Department of Native American Studies (NAS) began in 2006, leading to a UiT delegation's visiting UM in the Spring of 2008 at the time of the annual Pow-wow. Discussions came to fruition by the summer, when a joint application to the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) yielded a generous grant in support of a four-year collaboration.

This got rolling in October of 2008, when a delegation from UM comprising four faculty members and as many students visited Tromsø for over a week, during which they engaged in a variety of constructive activities, including a guided tour through the exhibition on "Sámi culture" at the University Museum and a presentation of opportunities at UiT both for international students generally and for students from UM in consequence of the new exchange agreement. A gathering followed with graduate students at the Sámi cultural building, where these presented academic and personal backgrounds as well as thesis projects, to illustrate the diverse possibilities of the Master's program. UM presented itself likewise, explaining the focus on indigenous issues in NAS with a view for interested students at UiT to study at UM.

Contacts were in this way forged between students and researchers to be deepened during the annual Forum on Indigenous Issues that took place over the next two days (October 22-23). By prior arrangement, Jeff Ross, a PhD student in Forestry at UM, contributed a paper to the conference.

The weekend saw the delegation flying further north to Finnmark, Norway's share of the traditional home of the Sámi. There they visited the Sámi Parliament in Karasjok, hearing a lecture on the history and current politics of the Parliament and receiving a guided tour of its unusual buildings. They also visited Sámi Radio of the NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting) and heard an academic lecture by Else Grete Broderstad of UiT's Sámi Centre (Indigenous peoples in the North. Regional characteristic, integration and self-determination). Driving to Kautokeino, in the heart of Sámi country, they visited the Juuls Silver Gallery and the annual national meeting of the Norwegian Sami Association (NSR). Before returning to Karasjok, the delegation did some joint planning for the future and then enjoyed an evening banquet of the NSR, getting acquainted with "joik" -- a fascinating way of singing among the Sámi. Sunday featured further planning meetings back in Karasjok, as well as another lecture by Broderstad, focusing on indigenous legal issues. (Breakthrough through consultations? A way to achieve indigenous self-determination?)

Once back in Tromsø, the visitors from UM elaborated on their own research interests in a meeting with several members of UiT's faculty, so that several promising research topics were identified for further development within the framework of the cooperation: (1) archaeology and the mapping of cultural resources; (2) indigenous literature, (3) self-representation and indigenous film; (4) natural environments and climate change; and (4) the legal and political understanding of self-determination. UM students interested in the Centre's Master's program were briefed on various practical matters (e.g., the application process, scholarships, costs of living in Norway, travel support, family accommodation etc.); the project currently includes plans to support four student scholarships during 2009-2011 from the funds coming from SIU. The aims, content and structure of the Indigenous programme were also explained and related to the individual interests of the students. Expectations on both sides were clarified, with a view to motivating more UM students to study in Tromsø.

This first visit to Tromsø by a UM delegation offered several important opportunities. One was to get informed about current modes of instruction and research on indigenous issues (especially the Sámi) being pursued at the University of Tromsø. Another was to learn about the political complications inherent in the situation of the Sámi in Norway (both now and historically). Most importantly, by the end of the visit the partners had successfully identified their respective strengths and also the areas that need further development within the project. Planning is currently underway for a get-together in Missoula some time later this year.

University of Tromsø Sami Studies and UM Native American Studies Work Together

By Kathryn Shanley, Special Assistant to the Provost for
Native American & Indigenous Education

During the Spring of 2008, a delegation of scholars from the Sami Studies Program at the University of Tromsø visited The University of Montana, in hopes of building on an exchange agreement between the two institutions that had been reached in the Fall of 2007. Native American Studies faculty and students intersected with a number of presentations the Sami faculty gave on campus, including a Sami film showing and a discussion of their Indigenous Studies Master's Program. In addition to the information sessions they offered us, we gave them tours of our region to places of importance and interest, including a visit to a Montana ghost town and a brief tour of the Flathead Reservation. Out of their visit grew a collaborative grant to the Norwegian Centre of International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) which was ultimately funded.

The aims of the project are to develop long-term research cooperation, promote student exchange, and support Indigenous Studies curricular development, as feasible, in the future. The grant will finance six of our Native American Studies students between 2009 and 2011, with full scholarships, to enroll in the Indigenous Studies Master's Program at the University of Tromsø. Sami Studies will send Master's and students to UM as well, but since UM does not offer a graduate-level degree in Native American Studies or Indigenous Studies, the students will work in fields that fit with their educational foci and individually with faculty mentors. Conferences and workshops will be organized in the framework of this joint project where researchers can partner in research projects and on publishing articles. An anthology will be published internationally which we hope will be used in the curriculum of our institutions and elsewhere. Our ambition with this institutional exchange and cooperation involves building future projects which can generate financial support from other sources. We would like to see the student exchanges and the research collaborations continue beyond the four years.

The importance of exchanges and collaborations between global Indigenous peoples and organizations, such as the UiT Sami and UM NAS project promotes, became especially clear on September 13, 2007, when the United Nations endorsed the Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. With 143 votes for, 4 against (United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia), and 11 abstentions, a new age of recognition had been ushered in. "The Declaration does not represent solely the viewpoint of the United Nations, nor does it represent solely the viewpoint of the Indigenous Peoples. It is a Declaration which combines our views and interests and which sets the framework for the future. It is a tool for peace and justice, based upon mutual

Sami/Native American Studies cont. on p. 3

Professor James W. Sears Goes to Russia

By James Sears

Professor, Department of Geosciences

During the summer of 2008, I joined Russian and American colleagues on geological expeditions in Arctic Siberia and in southern Siberia near the common borders of Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and Russia. The Arctic expedition was conducted in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale University, and both expeditions worked in partnership with the Russian Academy of Sciences out of Moscow. The Arctic expedition based out of Khatanga, a small port town on an estuary of the Arctic Ocean at 72 north latitude. We flew from there by helicopter to the headwaters of the Kotuykan River, then returned to Khatanga in a small flotilla of inflatable rubber rafts. We studied the rock formations along the way, taking samples for measurement of the Earth's ancient magnetic field. The rocks that we examined were the Russian equivalents of the Belt Supergroup rocks that we see here in Montana in places such as Glacier National Park. They closely resemble the beds in the Little Belt Mountains near Neihart, and were likely part of the same sedimentary basin about 1.5 billion years ago, before continental drift split our mother continent and separated Siberia from western North America. The magnetic studies may help test this idea. We also sampled an enormous lava field that erupted during the major extinction event that terminated Paleozoic time to determine if the lavas may have precipitated the near-death of animal life on Earth. On the trip, we camped out along the river and enjoyed many conversations with our Russian colleagues.



Rock beds on Siberian Arctic river, July 2008

After returning to Khatanga, we caught a cargo plane down to Novosibirsk (New Siberia), in the company of several hundred caribou carcasses. One of the economic pursuits of the Arctic Siberians is caribou hunting. A herd of several tens of thousands passes across the plain each fall, and the Siberians shoot a number of them, butcher them, and store them in pits in the ground, which is permanently frozen. Then they air-freight them to the big southern cities along the Trans-Siberian Railway. We spent a few days in civilization in Novosibirsk and along the Trans-Siberian Railway to Krasnoyarsk and then to Karabola for our expedition down the Angara River - the outlet of Lake Baikal. Part of this leg of the trip was done on old motorboats - one of which caught fire in the middle of the big river!

We returned to Moscow and stayed with our host, Vladimir Pavlov of the Russian Academy of Sciences, for a few days until returning to the USA. In December, Pavlov and one of our other companions, Roman Vaselovskiy, were able to travel to the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, where we presented preliminary results of our study. We also submitted a National Science Foundation Proposal in hopes of bringing Pavlov to Montana for a companion study of the Belt rocks in the Little Belt Mountains.

Sami/Native American Studies contd. from p. 2

recognition and mutual respect" (www.iwgia.org/sw248.asp). Within that framework of understanding, our first delegation to the University of Tromsø in October attended a conference sponsored by the Forum for Development Cooperation. The conference was entitled, "Indigenous Peoples, Natural Environments, and Climate Change," and brought together Indigenous people from around the world who are struggling to manage their natural resources in an environmentally sound way amidst corporate domination and exploitation, in particular, because of the growing need for biofuels.

In the fall of 2009, a delegation of Sami Studies scholars will visit Montana to get together with UM faculty around possible articles for the anthology and to enrich their knowledge of the Native American peoples of Montana, their cultures and histories. In a workshop environment, we will discuss areas of cultural confluence and divergence; we will include off-campus tribal people from around the state, as funds permit. In addition, several faculty from UM will attend an International Indigenous Film Festival at the University of Tromsø next January. We greatly anticipate our future interactions in this growing collaboration and want to express our gratitude to Hayden Ausland from Modern and Classical Languages for facilitating the connections both at UM and as a visiting professor at the University of Tromsø. We also want to acknowledge Provost Engstrom for his continuing support, along with Mehrdad Kia and Jeanne Loftus in International Programs. The opportunity this affords UM students and faculty is great.

UM Policy Institute to Participate in 5th World Water Forum

By Matthew McKinney,
Director, Public Policy Research Institute

Matthew McKinney, Director of The University of Montana's Public Policy Research Institute, will participate in the 5th World Water Forum March 16-22, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The World Water Forum is the largest water policy forum in the world. The World Water Council, in cooperation with the host country, convenes it every three years. Over 20,000 people from all over the world will come together in Turkey to exchange ideas, focus on common problems, and seek durable solutions to water problems at multiple spatial scales – local, state, regional, national, and global.

The Vice Secretary General, Dr. Ahmet Saatci, invited Dr. McKinney to help facilitate a series of sessions among political leaders from around the world to seek agreement on issues related to governing transboundary waters, adapting to climate change, and promoting peace and security around water. The Forum seeks to forge a consensus among political leaders and a commitment to follow-through and take action.

In addition to facilitating sessions at the World Water Forum, Dr. McKinney will serve as an ambassador for The University of Montana. According to Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, Dr. McKinney will explore opportunities for partnerships with universities and other organizations in the Middle East and Central Asia. These partnerships will focus on opportunities for faculty and student exchanges, as well as joint projects in natural resource and environmental policy.

"We are very excited to have Dr. McKinney build on our existing programs in the region, and seek to develop new programs in natural resources and environmental policy," Kia says.

A third component of Dr. McKinney's work at the World Water Forum is to engage in the Universities Partnership for Transboundary Waters. This international consortium currently includes thirteen universities on five continents. Its mission is to promote legal and institutional arrangements to govern transboundary waters that build long-term capacity to alleviate poverty, secure peace, and encourage the sustainable use of water and other natural resources.

According to Dr. McKinney, "The University's Partnership is a natural extension of our ongoing work in the transboundary Columbia River basin. Over the past six months, graduate students in the Natural Resources Conflict Resolution Program have interviewed over 25 leaders in the basin to explore how the Columbia River Treaty might be revised and updated." The Policy Institute is co-convening a symposium in April 2009 on this topic with other university partners in the basin.

"I am excited about the opportunity to visit Turkey, and honored to represent The University of Montana," McKinney says. "I am even more thrilled about the research and education opportunities that are likely to emerge from this visit," he said.

The Public Policy Research Institute is an applied research and education center created by the Board of Regents. It seeks to foster livable communities, vibrant economies, and healthy landscapes through policy research, collaboration, and conflict resolution. Dr. McKinney chairs a graduate-level certificate program on Natural Resources Conflict Resolution, and works closely with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy on issues related to the governance of large-scale landscapes. To better reflect its scope and purpose, the Board of Regents will consider a proposal in March 2009 to rename the Institute – Center for Natural Resource and Environmental Policy. For more information on the Institute, see www.umtpri.org.



Matthew McKinney in Glacier National Park

International Week 2009

Sunday, March 15

- Noon - 5:00 p.m. *International Culture & Food Festival*: The festival, sponsored by the International Student Association, consists of country displays, selling of ethnic foods, cultural performances and more! ~ University Center (UC)
- 2:00 p.m. *Rafting through Siberia: A 500-mile Geological Journey*, James Sears, Professor, Department of Geosciences, shares tales and images of his recent travels to Siberia. ~ UC Theater

Monday, March 16

- Noon *Opening Ceremony*, Speakers: Dr. Mehrdad Kia, Associate Provost for International Programs, Effie Koehn, Director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services, and Yan To Cheung, President of the International Student Association. Performers: Dancers from Tajikistan. ~ UC Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. *Encounters Between Buddhism and Iranian Religions: 300 B.C.E. to 300 C.E.*, Bradley Clough, Professor, Liberal Studies. ~ UC 326
- 3:30 p.m. *Indigenous Community Development in Mexico, Canada and the United States*, David Beck, Professor, Department of Native American Studies. ~ UC 326
- 4:00 p.m. *Study Abroad Panel Discussion*: Learn about study abroad opportunities for UM students and returned study abroad students will share stories about their experiences in various countries of the world. ~ UC 326

Tuesday, March 17

- 4:00 p.m. *Change Your World: Intern Abroad*, Learn about opportunities with the IE3 Global Internship program which provides international professional development experiences for students, IE3 and UM's Internship Services. ~ UC 332
- 5:30 p.m. *Peace Corps Information Session*: Mike Bradbury, UM Peace Corps Representative, gives an information session about the Peace Corps programs offered at UM and the opportunities abroad. ~ Lommasson 154
- 7:00 p.m. *Talks with a Siberian Shaman: Viewing Wilderness through Magic or Logic*, The Wilderness Issues Lecture Series presents Jon Turk, research chemist turned chicken farmer, horselogger, adventurer and writer. ~ Gallagher Business Building 106
- 7:00 p.m. *Who Speaks for Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, Montana World Affairs Council sponsors this event about the worldwide research results which challenge myths about Muslims. Dalia Mogahed, Senior Analyst and Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. ~ UC South Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Wednesday, March 18

- Noon *Studying Wildlife in One of the World's Top Biodiversity Hotspots - Bhutan*, Kerry Foresman, Professor, Division of Biological Sciences. ~ Old Journalism 303
- 2:00 p.m. *Born In Jerusalem, Palestine*: Samir Bitar, Lecturer, Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures/Central and Southwest Asia Program. ~ UC 332
- 3:30 p.m. *The World is Your Job Site*: Explore your options for working abroad and discover which plan fits best. Learn how to travel and see new places without dipping into your college funds, Career Services. ~ Lommasson Center 154
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. *International Development Studies (IDS) Minor Reception*: IDS minors and interested students are invited to join the IDS faculty, Provost Engstrom and the IE3 Global Internship staff for food and drink. ~ The President's Room, Brantly Hall
- 5:00 p.m. *Change Your World: Intern Abroad*, Learn about opportunities with the IE3 Global Internship program which provides international professional development experiences for students, IE3 and UM's Internship Services. ~ Davidson Honors College, Study Lounge

Thursday, March 19

- Noon *The Asian Egg*: Chef Eric Johnson demonstrates a number of ways to prepare eggs. ~ UC Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. *South Caucasus in Transition: Politics, Society, Religion*, Ia Iashvili, Milena Oganessian, and Tamila Meladze, Visiting Scholars, Republic of Georgia. ~ UC 326
- 3:30 p.m. *Job Search Skills for International Students*: Learn how to market yourself to U.S.-based companies by constructing a proactive job search, targeting a resume and cover letter toward the jobs you are seeking and communicate your skills in the interview, Career Services. ~ Lommasson 154
- 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. *Soldiers of Conscience*, Peace & Justice Film Series sponsors this film that shows a dramatic window on the dilemma of individual U.S. soldiers in the current Iraq War. ~ UC Theater

Friday, March 20

- Noon *Ethiopia Today: Ancient Traditions and New Challenges*, Otto Koester, Peter Koehn, Solomon Harrar, Effie Koehn, Jeff Bookwalter and Waganesh Zeleke. ~ UC 326

Check Out: Study Abroad Info Table in the UC Atrium (10am - 2pm daily) and UM Dining Services' International Cuisine at the Food Zoo!

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The International Programs Newsletter at The University of Montana

New Opportunity for UM in Hungary

University of Montana students and faculty have an exciting new opportunity to experience Hungary due to a new exchange agreement that UM recently signed with the University of Pécs. The agreement was signed as a result of the flurry of faculty activity between the two institutions. In December 2007, the University of Pécs hosted a joint Terrorism Conference in which several UM faculty members participated. In October 2008, UM hosted a joint Transcontinental Perspectives on Environmental Change Conference. The conference sessions focused on Environmental Change, Policy, Law, and Justice, featured talks by UM and Hungarian scholars, and provided a forum for faculty and graduate students to share research. In addition to these two conferences, faculty members in UM's Division of Biological Sciences have ongoing research collaborations with Robert Pal, a faculty member at Pécs.

The University of Pécs was established in 1367. It is the oldest university in Hungary and was one of the first institutions in Europe. The university has more than 500 programs to choose from in fields including adult education and human resource development, business and economics, health sciences, humanities, law, music and visual arts, science, education, medicine, and engineering. Pécs has over 33,000 students enrolled and offers classes in both English and German.

The city of Pécs is an ancient city with a rich history. With each of the conquering empires the city adapted and added land marks from every culture. The downtown has a unique mixture of the relics of Early Christianity, the arrival of the Hungarians, the Turkish reign and the achievements of modern architecture and art. The town is famous for its museums, galleries, festivals and cultural events it hosts.

UM already has three study abroad applicants interested in going to the University of Pécs next year. Additionally, Robert Pal will return to UM in May as a Fulbright Scholar to work with Professors Maron and Callaway on their joint research projects.

We welcome items of international or intercultural interest for the next newsletter. Please send them to International Programs, International Center, or email us (goabroad@mso.umt.edu).

If you are interested in receiving an email notification regarding upcoming international events and IP activities, please send your name and email address to goabroad@mso.umt.edu or call 243-2288.



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