

The introduction and core courses are complete and ready to teach, with to exceptions: *BCS 312: Land and Environments II*, and *BCS 322: Peoples and Cultures II*, which are in final stage of review and will be in operation by May 2004. Further, the program currently has four Advanced Emphases:

- Arctic Governance – University of Lapland
- Northern Scandinavian Politics and Society - Bodø Regional University
- Arctic Environmental Technology – University Centre on Svalbard
- Polar Oceanography and Meteorology – University Centre on Svalbard

The BCS program has gained substantial capacity to support this program. The Undergraduate Office has recently hired a BCS Science Coordinator. This position will make a substantial contribution to increasing the scientific-based curricula of the program. Further, a number of partnership meetings – in Bodø, Arkhangelsk, and Yakutsk – were held in the second half of 2003 to engage local institutions in implementing BCS. The resources now in place will allow the program to grow steadily in the years to come.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

Graduate students that participate in the Field School and PhD networks benefit from mutual cooperation with their peers, and the north benefits from their interest and commitment. The Field School catalogue listed 18 courses this year, and reached hundreds of graduate students from around the circumpolar north. The Circumpolar PhD Network in Arctic Environmental Studies (CAES) held the following activities:

- Workshop *Reindeer 2005*: 30 participants
- Course on northern tourism: 12 students
- CAES electronic mailing list: 244 members

<i>Students at a glance</i>	
Undergraduate:	183
Graduate:	72

The Circumpolar Arctic Social Science PhD Network (CASS) held two interesting courses:

- Course on energy and mineral development: 18 students
- Workshop on fishery-dependant communities: 12 participants

The International Ph.D. School for Studies of Arctic Societies (IPSSAS) has recently been added as a new branch of the UArctic PhD network.

Members of the University of the Arctic have also expressed a desire to cooperate on matters of shared interest. To this end, UArctic is now developing thematic networks in such areas as reindeer herding, natural resource management, environmental impact assessments, indigenous teacher training etc.

OPEN LEARNING

The Open Learning program is steadily advancing: UArctic is carrying out a survey of our member institutions to gauge the current level of open learning activities, which will inform the future development of this program. The first new program, on Environmental Impact Assessment training of indigenous peoples, has funding in place, and will be developed with leadership from Saami University College in Norway.

MOBILITY

The north2north program continues to function as a catalyst for northern student mobility. The pilot phase has ended; at its completion, decisions were taken for a comprehensive program evaluation. An internal evaluation meeting was held in Stockholm in January 2004, and an external evaluation will begin soon. A final evaluation report will be ready by the summer of 2004.

Seven countries are currently participating in north2north: United States, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Student participation has been increasing:

- September 2002 – June 2003 16 students
- September 2003 - June 2004 30 students
- Total 46 students**

Student numbers have risen substantially towards the end of the pilot phase. To date, the program has received 26 applications for the 2004 –2005 academic year – many more are expected before the application deadline on March 1. In the future, the University of the Arctic will work to increase Scandinavian and Greenlandic involvement in north2north.

ACCESS AND DELIVERY

The ALE program supports our member institutions to share knowledge about the learning processes, pedagogies, and appropriate information technologies necessary to deliver content to and support distant learners across the great distances of this region. To this end, the UArctic Press will publish an edited volume of 15 scholarly articles – *On Top of It: Overcoming the Challenges of ICT and Distance Education in the Arctic* – in the spring. Further, the membership of the ALE program team has been re-formed, which will doubtless lead to exciting future projects in this area.

KNOWLEDGE AND DIALOGUE

The Northern Research Forum will hold its biennial Open Meeting in Yellowknife, Canada, from 15 – 18 September 2004. Planning is well underway for the event, titled *The Resilient North – Human Response to Global Change*.

In November, the Circumpolar Universities Association officially became a UArctic program. The CUA held a successful meeting in Whitehorse in November, and planning is underway for the next *Circumpolar Universities Co-operation Conference* that will take place in Petrozavodsk, Russia, in 2006.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for UArctic activities has been particularly successful in Canada and Norway in the past six months. The following list focus on Arctic Council Government funding; however, there are significant in-kind contributions from members in all of the Arctic countries, and our programs continue to receive and seek more project funding.

- *Canada:* Aim 1.500.000 euro / year. Much has been committed, but gaps still remain. The in-kind contributions from Canadian members, particularly to BCS delivery, the Undergraduate Office at the University of Saskatchewan and the International Academic Office to be developed at the University of Northern British Columbia are significant, but the government funding is lower than the target. A main challenge is funding to improve the northern colleges ability to take on key roles in UArctic, including the BCS program.
- *Finland:* Aim 500.000 euro/year; equal to commitments for 2003. Commitments for 2004-6 are in place for n2n and the International Secretariat, but not yet at a level to secure a smooth operation of the Secretariat in 2004 and onwards. Significant in-kind support from the University of Lapland for the Secretariat needs to be backed up with funding for the Secretariat to cope with the current activity level of UArctic, a growing n2n program and leadership of the northTREX program.
- *Iceland:* Aim: Support as Arctic Council chair, NRF support, and n2n support. Efforts are underway to secure funding for the existing programs, but not certain at this stage. NRF program office at University of Akureyri/Stefansson Arctic Institute.
- *Norway:* Aim 500.000 euro/yr. The parliament has decided to provide 4.5 mill. NOK for 2004, just above the target sum. Follow-up is in progress with Norwegian members, University of Tromsø, and the Ministry of Education. Two UArctic offices (Director at UNEP-Grid/Arendal and Field School at UNIS) with partly in-kind support; a international n2n office is in the planning.
- *Russia:* Aim: Russian n2n funds and others. No national source identified. Strategy is for a slowly increased commitment.
- *Sweden:* Aim 500.000 euro/yr. Commitment to continue the n2n program,, support in the Parliament but no extensive program support expected in early 2004. . The UArctic program lead for the Arctic Learning Environment at the Luleå University of Technology, but this role is still unfunded.
- *USA:* A strategy in development, which requires most Alaskan institutions as members. The n2n National Agency now at ARCUS with a commitment to seek funding; expectations for the private sector.
- *Denmark:* Aim 500.000 euro/yr, in addition to substantial in-kind contributions and externally funded course activities. Funding of UArctic from 2004 received full support from the opposition in the parliament, but the government majority prioritised otherwise. Priority is Danish participation in n2n, funding of Greenlandic and Faeroe involvement in UArctic program activities and the field school activities.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Appendix: UArctic members by country, as of April 2004

Canada

Arctic Athabaskan Council
Association of Canadian Universities for
Northern Studies (ACUNS)
Athabasca University
Aurora College
Canadian Polar Commission
Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and
Environment, McGill University
Gwich'in Council International
Lakehead University
Nunavut Arctic College
Saint Mary's University
University of Alberta
Université Laval
University of Manitoba
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
Yukon College

Denmark

Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland
Roskilde University
University of Faeroe Islands

Finland

Helsinki University of Technology
Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic
Oulu Polytechnic
Rovaniemi Polytechnic
Saami Education Centre
University of Lapland
University of Oulu

Iceland

Iceland University of Education
Stefansson Arctic Institute
University of Akureyri

Norway

Bodø Regional University
Finnmark University College
GRID-Arendal
Harstad University College
Northern Feminist University
Saami University College
University College of Tromsø
University Centre on Svalbard
University of Tromsø

Russia

Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts
Barents Virtual University
Kola Science Centre RAS
Murmansk Humanities Institute
Pomor State University
RAIPON
Sakha State University of Russia
Syktyvkar State University
Technical Institute Yakutsk State University
Yakutsk Agricultural Academy

Sweden

Luleå University of Technology
Mid Sweden University
Umeå University

United Kingdom

UHI Millennium Institute

United States

Centre for Northern Studies
Dartmouth College
Hunter College CUNY
Ilisagvik College
Scandinavian Seminar Group
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Note: 12 applications are pending approval by the Council on May 16, 2004.