Letter from the President

By LARS KULLERUD
President, UArctic

In January 2018 some 60 academics from the University of the Arctic (UArctic) Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security nominated the Arctic Council for the Nobel Peace Prize. UArctic is a child of the Arctic Council cooperation, which in turn is one of the outcomes of the 1987 Murmansk speech by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev – the speech that led to a surge in East-West collaboration in the Arctic.

Over the years Arctic cooperation has expanded from environmental issues to cover many areas of people-to-people, academic and economic cooperation. In spite of recent global challenges the Arctic has remained a zone of peace and cooperation, as stated by President Putin in his annual Arctic Conference. While challenges do have an effect on Arctic cooperation on a daily basis, the will to collaborate remains strong. An example is the new binding agreement on scientific cooperation in the Arctic that has now been ratified by all Arctic countries and came into force in May 2018 as a main result of the US Arctic Council Chairmanship.

Adaptation to climate change and dealing with the impacts of globalization are at the core of a sustainable future of the Arctic. People-to-people collaboration is crucial if we are to find solutions that bring hope and prosperity for the coming generations, while still preserving the qualities of the strong northern cultures. It is also essential that we who work in and for the Arctic take to heart the importance of northern relevance in education and training of professionals, academics and future leaders of the North. UArctic is the framework for such joint efforts, and we will continue to build locally and regionally relevant tools that enable collaboration between people and institutions of the North.

During a time when international politics challenge the Arctic collaboration, it is more important than ever that the academic community become flag-bearers for science diplomacy. When we are successful there is also hope for the governmental collaboration in the Arctic, and the Arctic can continue to grow as a zone of peace and collaboration where people, governments, regional authorities and academia all contribute to our common future.

The successful Arctic Council is indeed a worthy Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and with continued success it can serve as a model for other regions in the world.

EDITORIAL

By OUTI SNELLMAN, Vice-President Organization, UArctic

UArctic was initially built on the concept of collaboration in higher education, specifically education in and about the Circumpolar North. Over the past twenty years we have grown in size and breadth of activities, but at the same time never losing sight of our original vision. This is why UArctic seized Finland’s offer to collaborate with the Arctic Council when Finland started to prepare its chairmanship program. The Education priority provided a natural way for us to join forces with the government in raising awareness and competency on the role of education in the sustainable development of the Arctic region. It was also an opportunity for us as an organization to reflect on the role of education and our focus on it in all its forms.

This magazine is a part of the reflection process. We start with articles on the political and organizational framework by Finland’s Minister of Education Sanni Grahn-Laasonen and UArctic’s Vice-President Academic Mike Castellini. These are followed by more concrete pieces providing examples of the different forms and roles as well as the unique features of education in the Arctic. As Tuija Tunusen, the lead of the UArctic Thematic Network on Teacher Education, states in her article, “in education one size does not fit all.” This is especially true in the Arctic.

Finally, we look at education from a more global perspective with Hilfige van’t Land and Stefanie Marrow’s article on (Higher) Education for Sustainable Development. They point out that UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality Education, calls for “all learners to acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.” This is a clear challenge to all educational organizations, not least UArctic with a sustainable future for the Arctic as its core goal.

The many student experiences scattered across the magazine tell the stories of different educational paths, often involving mobility. Student mobility from one North to another is perhaps the most efficient way to increase understanding of the region, its diversity and shared challenges. Without these faces that look to the future it would be harder to understand the many shapes that education takes.

Enjoy the magazine!
The biennial UArctic Congress assembles key UArctic meetings and a science conference into one single gathering. The UArctic Congress 2018 begins in Oulu on September 3 and concludes in Helsinki on September 7.

The UArctic Congress 2018 is part of Finland’s Arctic Council chairmanship program, and open to the public. The event highlights the themes and priorities of the Finnish chairmanship (environmental protection, connectivity, environmental cooperation, education), including the goals of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting gender equality, and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

With the aim to foster contacts and enhance networking, the UArctic Congress brings together institutional leaders, indigenous representatives, academics, scientists and students from around the Circumpolar North and beyond. It is an excellent platform for all UArctic members to engage with each other and promote cooperation in circumpolar science and higher education. Together with partners, policy makers and other actors, the UArctic Congress strives to take the Arctic agenda forward by creating and strengthening collaborations that produce new findings and solutions for the future of the Arctic.

The UArctic Congress 2018 features science and meeting sections, including:

- Sessions aligned with the four priorities of Finland’s chairmanship
- Acclaimed keynote speakers and scientific experts presenting their views and latest research
- UArctic meetings for representatives of the Council, Thematic Networks, and rector
- Side meetings and events
- An exciting cultural and social program

#UARCTICCONGRESS2018

congress.uarctic.org
F

inland’s chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017–2019 is at full speed. In addition to education, the priorities of Finland’s chairmanship are environmental protection, meteorological cooperation and connectivity. In the chairmanship program Finland also identified two broad frameworks in Arctic cooperation. One is climate change – mitigation, adaptation and building resilience. The other is sustainable development, utilizing the goals set in the United Nations’ Agenda 2030.

While we were preparing for the chairmanship, UArctic was approached to support a theme that is vital for sustainable development: education. This idea was received with great enthusiasm by UArctic, and UArctic was also instrumental in putting together a considerable project through its teachers and educators. I would like to congratulate the UArctic Thematic Network on Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education for having recently received a positive response from UNESCO for their application to become a UNITWIN network – the first of its kind in Finland.

Education is an essential theme in Arctic cooperation. Finland is one of the model countries in providing high-quality, equal education to all children in the country. The Sámi communities in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia are also actively cooperating in this field.

It is a joy that the UArctic Congress 2018 will be held in Finland, in Oulu and Helsinki, in September 2018. I am sure that the Congress participants will take the Arctic agenda forward by creating and strengthening collaborations that produce new findings and solutions for the future of the Arctic region.

UArctic, the University of the Arctic, is an outstanding part of Arctic cooperation.

Science and research always go hand in hand with higher education. The legally binding agreement on scientific cooperation was signed between the Arctic countries in May 2017, and entered into force in May 2018. Another major achievement is the second Arctic Science Ministerial to be held in Berlin, Germany in October 2018, a meeting that Finland is co-arranging.

It is well known and acknowledged that UArctic is much involved in state-of-the-art Arctic science. One of the topical matters is resilience. The Arctic is changing, and we should be prepared to address the needs that come with the changing circumstances. The local people should stay safe and prosperous. Research on and new knowledge of the environment and society must be key inputs in decision-making.

It is a joy that the UArctic Congress 2018 will be held in Finland, in Oulu and Helsinki, in September 2018. I am sure that the Congress participants will take the Arctic agenda forward by creating and strengthening collaborations that produce new findings and solutions for the future of the Arctic region.

UArctic, the University of the Arctic, is an outstanding part of Arctic cooperation.

By SANNA GRAHN-LAASONEN
Minister of Education, Finland

“Science and research always go hand in hand with higher education.”
From an academic perspective, a major goal of UArctic is to develop and provide pathways that allow students to learn more about the North, its peoples and its environment. While most students involved in UArctic are from the North, there are many from other nations that are not polar but have a keen interest in northern issues.

Our approach to UArctic academics is to work with our 200 member institutions to provide classes, programs and study opportunities to all who are interested. UArctic itself does not provide degrees, teach classes or have faculty members, but relies on its member institutions to deliver programs through their own faculty and degree programs.

Throughout this magazine there are stories of individual students and their journeys in northern studies. Many of these are unique pathways of study, but they all share a common UArctic approach that we provide and support. There are five major themes found in UArctic academic programs:

1. ACCESS

Regardless of the subject area that a student may be interested in investigating, there must be access to that field of study. If a student wants to study international polar law related to land rights, there must be a way to access classes and faculty within the UArctic network. We highlight a wide range of opportunities through the UArctic Study Catalogue that are available to all students, either as on-site or online studies.

2. RELEVANCE

Classes are relevant to northern or polar studies. Courses in business models for equatorial water development would not be in high demand, while courses in water health issues in remote northern communities would be highly relevant.

3. AWARENESS

If classes are both accessible and relevant, they directly lead to awareness of northern issues. There are significant concerns about food security, health, transportation, land use, resource development and many others in northern communities. It is vital that an academic pathway exists so that the awareness of these issues can be expanded both inside our member institutions and beyond to the public and leaders around the world.

4. EDUCATION

Education about polar issues must extend beyond the world of sound-bites, 24-hour news cycles, billboards and bumper stickers. Only when a student is educated about these topics do they begin to understand the depth, complexities and background behind the headlines. UArctic provides these educational opportunities through academic classes offered by our members, endorsed programs and discussions on special topics.

5. ACTION

When a student has moved through UArctic-supported classes that are accessible and relevant, they begin to understand the need for awareness and have the education in order to take action on those topics. That might include working on a public committee, publishing a story about the Arctic, or becoming teachers themselves. Through action, Arctic concerns can be addressed, advanced, debated and delivered.

The dozens of academic options within UArctic welcome you to join in our Shared Voices and shared stories. Hopefully you will be inspired to find classes and programs that are important to you and relevant to your communities. We urge you to investigate and sign up for some of those courses, study the issues, become aware of the depth of those issues, and finally take action to further your role in the future of the North.
The past year has been busy in many ways for the UArctic Thematic Network on Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education. Discussion on the special features of teacher education in the Arctic has continued, and one of the key themes has been culturally sustainable education. In education one size does not fit all; quite the contrary, to cater for local communities, education needs to be culturally relevant.

In late November 2017 the Thematic Network was rewarded with a UNESCO UNITWIN network status. The UNITWIN University Twinning and Networking Programme builds university networks and encourages inter-university cooperation. This is a high-profile acknowledgement and concentrates especially on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development goal of “Quality Education. Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.” In the future, the network will bring together teacher educators from the North and the South to learn from each other.

In various sources the features of sustainability are defined as maintaining, supporting, developing, being diverse, prospering, and expressing the greatest potential. From the point of view of education, these can be regarded as aims of high-quality educational practices which promote growth and learning from early childhood to higher education. High-quality education supports gaining full potential and having a balanced life. In the Arctic context, the diversity of cultures and circumstances also brings the demand of culturally sustainable education to the front.

Culturally sustainable education seeks continuity between contexts, home and school, values, generations, and human and nature. Continuity in education means that education is locally relevant and draws from the local assets. It encourages children and young people to be proud of their heritage and take action to both protect and develop it.

Educational practices should respect and celebrate the local and traditional knowledge. Children, young people and their families need to feel that they and their ways of living are respected and regarded as a valuable part of education. They do not have to fit in to the educational settings; rather, what they bring with them is important and precious.

To believe in the importance of education, people need to feel ownership of it. If education is a ready-made product delivered to local communities, it can feel superficial with no real value. Ownership means that the people of the Arctic have their say in educational practices, and see that education respects the local ways of living and is culturally relevant. Local people are the experts of living in the Arctic, and this expertise needs to be part of the curricula and educational practices.

To make this all happen we need dialogue. In dialogue we talk and we listen, and we really hear other ways of viewing the world and understanding it. Dialogue is a mutual learning process to which we bring our often tacit knowledge and understanding of how things are. It gives us an opportunity not only to learn from others but also to learn about ourselves.

With these in mind, the UArctic Thematic Network on Teacher Education will continue its work for and with the Arctic people and communities, and with the UNESCO status also in the global South.
We all work with issues regarding knowledge. We all have some skills. Join us in Iengra, Sakha (Yakutia) for two days of friendship, competitions and, above all, exchanging knowledge.

“The Arctic needs youth who can be keepers of both traditional and academic knowledge.”

Officials and academics gathered for a roundtable discussion during the Arctic Skills to share their overviews on reindeer husbandry and its state in the different regions, as well as on how education is provided for the reindeer herding youth. In their statement they recommend, for instance, to support the Arctic Skills initiative to include the traditional skills of reindeer herders and values of reindeer husbandry in education systems and training programs. They recognize that indigenous reindeer herders in the Circumpolar North need to improve their sustainability in local communities through product-based entrepreneurship and family-based economy using their traditional knowledge and skills. They also support the development of a new education system to preserve and use the reindeer herders’ traditional knowledge and to enhance their skills. In addition, one main outcome of the event was the decision to establish a UArctic Thematic Network within the UArctic EALÁT Institute to coordinate Arctic Skills cooperation between educational institutions of the Arctic.

About 180 guests from Norway, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Taimyr, Chukotka and seven regions of Yakutia came to Iengra to participate in the first Arctic Skills event on April 3–4, 2018. The professional championship was held within the framework of the international workshop “Reindeer Husbandry – Basis for Indigenous Livelihoods in the Arctic”. More than 60 indigenous men and women took part in competitions in five categories: Reindeer Herder; Operation and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles and Generators; Lavvu Keeper; Designing a Reindeer Herding Camp, Lavvu Building; and Stroganina, frozen fish slicing. The competition concluded with reindeer races on the river with 48 reindeer herders competing.

We know that the Arctic is changing, and the Arctic needs youth who can handle many worlds and be keepers of both traditional and academic knowledge. More than 24 indigenous peoples have developed their unique economy based on reindeer, but face challenges due to loss of pastures, changes in biodiversity, loss of traditional knowledge, and lack of young professionals active in herding. Considering this, the Arctic Skills is an important initiative. The youth need an arena which emphasizes knowledge, and an arena where they can share their knowledge and get inspired by others who also value the reindeer. This way they will build confidence and have important roles in the development of their own societies.

MAIN ORGANIZERS OF THE EVENT

Government of Sakha Republic in cooperation with Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRRH), International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR), UArctic, UArctic EALÁT Institute, the Northern Forum, Arctic College for Indigenous Peoples of the North (Chersky, Russia), and Sámi High School and Reindeer Husbandry School (Kautokeino, Norway).
In the classroom, with Sámi-language signs and the name of the university – not only talking about it, but also doing it by their hearts.

I am sitting in the language classroom at Sámi Allaskuvla, Sámi University College, which is also called Allas – the heart of knowledge. We are in the little village Sámi Allaskuvla, Sámi University College, and in the future, the main goal is that I can speak Sámi, both Kildin and North Sámi.

The other student in the classroom is Dine Arnannguaq, and spontaneous as she is, she is telling me to “The Sámi giella is a cool language!” As she walks out of the classroom, she is again yelling “Blaçar dearnam – goodbye,” her steps echoing in the lobby with Sámi designs and high tech side by side.

Yes, as a foreigner in Sápmi you understand that they truly embrace their Sámi goetle as the language of the heart - waldegiella.

Inga Hansen is fromGreenland, and is currently studying towards a Master’s degree in Indigenous Journalism in Guovdageaidnu, Norway.

“Embracing Sámeigiella, the Sámi Language” by Inga Hansen, Master’s Student, Sámi University of Applied Sciences.

“H ow was it again? I keep forgetting the Sámi words,” whispers the Spanish student Roman to his classmate Dine. She replies very fast: “Børre heitru, mo maanii?” meaning “Hello, how are you doing?”

In Sápmi, they are working towards revitalizing the Sámi language – not only talking about it, but also doing it by their hearts.

“My grandparents spoke gielddasámegiella or Kildin Sámi, a language that is still spoken in Russia. I never had the chance to learn our language, when my grandparents passed away, the language was also silenced in our family. In our region there are only about 150-200 people who speak Kildin Sámi, most of them elders, so I have only heard the language sporadically. I am a musician and I would like to use our language when I sing. I would also like to write poetry and lyrics, and in the future, the main goal is that I can speak Sámi, both Kildin and North Sámi.”

Since the establishment of Sámi Allaskuvla in 1989, the main policy has been to get more educated teachers and strengthen the language. In the beginning, they only offered the language to students who already spoke Sámi, but now they have courses and lectures for beginners as well. “This means that we have students at different levels. The beginners are learning language while they do practical things, such as cooking Sámi food, making games, cutting hay, or just walking in the nature – trying to strengthen the language with practical work,” says the Sámi Allaskuvla rector Gunvor Guttorm.

“We have worked hard, and now we can see the results. Can you imagine, no one would believe that our institution currently has more than 20 students who are taking their PhD, and many of them are doing research about Sámi language – I am proud of that!” She talks about the importance of getting young people interested in language and getting them to see that speaking Sámi will provide them with opportunities. “That is our goal, and in that we are a role model for many institutions. We are creating knowledge,” Guttorm says.

In the library of Diehtosiida, a young woman is sitting with her books. She is Karja Ravda, a PhD candidate from Deatnu, a Sámi municipality in the eastern part of Finnmark, Norway, and she is an actress, and she loves to read and write. She has studied theater in Tromsø, but now she wants to strengthen her mother tongue. “I want to learn, to understand the grammar and the structure of the language.” In Roma (the Troense), she felt that the Sámi were outsiders. She was not able to use her own language for three years, and now she needs to refresh it. Karja Ravda decided to move to Guovdageaidnu, because here the majority speaks Sámi.

Before I leave Diehtosiida, I bump into Dine Arnannguaq, and spontaneous as she is, she is telling me to “The Sámi giella is a cool language!” As she walks out of the classroom, she is again yelling “Blaçar dearnam – goodbye,” her steps echoing in the lobby with Sámi designs and high tech side by side.

Yes, as a foreigner in Sápmi you understand that they truly embrace their Sámi goetle as the language of the heart - waldegiella.

Inga Hansen is from Greenland, and is currently studying towards a Master’s degree in Indigenous Journalism in Guovdageaidnu, Norway.

LEX TREINE

“How do your people dance?” they asked me. I was in a provincial village outside of the city of Udmurtia in Central Russia, in the middle of a village dance attended by pretty much the whole town, about 60 people. It was 2012, my senior year of college, and I was there part of the north/south program which facilitates exchanges between a few dozen northern universities, among them my home institution of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and host institution, Syktyskr State University.

The question struck for two reasons: first, that it was so simple, and second, that I didn’t have an answer. Of course I could have taught them the hyper-sexualized grind that is most common for “my people,” but I didn’t quite seem appropriate in a room filled with ethnic Udmurts ages 5 to 85; nor did it fit the music, played with the balalaika and various tambourine-like percussion instruments.

But who were “my people” as they asked it? It was an easy question for my hosts to answer: they were Udmurts, a people with a distinct language, cuisine, music and clothing. They were known throughout Russia for their clothing, decorated with old monies that rattled on their chests as they danced. But who was I? I am American, of course, but that isn’t very specific. I am ethnically German and Norwegian, but I certainly didn’t have any dance moves from my great-great-grandparents who immigrated from the Old Country.

Athletics was perhaps the reason that I was in the community hall for their village celebration. As a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) All-American skier, I had specifically chosen a university in Russia known for its ski conditions, and continued to train full time throughout my studies abroad. Despite my reservations about taking a semester off of NCAA competition, I had the idealistic notion that sport, above all, is a network to connect people who shared only their desire to work hard towards a common goal. And indeed, through skiing I had met my good friend Kolya, who had invited me to his Udmurt village for this celebration.

The celebration also fit into my undergraduate degree: Russian Studies. Through the Udmurt people all still speak their native language, they all learn fluent Russian in school, if not before. As a student of the Russian language, it was my only way to communicate with my hosts every day was an intense, immersive lesson in the complicated tongue.

More important than how I got there was where I met me. I came back to UAF, determined to find out why people were, whatever that means. I got involved with a university club called Kineannea Kkaazoot, which sent skiers to native Athabaskan villages in rural Alaska. I was soon fortunate enough to travel to three Gwich’in villages and get to know the native people of my home state, who I hardly even considered before then. Since I started with Kineannea Kkaazoot, I also became involved with a similar statewide organization called NAANo Nordic, which also serves Inupiaq and Yupik Elders with ski outfits. I have volunteered two weeks of my time for the past three years with this program, and have traveled and worked in nine off-the-road system villages, as well as doing local Anchorage outreach to underserved school children.

More than just volunteering, I hope that I can do my small part in helping preserve the traditions of the indigenous people of my home state, so that they don’t forget how to dance.
There is a growing demand for graduates who know how to work in the Arctic, not just in theory but also in practice. That is the basic philosophy for establishing two new Master’s level educational activities at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) concerning Arctic and cold climate engineering.

Since 2001, DTU has offered a Bachelor of Engineering in Arctic Technology. To give graduate students an opportunity to specialize in the Arctic as well, DTU has developed two new educational initiatives on Master’s level: the Arctic Semester and the Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering. Common to both programs is the focus on teaching how to operate as an engineer in the Arctic by actually being in the Arctic.

DTU offered the Arctic Semester for the first time in spring 2016. It takes place in the Greenlandic town of Sisimiut and is an opportunity for Master of Science students to get an insight to and experience the extreme conditions that apply when working as an engineer in the Arctic. The Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering was launched half a year later, in autumn 2016. The program consists of three different tracks: Land, Sea and Space. Each track has its own profile and appeals to students with different academic backgrounds, and they all focus on different aspects of working as an engineer in cold climate. The Arctic Semester in Sisimiut is mandatory for the students in the Land track, while other students in the program have the opportunity to go to Svalbard and attend courses or write their Master’s thesis at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS).

Despite the obvious need and demand for special competences in cold climate engineering, DTU found that no full Master’s program in the field was offered in any of the Nordic or European countries.

This paved the way for the development of the Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering within the Nordic Five Tech alliance in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Aalto University in Finland. We were able to develop a comprehensive program with the three academic tracks by combining facilities and courses already at our disposal. This resulted in a joint degree program during which the students study at two of the three collaborating universities. The Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering will have its first graduates in summer 2018. The program has also resulted in increased research collaboration between the universities involved. A concrete example is three PhD collaborations about Arctic engineering issues.

The Arctic Semester and Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering are open for applications from all students, not just those with a Bachelor’s degree from DTU. NTNU or Aalto University. DTU received funding from ArcticX-coordinated Danish project grants to develop the Arctic Semester. The Nordic Council of Ministers funded the development of the Nordic Master in Cold Climate Engineering.
TEACH ME ABOUT MY COUNTRY – TEACH ME ABOUT THE ARCTIC

By ULUNNGUAQ MARKUSSEN, UArctic Student Ambassador, Master’s Student, Nord University

It is becoming more and more exciting to be a citizen of the Arctic. It is clear that the world’s attention is moving north, and thus many Arctic conferences are being held each year. Economic, social and cultural activities are blooming.

Both the current understanding and perceptions of the Arctic are very different from when I was a child in one of the northernmost cities in Greenland, Uummannaq. At that time, the Arctic was only seen as a cold and isolated region that was difficult to live in. But today, I enjoy watching the Arctic evolving into an innovative and creative network of societies. We emphasize cooperation between Arctic nations while at the same time seeking our own terms and values. This critical and innovative period is very important, because just a few years ago, we were only focusing on how to westernize the Arctic enough to enjoy the global market. The roles are shifting now due to climate change.

Today, western countries are seeking a place in the North in order to be part of the development and creation of our new Arctic identity. I have decided to take part in the growth of the Arctic. However, this means that I have had to go abroad in order to access Arctic scholars and research opportunities about my country and the Arctic region. UArctic has opened up many doors for me, and I greatly appreciate it. Currently I am studying at Nord University in Bodø, Norway. I have also taken courses in different universities through exchanges, summer schools and e-learning, and attended several conferences in the Arctic.

At the moment, my country is not focusing on the Arctic issues and its own position in this exciting region. If you look at the world map, you will see a giant white island called Greenland which, in fact, symbolizes the Arctic more than other Arctic countries. We have icebergs, polar bears, arctic foxes, northern lights, the giant ice cap and so on – everything that symbolizes the Arctic can be found in my country. Despite the fact that we are Arctic people in an Arctic region, we have little awareness of our exotic position in the world. Many years of colonization and Danish rule over Greenland have blinded our perceptions of our global significance.

I was not taught about my country, its history and culture, because the curricula from the primary school to high school and university are largely based on Danish and European culture and values, as well as Danish welfare state and politics. I believe this is one of the reasons why many Greenlanders are not interested in pursuing higher education. It can be hard to keep up at school when you cannot visualize the teaching, and it has nothing to do with your surroundings and culture.

Personally, I am not interested in Danish hegemony. Although I respect the culture and values, it does not mean that I have to adjust to their way of living, or focus solely on European values and culture. I am interested in knowing more about my country and the opportunities and the challenges within the Arctic region. Many young Greenlandic people must move to Denmark to study, as educational programs are not available in Greenland. I feel lucky that I have taken my university degree in Greenland. I have also traveled a lot through my university’s network and cooperation with other Arctic universities and beyond. Personally, I believe it is very important to go abroad to see other cultures and to expand your awareness. It makes you more creative and compassionate, and through travelling you learn a lot about yourself and your own values. I always meet interesting people with similar interests as mine, which is, of course, the Arctic. Everything is about creating new paths to find your own interest.

I hope opportunities for Greenlandic students will increase and that young Greenlanders will become more willing to go abroad for their studies. We need more Greenlanders who can become role models. I myself never had one. My search for what I really want has brought me here. When I began I was monolingual; I could not speak or understand a language other than my own. By throwing myself out into the world I have learned both Danish and English. And I’m still learning! Our language should not limit us – we should make lots of mistakes and dare to try. The process is very challenging, but you must really hold onto your dreams. What I have found out is that the world opens up to the one that opens up to the world.

Current studies: Master’s in West Nordic Studies (Nord University)
Exchanges: University of Iceland, Dartmouth College, Nord University
Summer schools or short courses: Reykjavik x2 (third in summer 2018), Akureyri, Rovaniemi in October 2018
Arctic conferences: Reykjavik x2, Nuuk x2, Saint Peterburg, Tromsø, Bodo, Québec
E-learning: Canada, Akureyri
Internship: Parliament of Denmark in Copenhagen
Language courses: England x2, Switzerland
UArctic: Moving the Education Agenda forward for the North

Through our vision of “An Empowered North – With Shared Voices” we recognize that education is how UArctic can empower the circumpolar region by providing unique opportunities through our powerful network of members.

In the past year, UArctic has worked in close cooperation with the Finnish chairmanship of the Arctic Council to drive this idea forward – that education at all levels is critical to a sustainable Arctic region. A strong community of primary and secondary teachers who understand and are committed to the northern communities where they teach is essential, and the networks of UArctic members that deliver teacher education programs play a leading role in building that community of educators. UArctic has been pleased to partner with the Arctic Council to carry out this important priority of the Finnish chairmanship program.

Much of the work under the Education priority has been coordinated by the UArctic Thematic Network on Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education. This network has been extremely active, including leading the Sustainable Development Working Group project “Teacher Education for Diversity and Equality in the Arctic”, which focuses on knowledge exchange around inclusive and effective teaching practices. The network also received recognition as the first Finnish-led UNESCO UNITWIN network, which “pool their resources, both human and material, to address pressing challenges and contribute to the development of their societies.”

The planning of the UArctic Congress 2018, September 3-7 in Oulu and Helsinki, Finland, has also been closely coordinated with the Education priority, as well as the other priorities of the Finnish chairmanship. The themes of the Congress scientific program align with the priorities of environmental protection, connectivity, meteorological cooperation, and education, as well as highlighting the UN Sustainable Development goals, gender equality, and the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For more details on the Congress, see page (6).

UArctic also strengthened its research engagement through the appointment of Professor Jeffrey Walker as the first UArctic Chair, a collaborative appointment between UArctic, the University of Oulu and the University of Alaska Anchorage. The inaugural position is hosted by the University of Oulu. UArctic Chairs are high-qualified academics who will serve in academic drivers in a broad problem area of relevance to the Arctic. They implement and drive collaborative actions among UArctic members and Thematic Networks; develop research cooperation, including undergraduate, graduate, PhD and postdoctoral scientist training; and build partnerships with the broader Arctic community.

Also in 2017, the University of Aberdeen hosted the UArctic Rectors’ Forum on the theme “The Inhabited Arctic: Lands, Peoples and Scholarship in the Circumpolar North”. The assembled heads of UArctic institutions engaged in broad discussions on the issues facing northern higher education and research. The conclusions of these discussions were reflected in the Rectors’ Forum Declaration. The meeting was organized in conjunction with the international conference “Conversations from the North”.

The University of Greenland organized a very successful Council meeting in Nuuk, also in August 2017, which featured a pre-conference excursion to Sisimiut organized by the Arctic Technology Centre (ARTEK) of the Technical University of Denmark. Over eighty Council members and other participants, including Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, attended the meetings and enjoyed a diverse cultural program and excursions among the spectacular scenery of Greenland.

A record number of fourteen new members joined the UArctic network at the Council meeting. These include Baltic State Technical University, Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, New Jersey City University, Technical University of Denmark, Western Kentucky University, Aleut International Association, Arctic Research Center of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology - Simon Fraser University, International Sámi Film Institute, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy - Tufts University, Beijing Normal University, Alfred Wegener Institut, Arctic Centre - University of Groningen, and Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia.

The meeting also welcomed seven new Thematic Networks to UArctic: Arctic Linguistics, Arctic Migration, Arctic Research Administration, Arctic WASH, Arthropods of the Tundra / NeAT, Global Ecological and Economic Connections in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Crab Fisheries, and Science Diplomacy.
### UArctic Thematic Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network Name</th>
<th>Year Established</th>
<th>Research Activities</th>
<th>Publications/scientific articles (peer reviewed)</th>
<th>Sessions in international conferences, workshops, events organized</th>
<th>Other outreach (talks given in science conferences, blogs, other)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Other Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Border Hub</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Coastal Communities for Sustainability</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Economic Science</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Engineering</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Extractive Industries</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Geology</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Law</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Lingua</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Migration</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Safety and Security</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design (ASAD)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Telecommunications and Networking</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic WASH</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercialization of Science and Technology for the North</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating Arctic Research</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthrop of the Tundra / NeAT</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance Education and e-Learning</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy In New Time</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment of Industry Contaminated Areas</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic and Economic Connections in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Cirlce Economies</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geopolitics and Security</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Well-Being in the Arctic</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Documentation and Language Technologies for Circumpolar Region</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and Regional Development in the North</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the North</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model Arctic Council</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Hazards</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Food Security</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Governance</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Nursing Education</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Tourism</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permafrost</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Diplomacy</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Production and Foraging of Natural Products in the North</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching for Social Justice and Diversity in Education</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UArctic World Ensemble</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verde Program</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in the Arctic</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UArctic Institutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At a Glance

Statistics 2017

www.uarctic.org

947 Courses and programs in Study Catalogue
623 Courses
324 Programs
349 UArctic news articles

129 Entries in Research Infrastructure Catalogue
634 728 Total website pageviews
144 780 Member profile pageviews
21 990 Outbound link visits to member websites
1 730 Subscribers to email newsletter
1 922 Facebook likes
5 409 Twitter followers

Distribution of UArctic Members 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>9 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>10 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>29 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>21 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>33 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>11 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>4 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>123 123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership

205 Total
144 Higher education institutions
61 Other organizations
1.9m Students
356k Staff

Promote your northern expertise through UArctic!
members.uarctic.org/update

www.uarctic.org

ENDORSED
UARCTIC
ENDORSED

Promote NORTHERN EDUCATION
Through UArctic

Opportunities for Marketing and Promotion

UArctic offers exclusive opportunities to member institutions to market their studies, which are also of great value to students seeking education opportunities on northern issues. The UArctic Study Catalogue is a one-stop shop that offers current and prospective students a chance to search the many ways that subject can be studied across the Arctic. Students can then visit the institution’s own web pages to find out more information. This is an ideal marketing opportunity for members to promote their northern courses and programs to those interested in learning more about the region and pursuing studies relevant to the North.

Each UArctic member institution is committed to our mission and values, and collectively represent the world’s leading expertise on northern science and knowledge. No matter what you are interested in studying about the North, you are sure to find the right program or university for you.

Promote your northern expertise through UArctic!
members.uarctic.org/update

UArctic Academic Endorsement

Our members can seek UArctic Academic Endorsement for studies that strongly embody our mission and values. This status can offer additional visibility and esteem to member institutions by endorsing key courses and programs.

The application process is open three times a year. To be eligible, courses and programs should demonstrate strong northern relevance in content and learning outcomes, as well as substantial support of UArctic values and practice: respect for multiple systems of knowledge, promoting multidisciplinary understanding, and balance across different regions of the North.

Furthermore, the applying institutions have to display a strong international networking component such as delivery location, joint teaching or curriculum development, or inclusion of student and faculty mobility.

Approved courses and programs obtain an additional prestigious mark of quality for their respective institutions, and are promoted to the UArctic network via various highlights on the UArctic website, in the Study Catalogue, and mentions in the news and on social media. Additionally, those institutions are granted the right to issue UArctic certificates to students who complete their endorsed program or course.

In essence, this is another chance for all members to raise their profile at home, as well as on the international Arctic platform.

For more information on UArctic’s Academic Endorsement Program, contact academic@uarctic.org.

www.uarctic.org/endorsement
WHY DOES NORTHERN MOBILITY MATTER?

“A semester or summer of an educational experience can be a life-changing experience for a student. Your time and effort making that possible is appreciated and may sometimes give you large returns in years ahead.”

Anna Liljedahl

“Sharing knowledge, resources, and experiences is important anywhere. It is critical in the North. For this reason, investing in programs such as north2north should be considered a critical investment for all parties involved.”

Matthew Balazs

“Supporting exchanges like north2north are essential in keeping dialogue going between the countries of the North.”

Lex Treinen

“Continue to support UArctic placement experiences. The profound impact they make on the future leaders of the Arctic, and the connections between these future leaders, is absolutely worth the investment.”

Anne Rittgers

“I gained a better understanding of the practices implemented in the North of Norway, specifically as they relate to resource management and governance. One thing from the regional economies development class really sticks out. It can make more financial sense for businesses in the same geographic region to cooperate rather than to compete with each other. For example, rather than trying to attract the customer to your place of business, attract them to your region so everyone can benefit. I have since applied this lesson directly to my own business here in Alaska and have already seen real benefits.”

Matthew Balazs

UiT The Arctic University of Norway, spring 2008
University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), summer 2009

“A long-lasting and rewarding aspect of participating in UArctic Thematic Network courses was the connections made with other students and faculty from around the Circumpolar North, and the opportunity to learn about the local cultures. I can still taste the musk ox from a celebratory end-of-class dinner in Sisimiut, hear the laughter from favorite jokes told over dessert in Mirny, and see the March light shining through the circle of flags representing the eight Arctic nations at the Model Arctic Council in Fairbanks. The courses exposed me to new ideas, places and people, which led to a broader understanding of the diversity, and the surprising similarities, of life around the Circumpolar North.”

Anna Rittgers

Mirny, February 2016; Fairbanks, March 2016; Sisimiut, October 2017

“My ticket to Alaska and UAF was truly life-changing. I was welcomed back to start a PhD at UAF and it was also totally unexpected that I found my new home and husband of 15 and 10 years, respectively. I became a US citizen in 2009 and have now a seven-year-long career as a soft-money researcher, whom I sail boats to do what I want to do. I love the combination of being surrounded by top-notch Arctic researchers a ten-minute drive from my home, while being able to lose cell phone reception less than a half-hour drive away. It feels like a luxury to have my permafrost hydrology field site down the hill and my glacier studies viewed from my kitchen table.”

Anna Liljedahl

University of Alaska Fairbanks, August 2004 – August 2005

“Continuing the business is the key to success. Tell them your story. Attract them to your region so everyone can benefit. I have since applied this lesson directly to my own business here in Alaska and have already seen real benefits.”

Matthew Balazs

UiT The Arctic University of Norway, spring 2008
University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), summer 2009

“Besides learning a great deal about geology that year, I learned that it really doesn’t hurt to ask for things that you want; that’s how I was able to stay for a second term. Also, you can get renewed enjoyment in things that may start to seem mundane to you by sharing with people who are unfamiliar with it. Currently I work as an underground production geologist at Pogo Mine in interior Alaska. Everyday we open up new ground, and it feels special to be somewhere where not many people have travelled to. I continue travelling and exploring new parts of Alaska and the world. My exchange gave me the confidence to do that, knowing that all people like to feel connected to one another as we did at UNIS.”

Tara Hutchison

University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), spring 2008
Canada will soon have its first circumpolar university. Yukon College, first established as a vocational school in 1963, will become Yukon University in 2020. The demand for university-level and career programs delivered in the North is evident, particularly for those programs that respond to the economic and social needs of northern communities. It is time to open our doors wider – to share our unique knowledge and perspective of the North with the rest of Canada and the world, and to become a destination for students and researchers who want to experience living and learning in the North.

Yukon University

By KAREN BARNES, President, Vice-Chancellor, Yukon College

Much as the needs of Yukon and its citizens have shaped Yukon College programming for 55 years, the current and future needs of Yukoners will shape YukonU. While 50% of our students aspire to a Bachelor’s degree or higher, a strong desire remains for practical, vocational trades training and for programming that supports adults rebooting their educational journey. Thus, we will be a hybrid university, offering flexible and comprehensive programming that will include degrees, diplomas, certificates, trades and adult basic education.

Yukon University will build on our strengths and focus on education and research relevant to the Circumpolar North with three niche program areas: sustainable resource development and innovation; climate change – society and environment; and indigenous self-determination and governance.

For over five decades we have successfully delivered a wide range of apprenticeship, trades and technology training across the territory. Through the combination of education, training, research and innovation we have supported the sustainable development and stewardship of Yukon resources: the land, wildlife, water and minerals. By collaborating with Yukon First Nations, government and industry, we continue to expand our training opportunities, connecting closely to research and emphasizing sustainable practices.

For over 16 years, we have been recognized as a leader in climate change research in both natural and social sciences. Our work spans community health and well-being, impacts on traditional culture and practices, infrastructure and economy, policy implications, community and individual resiliency, and food security. Yukon University builds on this strong foundation in climate change research to ensure that its programs provide a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to the topic.

Over many years, we have worked closely with First Nation governments to build curriculum and reciprocity between indigenous and non-indigenous traditions. Yukon is a living lab, showcasing the challenges and successes of indigenous self-governance. Our strong partnership with all 14 Yukon First Nations is unparalleled. The knowledge gained by decades of First Nations’ self-governance in the territory drives programming that supports capacity development and self-determination. We currently offer five programs in indigenous self-determination studies, and our first made-in-Yukon degree, launched this year, is a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance.

Our evolution from college to university has been supported and shaped by connections to our UArctic partners in Canada and, especially in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland where we have visited colleagues in the course of this journey. We are grateful for the sharing of knowledge and the opportunities to consider various ways of engaging all of our small Arctic communities in education, research and innovation. Much of our Arctic research is incorporating different ways of learning and traditional indigenous knowledge into our programs alongside new, distance technologies and in-person support. Our collective commitment to expanding opportunities for education and research across the Circumpolar North will ensure a sustainable future for the Arctic region and its peoples.

As we begin the next chapter in our journey, all of us at Yukon University look forward to new and renewed collaborations within the UArctic family and the thrilling spark of discovery that occurs with the exchange of knowledge, ideas and people.

STUDENT INTERVIEW: FREDRIK JUUSO

By JENNELLE DOYLE, Former Intern, UArctic International Secretariat

The Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Communities (GENI) program is a joint three-year Master’s program offered by the University of Saskatchewan (Canada) and UiT The Arctic University of Norway. It also falls under the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Governance.

The program is designed to help students take a leadership role in supporting northern and indigenous communities through the topics of governance and economic development.

“I think the most valuable aspect of GENI is the possibility to compare relationships between different regions of the Arctic and link this to problems and theories of social science,” Juuso says. “The program has provided me with a comprehensive picture of governance issues in remote Arctic areas. It has especially broadened my understanding from a comparative perspective between indigenous peoples and local communities, and not only from a social scientific but also from a legal perspective.”

Fredrik Juuso has a background in Business Administration from Mid-Sweden University, and he is currently in the third year of the GENI program, based at the UiT campus in Norway. In addition to how it suited his past studies, Juuso says that the field school aspect of the program was something that really stood out when he was considering postgraduate options.

“I’ve now been to field schools in Saskatchewan and Northern Norway. These field schools have contributed to a good connection between the participants in the program, and I think the discussions in the courses are another benefit of the field school experience."

Juuso says that the field schools have given him a better perspective of the scope of the Arctic and outlined the importance of visiting the place that you are learning about to better understand it.

“No matter what you study in the social sciences, it is important to visit the reality when you seek knowledge. It is only at on-site visits that a fairly complete picture emerges, which often turns to be more complex than suggested by the literature.”
Connecting People and Cultures

Through a Northern Nursing Education Network

By LORNA BUTLER, Lead of the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Nursing Education, Senior Strategist, Distributed and Technology Enhanced Learning and Discovery, University of Saskatchewan and HEATHER EXNER-PIROT, Lead of the UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Nursing Education, Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement, University of Saskatchewan and BENTE NORBYE, Professor in Health Care Education, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

In almost every community of the Circumpolar North, nurses often deliver health care in small clinics far away from tertiary hospitals and specialists. For decades most nurses working in northern communities have been recruited from the South, filling gaps in the local nursing workforce. A growing number of UArctic colleges and universities are working hard to educate northern nurses in the North to build a more stable, culturally competent and representative health care system.

The UArctic Thematic Network on Northern Nursing Education evolved as a result of the desire to learn best practices for delivering nursing education to remote northern regions. This necessitated partnerships with nursing programs that understood a northern context. The inaugural meeting of the Northern Nursing Education Network (NNEN) was held in Reykjavík, Iceland in April 2015 with representatives of northern nursing programs from Russia, Finland, Norway and Canada. The network has since grown to include twelve UArctic institutions from seven Arctic states, adding Greenland, Sweden and Iceland to the participating countries.

A key activity is the annual International Innovative Learning Institute on Circumpolar Health, a two-week field school designed to advance northern nursing students’ understanding of the determinants of health across the Circumpolar North. Three have been held so far in Yakutsk, Russia (2015), Saskatchewan, Canada (2016) and Tromsø, Norway (2017), with the next one to be organized in Greenland in 2019.

Is there value to looking at nursing education and health care from a circumpolar perspective? As one nursing student from the Northwest Territories who attended the 2017 field school in Norway said, “I discovered more about my culture, and about the similarities of cultures across the Circumpolar North despite the vast distances. I was amazed to hear that my colleague from Greenland and I shared cultural similarities such as hunting styles, clothing, language and traditional diet. My colleagues from Russia and I discussed similarities in traditional beadwork and handiwork when they noticed my beaded purse. I was delighted to discover that my Inuvialut ancestors utilized the same sod-style houses as those traditionally used by the Sámi. I was empowered learning about the process towards self-determination that the Sámi have accomplished and continue to accomplish. It gives me hope that with strength and determination my own people are headed in the right direction towards truth and reconciliation.”

To promote better knowledge of northern-specific health care challenges and characteristics for the next generation of northern health professionals, the NNEN is in the process of creating an open education online resource dedicated to northern and indigenous health and health care. This resource has engaged almost fifty authors and experts from all Arctic nations and will be launched at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Copenhagen, Denmark in August 2018.

The NNEN has made it possible for nursing faculty and students across the Arctic to jointly explore northern and indigenous health issues, histories and contemporary challenges. Connecting people and cultures has created a supporting network in nursing education across the Circumpolar North.
he Model Arctic Council is an academic program that brings graduate and undergraduate university students together to learn about the Arctic by simulating the work of the Arctic Council. Students from various disciplines role play Arctic Council delegates, wrestling with the real-life challenges and opportunities faced by Arctic peoples and countries – issues that must be tackled multilaterally. Organized as a UArctic Thematic Network, the pan-Arctic program takes place every second year at a UArctic member university in the country chairing the Arctic Council, with regional programs held in interim years.

In June 2017 Dartmouth College, in collaboration with UAF faculty, sponsored a regional Model Arctic Council within the US-Canada Arctic Science Diplomacy and Leadership Workshop & Model Arctic Council. Twenty-five students participated, mostly from US and Canadian universities. They simulated the work of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) on operationalizing One Health in the Arctic, and developed communication action plans on five urgent climate change-related Arctic health concerns. The Dartmouth program’s strengths included its extensive engagement with Arctic Council delegates, which lent authenticity to the program, and its emphasis on leadership development. Students also emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Some said they found the immersion in Arctic affairs and intense collaboration transformative.

The first fully international Model Arctic Council took place during the US chairmanship at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) in March 2016, prior to an Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials meeting in Fairbanks and during the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). This opportune timing permitted interaction between Arctic Council delegates and Model Arctic Council participants, and allowed the students to participate in ASSW’s International Day of the Arctic, a series of forums with Arctic political leaders and scholars.

Sixty-five students representing 32 universities and 14 countries took part in the Model Arctic Council 2016. Students praised the program, saying they felt they had learned more than they would have in a conventional classroom setting. They found the intercultural exchange and the work on actual Arctic Council priorities especially meaningful. As one student later noted in an email, “The positive effects from all the activities that week will continue to ripple and be felt in the unique stories we all choose to tell with our lives. I feel so lucky to have been a part of it.”

In June 2017 Dartmouth College, in collaboration with UAF faculty, sponsored a regional Model Arctic Council within the US-Canada Arctic Science Diplomacy and Leadership Workshop & Model Arctic Council. Twenty-five students participated, mostly from US and Canadian universities. They simulated the work of the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) on operationalizing One Health in the Arctic, and developed communication action plans on five urgent climate change-related Arctic health concerns. The Dartmouth program’s strengths included its extensive engagement with Arctic Council delegates, which lent authenticity to the program, and its emphasis on leadership development. Students also emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Some said they found the immersion in Arctic affairs and intense collaboration transformative.

The next fully international Model Arctic Council will take place October 29 – November 2, 2018 at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland. A Senior Arctic Officials meeting during the same week will once again permit interaction between the participating students and Arctic Council delegates.
Akureyri is a vibrant town located in the northeast of Iceland and the second largest urban area in Iceland. As an increasingly popular tourist destination and venue for events, it boasts diversity in culture, education and economy. Over the past twenty years, Akureyri has also steadily grown as a national and international centre for northern and Arctic issues. There are several institutions and initiatives permanently based in Akureyri committed to research, education, innovation and monitoring, or other activities relevant to the Arctic region. These include the University of Akureyri (UNAK); Stefansson Arctic Institute; the Polar Law Institute; Secretariats of two Arctic Council Working Groups, Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF); the Tourism Research Centre; the University of Akureyri Research Centre (BIA); the Centre for Gender Equality; and the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN).

AKUREYRI
A Centre for Northern and Arctic Issues

By EMBLA EIR ODDSDÓTTIR, Director, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network

Working on a range of Arctic issues – climate change, community well-being, fisheries, gender, international law, political science, tourism, and biodiversity, to name a few – these institutions and initiatives are the basis of an Arctic hub, providing for a dynamic and supporting environment for scholars and students alike. The latest addition to this Arctic community is the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Secretariat, hosted by Iceland from the beginning of 2017.

The University of Akureyri offers a Polar Law Master’s program that covers legal regimes, politics and cultural, economic, and environmental processes applicable to the Arctic and the Antarctic. This two-year interdisciplinary program is relevant for students with varying backgrounds, providing opportunities to graduates with a diploma, LLM in Polar Law or an MA. It is also a part of the more recent West Nordic Studies, a cooperative Master’s program with the University of the Faroe Islands, the University of Greenland, Nord University in Bodø, Norway, and the University of Iceland. Further, UNAK has a longstanding relationship with UArctic, providing courses in several programs dealing with social, cultural and economic development in the Arctic.

The town of Akureyri is significantly invested in Arctic issues. It has been a longstanding member of the regional Northern Forum in addition to participating in international venues and promoting sustainable development in the Arctic. Akureyri also continues to be an excellent location for conferences and meetings big and small, with previous successes such as the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS), the Northern Research Forum Assembly, and Gender Equality in the Arctic, Polar Law Symposium and the China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium. In 2020, the IASC Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) will also be hosted in Akureyri by the Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNÍS) and the University of Akureyri.
Over the past 20 years, sustainable development (SD) has slowly become mainstream, not at least thanks to the contributions of education. In 2014, at the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (GAP ESD) and built a platform bringing together key players from all parts of the world in order to scale up action in what has now become recognized as a transversal theme.

Today, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is included in the global agenda in Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4), target 4.7. This goal and target calls for “all learners to acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development [by 2030].” It is not a standalone target but rather a horizontal one, key to achieving all the SDGs. GAP ESD is devoted to help address all goals by 2030.

The International Association of Universities (IAU) and a few other university networks represent higher education in GAP ESD. Yet, the role of higher education is often reduced to teacher training initiatives by governments and politicians who overlook its potential and work to address all SDGs through teaching, learning, research and campus initiatives, to name but a few actions.

Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD) is an initiative that was started by IAU to stress the important tasks that universities and higher education institutions have taken on to achieve SD. Today it is adopted by IAU as one of the four key thematic priorities in its strategic plan. Through research, campus initiatives, student engagement and teaching, universities contribute to generate the change of mindset that is required to make sure that together, across the globe, we try and reach the Future We Want. IAU collects and analyzes initiatives developed by universities around the globe and shares them via the IAU Global HESD Portal, and in the near future through the global cluster it is developing.

While ESD and HESD are not exactly the same, they do complement each other. One example is provided by the University of Saskatchewan in Canada which hosts the Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI). The institute facilitates research on ESD, creates partnerships for ESD, develops new approaches to energy, works with indigenous people to identify and foster traditional and new approaches to issues we face, and enhances the overall approach of the university towards sustainability.

Universities in the Arctic contribute to illustrating the diversity of approaches to ESD and HESD. A doctoral student from the University of Lapland and the University of Iceland conducted research about the potential of art in education for sustainability. Titled “Artistic Actions for Sustainability”, the research includes a too often forgotten dimension of actions undertaken to achieve SD – art.

Many universities in the far North are well connected and contribute to (Higher) Education for Sustainable Development on a global scale. For example, the Universities of Bergen and Oslo and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences are part of a project called SUSTAIN in which they partner with four universities in Southern Africa in order to encourage joint research and enhance sustainable science and technology education.

(Higher) Education for Sustainable Development is a very diverse area of work and can lead the way to achieving the Agenda 2030. Together, we can reach a sustainable future.
Climate Change Education as a Passion

By AINO KINNI and ANNA MUOTKA
Master's Students, University of Lapland

Climate change is the greatest threat of our time. It affects society, nature, technology, economy and culture in many ways. Our society as a whole needs to change, and sustainability needs to become integrated into every aspect of society. This has also increased the need for climate change education around the world.

Climate change education emphasizes the perspectives of climate and climate responsibility and the necessity of change in the field of education. One of the aims is to increase knowledge about climate change as a phenomenon. Another aim is to guide people’s actions and behavior towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. The education of emotions is significant as well. Climate change education is a part of environmental education and education for sustainable development. It also offers a point of view for global education.

In Finland, climate change education has been implemented by individual teachers and different projects (e.g. Youth Academy’s Ilmari project). A climate change education guide for subject-specific teachers, a Teacher’s Climate Guide, was also published recently. Increasing climate-responsible actions requires a change in people’s worldview and a stronger sense of communal responsibility. Therefore building a sustainable way of life should begin early, before entering secondary school.

So how did we, two Finnish primary school teacher students, end up being involved in climate change education?

Our interest is an outcome of a strong childhood relationship with nature, the desire to create a change in the society, and a drive for education. Climate change has been close to our hearts for many years now, and because we study primary school education, climate change education in primary schools was a natural focus for us.

During our studies we realized that climate change education does not really exist in primary schools, at least not in Finland. We became interested in researching the issue and what such education should include. As luck would have it, the University of Lapland’s climate change education project was just about to start. We got to contribute to it with our Master’s thesis in which we focus on the perceptions on climate change education on the primary school level. The project will generate information and materials for primary schools to bring awareness to and diversify the methods used in climate change education. The results of the study will also be used in the Primary School Teacher’s Climate Guide that will be published in 2019.

Climate change is mentioned in the Finnish National Core Curriculum for Basic Education. That means all primary and secondary school teachers should address the issue in their teaching. Of course, we hope that teachers would find climate change important to discuss in school, but we also understand that it is not the easiest topic to deal with. Hopefully this project and all the climate change education material produced will help with this challenge.
UArctic Facilitating UK–Russia Collaboration in Arctic Research

By MARINA KALININA, Vice-President Interg regional Cooperation, UArctic, Rector’s Advisor on International Cooperation, Northern (Arctic) Federal University

In 2017–2018, within the UK–Russia Year of Science and Education, the UArctic Research Office at the Northern (Arctic) Federal University implemented the project “Development of the UK–Russia Arctic Research and Collaboration Network”. Funded by the United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the project aimed to provide opportunities for advanced discussions on Arctic research agenda and further collaboration prospects between Russian and British institutions, including activities within UArctic.

Within the framework of this project, research seminars were run both in the UK and Russia, hosted by the University of Aberdeen, the Scott Polar Research Institute, and the Northern (Arctic) Federal University. The seminars became a meeting place for one hundred Arctic scientists from 45 Russian and British institutions to share knowledge on coastal and marine biology, Arctic ecosystems, environmental and social impact assessment, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, rural health and wellbeing in the North, new health care technologies, coastal archaeology, and indigenous peoples’ livelihoods and cultures.

The project was unique in terms of its geographical scope. Research results have been presented by scientists from many research institutions and from different regions and field sites of Russia, including Far Eastern Russia, Eastern and Western Siberia, Ural, and North-West Russia. The meetings also included discussions on circumpolar mobility, teacher education, Arctic science data analytics, the role of science diplomacy in the Arctic, and reflections on scientific challenges from the perspective of national Arctic strategies of the Russian Federation and the UK.

We also realized how important it was to promote knowledge of Arctic science and international cooperation in the region among the youth, and this was the aim of the workshop “Researcher Connect” held in cooperation with the British Council. The intensive three-day training program was an excellent opportunity for young scholars from Russian UArctic member institutions to improve their skills on science communication and academic writing.

In the concluding stage of the project, the UArctic Research Office is preparing a conference proceedings volume for publication. The book will include the project materials and conference papers, and will be disseminated at various international events such as the upcoming UArctic Congress 2018.

The UK–Russia project aimed at and successfully created networks between both researchers and institutions. Concrete outcomes include, for instance, a formal Memorandum of Understanding between NArFU and the University of Aberdeen; a Researcher Links workshop grant for “Archaeology and Cultural Geography of Arctic and Subarctic Coastal Regions” (NArFU, Durham University); and collaboration on oil spills, seminars and a joint publication (NArFU, University of Aberdeen).

WILLIAM PETTERSSON

When most people hear ‘British Columbia’ (BC) they think about the gorgeous inlets along the Sunshine Coast, the vibrant culture of metropolitan Vancouver or the lush vineyards of the Okanagan. Although being vital to the brand of BC and great attractors of tourists and delegations from all over the world, these southern areas only make up about half of the province! The personal history with BC started in 2013 when, as many individuals before and after me, came to experience the “ski-bum” lifestyle in Whistler. I was completely blown away by the natural beauty of the mountains, the people and the seemingly carefree attitude toward the work/play balance in BC. I believed I had found my paradise! All good things eventually come to an end (or at least to a temporary stop), and my visa obliged me to return home to Sweden. However, somehow I could never stop thinking about my experiences, and I made a promise to myself to one day return to this Garden of Eden.

Fall 2016 I am now in my second year of studies at the International Business Program at Umeå School of Business, Economics and Statistics, and it is time to apply for exchange semesters. Among the myriad of interesting options, I could not shake the feeling that BC was calling me to come back. As fate had it, an opportunity to study at UNBC in Prince George via the north2north program emerged as the number one choice for me.

To be completely honest, I was not sure what to expect when I got on the plane leaving for Canada in August 2017. I had little to no knowledge regarding what northern BC was about. The media is always reporting about occurrences in the south; it’s as if the northern part of BC (again, this is half of the province!) doesn’t exist. Being a student at a northern university in Sweden, the phenomenon of a ‘forgotten North’ is not new to me – I face it on a daily basis.

This is where the true value of the north2north initiative lies. It allows students to open their eyes to new and unconventional parts of the world, where the human capital is incredibly rich, the spirit of innovation is thriving, and the drive to break the geographical constraints and rise above them is ever-present.

I am eternally grateful for being blessed with having my mind opened to the ample opportunities for societal growth and community-building being displayed in northern BC, and I encourage anyone who might be reading this to go and experience this energy and ambition first hand!

Without the northern lights to light the way, we’ll stay in the dark forever.
UArctic members

CANADA
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Arctic Institute of North America
- Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
- Aurora College
- Brandon University
- Cape Breton University
- Center for Northern Studies / Centre d'Études Nordiques
- Coast Mountain College*
- Dechinta Bush University Centre for Research and Learning*
- Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology - Simon Fraser University
- Gwich'in Council International
- Lakehead University
- Makivik Corporation
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Nipissing University*
- Northlands College
- Nunavut Arctic College
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut
- Polar Libraries Colloquy
- Quaqtaqarttiaq Health Research Centre
- Royal Military College of Canada
- Royal Roads University
- Saint Mary's University
- TELUS World of Science - Edmonton
- Trent University
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Université du Québec à Rimouski
- Université Laval
- University College of the North
- University of Alberta
- University of Lethbridge*
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of Regina
- University of Saskatchewan
- Vancouver Island University
- Wiilideh驶oodeh Nisga’a Institute
- Yukon College

DENMARK/PAROE ISLANDS/ GREENLAND
- Aalborg University
- Aarhus University
- Arctic DTU
- Copenhagen Business School
- Department of Sociology, Environmental and Business Economics - University of Southern Denmark
- Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland
- Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling
- Perorsaanermik Ilinniarfik / College of Social Education
- Roskilde University
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Copenhagen
- University of the Faroe Islands

FINLAND
- Diaspora University of Applied Sciences
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
- Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Kajaani University of Applied Sciences
- Lahjo University of Applied Sciences*
- Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences
- Oulu University of Applied Sciences
- Sámi Education Institute
- Savonia University of Applied Sciences*
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Helsinki
- University of Lapland
- University of Oulu
- University of Tampere
- University of Turku

ICELAND
- Arctic Portal
- Bifrost University
- Iceland Academy of the Arts
- Reykjavík University
- Stefánsson Arctic Institute
- University Centre of the Westfjords
- University of Akureyri
- University of Iceland

NORWAY
- Aran Luelenars Center
- Center for International Climate and Environmental Research
- Faculty of Science and Technology - University of Stavanger
- GRID-Arendal
- International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- International Sámi Film Institute
- Kings Bay AS*
- Nord University
- Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Sámi High School and Reindeer Husbandry School* Sámi University of Applied Sciences
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- University Centre in Svalbard

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- Arctic College of the Peoples of the North
- Arctic Research Center of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District
- Arctic State Institute of Culture and Art
- Baltic State Technical University
- Bangor University
- Barentsburg Research Station
- Barentsburg University
- Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North / Russian Indigenous Training Centre
- Chukotka State Institute of Physical Education and Sports
- East-Siberian Institute of Economics and Management
- European University at St Petersburg
- Far Eastern Federal University
- Far Eastern State Transportation University
- Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia
- Higher School of Innovation Management*
- Industrial University of Tyumen
- Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North - Siberian Branch RAS
- Käsmu State Technical University*
- Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Komi Republic Academy of State Service and Administration
- Luzin Institute for Economic Studies - Kola Science Centre RAS
- Murmansk State University
- Murmansk State Technological University
- Narayan-Mai Social Humanitarian College
- National Research Tomsk State University
- Nenets Agrarian Economic Technical School
- Nizhnevartovsk State University
- Nordisk State Industrial Institute
- North-Eastern Federal University
- Northern (Arctic) Federal University
- Northern National College
- Northern State Medical University
- Petrozavodsk State University
- Project Management Centre
- Pskov State University
- RANPON
- Russian State Hydrometeorological University
- Scientific Research Institute of National Schools of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
- Siberian Federal University
- St. Petersburg State University of Film and Television*
- St. Petersburg University
- Surgut State Pedagogical University
- Surgut State University
- Syktvykar Forest Institute
- Syktvykar State University
- Tajmyr College
- Tomsk Polytechnic University*
- Tyumen State University
- Ukhta State Technical University
- Ural Federal University
- Yakutsk State Agricultural Academy
- Yamal Multidisciplinary College
- Yamal Polar Agricultural Technical School
- Yugra State University

SWEDEN
- Abo Akademi University
- Alvik Royal Institute of Technology
- Luleå University of Technology
- Lund University
- Mid Sweden University
- Sámi Educational Centre
- Stockholm University
- Umeå University

UNITED STATES
- Aleut International Association
- Antioch University New England
- Arctic Research Consortium of the United States
- Association for Canadian Studies in the United States
- Center for Circumpolar Studies
- College of Climate Change Institute - University of Maine
- Cold Climate Housing Research Center
- Dartmouth College
- Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy - Tufts University
- Florida SouthWestern State College
- Ilisaqik College
- Institute of the North
- New Jersey City University
- Scandinavian Seminar Group
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Colorado
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of New England*

University of North Dakota
- University of Washington
- Western Kentucky University
- Wilson Center - Polar Initiative*

NON-ARCTIC
- Alfred Wegener Institut (Germany)
- Arctic Centre - University of Oulu (Finland)
- Austrian Polar Research Institute (Austria)
- Beijing Normal University (China)
- Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia (Czechia)
- Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (China)
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (China)
- Dalian Maritime University (China)
- Durham University (UK)
- Educational Studies School - Mongolian National University of Education (Mongolia)
- Environmental Development Centre - Ministry of Environmental Protection (China)
- First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- Harbin Engineering University (China)*
- Harbin Institute of Technology (China)*
- Hokkaido University (Japan)
- International Polar Foundation (Belgium)
- Italian Society for International Organizations (Italy)*
- Korea Maritime Institute (Korea)
- Korea Polar Research Institute (Korea)
- Leeds Beckett University (UK)*
- National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (China)
- Ocean University of China (China)
- Polar Research Institute of China (China)
- Research Centre CEARC - University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France)
- Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- Scott Polar Research Institute (UK)*
- Third Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (China)
- University of Aberdeen (UK)
- University of the Highlands and Islands (UK)
- Universitat Hamburg (Germany)

*Pending approval by Council in 2018

UArctic International Secretariat
University of Lapland
Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, FINLAND
secretariat@uarctic.org

uarctic.org