

UArctic Report to the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council April 2008 UArctic International Secretariat

UArctic Governance

At the annual Council meeting in June, nine institutions joined the University of the Arctic, bringing total the total number of members to 110.

	CAN	DEN/GRN	FIN	ICE	NOR	RUS	SWE	UK	USA	TOTAL
Members	29	3	10	5	17	31	6	1	8	110

Number of Member Institutions by Country for 2007

The UArctic also welcomed a new Board of Governors, they are as follows: Chair, Steve Jones, Alaska, US; Vice-Chair, Andy Greenshaw, Canada; Jan Henry Keskitalo, Norway; Alexander Krylov, Russia; Lauri Lantto, Finland; Erling Olsen, Denmark; Barry P. Scherr, US; Mary Simon, Canada; Emőke Szathmáry, Canada; and Mikkel Berg, Student Representative.

UArctic Rectors' Forum

The University of the Arctic held its second Rectors' Forum in Rovaniemi, Finland, from February 27-29, 2008. 75 higher education leaders, representing 33 universities and colleges in the Circumpolar North, gathered at the Forum and collectively passed and signed the University of the Arctic Charter. The Forum was partially held in conjunction with the Standing Committee of Arctic Parliamentarians, with both groups participating in a Seminar focussed on climate change and borders and access to the sea. The Proceedings from the seminar will be published in May 2005 and brought to the UN Treaty event in New York.

Programs

Thematic Networks

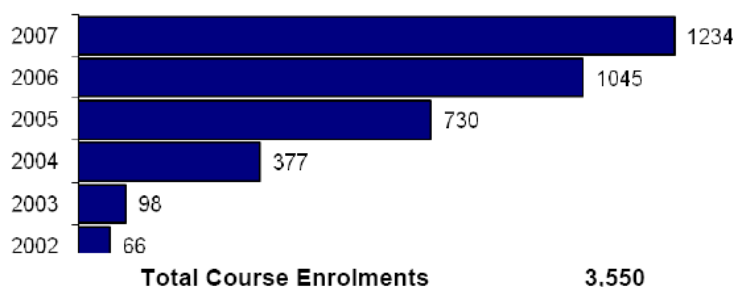
In 2007 three new Thematic Networks were established giving a total number of eleven thematic networks currently in operation: Arctic Medicine; Verdde Program; UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on Community Based Natural Resource Co-management; Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use; Global Change in the Arctic; Local and Regional Development; World Image of the Indigenous Peoples of the North; Social Work; Northern Governance (2007); Arctic Learning Environment (2007); and Indigenous Arts and Crafts (2007).

The following thematic networks are currently under development: Thematic Network in Arctic Engineering and Science, Thematic Network for Digital and Media Arts, Thematic Network in journalism, Thematic Network in Energy in New Time, Thematic Network in Polar Tourism and Thematic Network on Distance Education and E-learning.

Circumpolar Studies Program

In 2007, Circumpolar Studies course enrolments stabilized in the local on-site courses, while international online course enrolments increased dramatically. The overall increase from 2006 to 2007 was 18%, while the international online course enrolment increased 32% from 230 course enrolments in 2006 to 303 in 2007. To date, Circumpolar Studies has experienced a course enrolment of 3,550.

Number of Course Enrolments in Circumpolar Studies by Calendar Year 2002-2007



north2north

This graph shows the number of outgoing students who participated in the north2north exchange in 2007. There is a slight decrease in the number of outgoing students compared with the 2006-2007 stats, however figures from Iceland were not submitted.

HOST COUNTRIES	Norway	Finland	Canada	USA	Russia	Sweden	Iceland	2007
HOME COUNTRIES								Outgoing
Norway			7	4	2			13
Finland			11	1	2			14
USA	1	1				1		3
Canada	2	6				1	1	10
Russia	18	19		3		8		48
Sweden			7	1				8
Incoming	21	26	18	8	4	10	1	96

Graduate Area Development

In early December 2007, six external evaluators unanimously chose the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Lapland to be co-leads of the UArctic Graduate Area. The Graduate Area will be responsible for the development of the Field School, PhD Network, and Future Networks Program. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the joint leads in Rovaniemi on February 26, 2008.

UArctic Catalog and GoNorth

The University of the Arctic also launched its Studies Catalog Office in September, which is based from the Scandinavian Seminar Group in Amherst, USA. The UArctic Studies Catalog is online at www.studies.uarctic.org. The Catalog is of particular importance to the GoNorth initiative which aims marketing the Arctic as a study destination to students from outside the Arctic.

Administration and Management

Information Management

The UArctic website, www.uarctic.org, is managed by the UArctic International Secretariat.

The Shared Voices Newsletter is produced on a monthly basis and distributed to over 2000 readers. One print edition of the Shared Voices Newsletter was produced in May 2007 in cooperation with the GoNorth! Erasmus Mundus project.

Visits	54,644.00
Weekly Average, visits	1,050.00
Daily Average	149.30

User Statistics for www.uarctic.org, 2007

In September 2007, the UArctic began to develop an Online Atlas, which will serve as an educative and interactive information tool for students as well as the private sector, based on cooperation among various data holders in the Arctic—including the Arctic Council working groups.

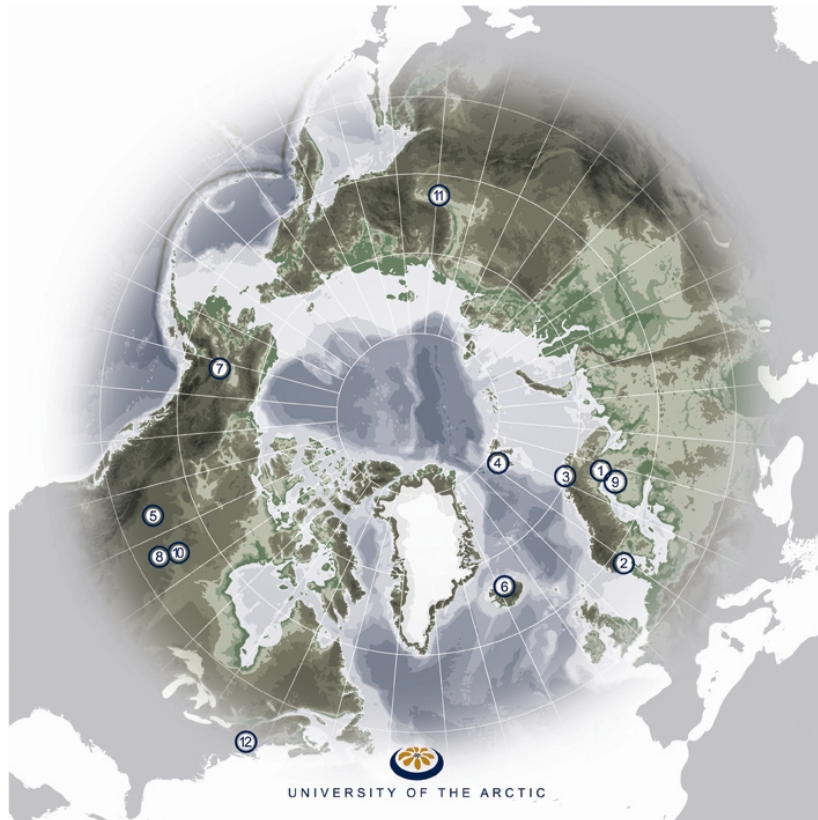
One important avenue to the life and cultures as well as the environment of the Arctic regions is cooking traditions. UArctic Administration started a project to produce a circumpolar cookbook, with Andreas Viestad as the chief author, in 2007. The goal is to produce a cookbook with information about northern cultures, regions as well as flora and fauna relevant for local cooking during 2010.

External Relations

UArctic continued to work closely with the Arctic Council, the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region throughout 2007. The collaboration with the Arctic Parliamentarians focused on working together on the planning of the joint seminar of the SCPAR and UArctic Rectors' Forum on February 28, 2008 in Rovaniemi, Finland.

UArctic also maintained a constructive dialogue with the International Arctic Science Committee, the Working Group of Higher Education in the Arctic 8, national funding agencies like the National Science Foundation, the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as the national higher education authorities in the national governments of the eight Arctic Countries. UArctic also started to develop cooperation with UNESCO and the UN University.

List of Offices



1. UArctic International Secretariat: University of Lapland, Rovaniemi Finland
2. UArctic President's Office: UNEP-GRID/Arenal, Arendal Norway
3. North2north International Coordination Office: Finnmark University College, Alta Norway
4. UArctic Field School Office: UNIS, Svalbard Norway
5. UArctic Press Editorial Office: University of Alberta, Edmonton Alberta Canada
6. Northern Research Forum Secretariat: Steffanson Arctic Institute, Akureyri Iceland
7. IPY Higher Education and Outreach Program Office: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska USA
8. Undergraduate Office: University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Saskatchewan Canada
9. UArctic Thematic Networks Office: Thule Institute University of Oulu, Oulu Finland
10. International Academic Office: Northlands College, La Ronge Saskatchewan Canada
11. UArctic Russian Information Center: Sakha State University, Yakutsk, Sakha Russia
12. UArctic Studies Catalog Office, Scandinavian Seminar, Amherst USA

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