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Terence Armstrong, interviewee

Karen Cedzo, host

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Terence Armstrong talked about having a degree in Russian while at university. He returned to university after he was in the army during World War II. He discovered that the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University was looking for someone with his kind of background. That got him into polar studies. He was the commencement speaker for this year and a recipient of an honorary doctorate of science. He has been with the Scott Polar Research Institute since 1947 and is assistant director of polar research. The Institute offers a diploma in polar studies. Armstrong said they have had one course titled the diploma in northern studies for the past five years. This year it will be called a master's of philosophy in polar studies. The students will be concerned with the environment, the people, the history, the economics, the science that goes on there and administration of polar areas. They have had two or three students from Alaska. They have the north in their background and they can pass this on to the other students. Likewise their Australian students have a knowledge of Antarctica to pass. The program would be a natural at UAF. Armstrong talked about the Rasmuson Library and its Skinner collection. He said there are a number of interested and skilled faculty members who know a lot about the northern regions. He said this is one of the three or four best placed centers in the world to carry out polar studies. Dr. Armstrong continues to contact his counterparts in the Soviet Union. He said one is always trying to get literature, contacts, and to get exchanges going on. He many not know if one of his contacts has gone cold until he hasn't heard from them for a couple of years. The future of the northern land provides a great opportunity to exercise wise management of native resources. He said it will provide the raw materials that are getting scarce in the rest of the world. It will tend to get more densely populated. Everything depends on the care, skill and consideration how this exploitation takes place. He said we must make sure it takes place in a satisfactory way. This is not the first time Armstrong has visited Alaska. He has noticed many changes since he was here the first time. He said things are changing here rapidly.

Karen Cedzo talks about the campus calendar and activities