

Focus the Nation Panel – Burke Museum

January 31, 2008 3-4:30 pm HUB 209 B

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture is presenting a panel discussion as a part of Focus the Nation: a national day of campus action on climate change. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwfocus/>. The UW involvement includes 11 panel discussions, an exhibit hall with over 40 participating organizations, and culminates at 7 PM with a panel at Kane Hall which includes Jay Inslee, Fred Jarrett, Greg Nickels, and Ron Sims, moderated by Steve Scher.

The Burke panel involves UW students with an intimate knowledge of indigenous cultures particularly impacted by the affects of global warming. We have three student panelist representing perspectives from the Marshal Islands in the South Pacific, the Inuit Peoples of Canada, and the Tibetan region of China. They will be joined by the Fisheries and Natural Resources Commissioner for the Tulalip Tribe, Terry Williams. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Stevan Harrell.

Brief biographies of the panelist follow; each of them has a unique story to tell. I had the pleasure of meeting with the panelist last week. The presentation promises be insightful and filled with personal perspectives that allow issues of global importance to be seen with fresh eyes.

Marshal Islands

Mark Stege is applying as a Visiting Graduate Student (VGS) for the UW MBA Program.

His interest in the UW MBA Program originated at a workshop on climate change held at UW last March. The workshop aimed to focus scientific attention on the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). In light of his Marshallese upbringing and work experience, he was invited to provide workshop participants with an understanding of what life and work is like on the ground in the RMI. This led to a renewed interest in the RMI's vulnerability to climate change, and of the opportunities for economic development this may create. Mark is now studying climate resilient policies and industries that will form an integral part in the global effort to reduce and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Inuit of Canada

Tim Pasch is a Doctoral Candidate in Communication. He is researching ways in which social networking technology can preserve endangered languages, specifically Inuit Inuktitut in the Canadian Arctic. In the summer of 2007 he spent time living with an Inuit family in Inukjuaq, Nunavik and traveled on a hunting expedition with an Inuit team. Thanks to a FLAS grant enabling the study of Inuktitut, Tim was able to improve his Inuktitut language ability and speak candidly with the Inuit about climate change and cultural erosion. He feels confident that he can effectively speak to Inuit opinions from the community of Inukjuaq in Nunavik.

China

Kemo Langzen (Yang Qingxia), is head of the cultural resources unit in the science office of Jiuzhaigou National Nature Reserve in the People Republic of China. She is a Tibetan from one of the villages in the park. She works for the science department of the Jiuzhaigou National Park Administration Bureau in charge of conserving traditional culture and community development. Kemo is a visiting scholar at the UW.

The Northwest

Terry Williams - Since 1982, Williams has served as a Fisheries and Natural Resources Commissioner for the Tulalip Tribes. He also serves on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council since and on the Pacific Salmon Commission. Williams served as the director of the EPA American Indian Environmental Office in Washington, D.C. from 1995 to 1996. This office addressed specific environmental issues of Indian tribes nationwide. Williams has also worked on tribal issues at the international level. In 1997, the Secretary for Policy and International Affairs Office of the Department of the Interior appointed Williams to represent indigenous peoples on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity. Williams currently serves on the Salmon Homecoming Alliance Board and the Northwest Straits Commission. He is also a member of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum, a multi-interest coalition that guides salmon conservation efforts in the Snohomish River basin. Williams has received the Washington State Environmental Award and the Seventh Generation Legacy Award for his

work.

Moderator

Stevan Harrell has taught at the University of Washington since 1974, and is currently Professor of Anthropology, Adjunct Professor of Chinese, and Adjunct Curator at the Burke Museum, University of Washington. His research and teaching in recent years has focused on environmental questions in China, particularly on the sustainability of rural livelihoods in the mountains of Southwest China. He is working closely with such institutions in China as Sichuan University, Sichuan Nationalities Research Institute, and Jiuzhaigou National Park. He is director of the UW-Sichuan undergraduate exchange program. He also teaches in the Program on the Environment. He is the editor of the University of Washington Press book series, Studies on Ethnic Groups in China; his own latest book, written with Bamo Ayi and Ma Lunzy, is *Fieldwork Connections: the Fabric of Ethnographic Collaboration in China and America*.