

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FACULTY PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:
“POLAR SCIENCE AT UNI”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Professor Andrey Petrov will provide insight into research at UNI which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Space and Science Administration (NASA) and which focuses on environmental and human dynamics in the Arctic. He will spotlight several major UNI-based studies focusing on human development, economic prosperity, and resilience of socio-ecological systems in the Arctic under the pressures created by globalization and climate change. A special emphasis will be given to the NSF Creative Arctic project that investigates the role of creative capital in economic development in remote Arctic communities. Dr. Petrov’s work suggests that creative capital is a pivotal factor of regional development and is an agent of economic transformation in remote regions. This research supports the argument that creative ‘hot spots’ in the periphery, not only in the Arctic, but also in rural areas across the United States, can become the centers of local economic revitalization, if appropriate policies are introduced to support community-driven innovation.

Dr. Petrov received doctoral degrees from the University of Toronto (Canada, 2008) and Herzen University (Russia, 2006) and a master’s degree from UNI. He is the Director of the Arctic Social and Environmental Systems Research Lab (ARCSES) and the Assistant Director of the Geoinformatics Training, Research, Education and Extension (GeoTREE) Center at UNI. He works on issues of social, economic, and environmental change in the Arctic and studies the dynamics of socio-environmental systems and economic development in other marginal regions of the planet. Dr. Petrov also directs a privately-funded program at UNI in Research and Outreach in Geography between Russia and the United States (PROGRUS) that promotes collaboration with Russian scholars and facilitates student exchange.