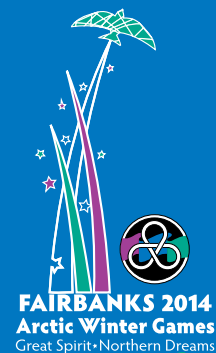


OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

# ULU NEWS



THURSDAY  
MARCH 20, 2014

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“While there have been numerous cultural events taking place all week as part of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, the main event highlights today’s schedule.

As the weeklong celebration of sport and culture draws toward its Saturday conclusion, the first of two Cultural Galas is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at Hering Auditorium. ...”

**READ MORE » PAGE 3**

## NEW EXPOSURE

©AWG2014/Troy\_Bouffard

A snowboarder participates in the Arctic Winter Games on Wednesday. TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS










SNOWBOARDING » PAGE 8-9 AN ELDER’S EXPERIENCE » PAGE 13  
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## MEDALS BY TEAM

*Ulu counts as of 9 p.m. Wednesday*

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	26	27	34	87
 Alberta North	21	10	13	44
 Greenland	5	3	2	10
 NWT	10	12	15	37
 Nunavik-Quebec	3	6	7	16
 Nunavut	3	3	4	10
 Sapmi	7	2	6	15
 Yamal	22	35	8	65
 Yukon	12	11	21	44

## Arctic Winter Games schedule: Today and Friday

## TODAY

**ALPINE SKIING**—Mt. Aurora Skiland, Combined, Junior Female and Male and Juvenile Female and Male, First Run 11:30 a.m.; Second Run 1:45 p.m.

**ARCTIC SPORTS**—Lathrop High School, One-Foot High Kick, Junior and Open Female, 10 a.m., Junior and Open Male, 1 p.m.; Open Male Airplane, 7 p.m.

**BADMINTON**—North Pole High School, Junior Mixed Doubles and Juvenile Mixed Doubles, Qualifying Round, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

**BASKETBALL**—UAF Patty Center, Junior Female Playoffs, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Junior Male Playoffs, 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**BIATHLON SKI**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 5K Individual, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Male and Female Individual 7.5K, 2:30 p.m.

**BIATHLON SNOWSHOE**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female and Male 5K, 11:30 a.m.; Junior Female and male 3K, 11:30 a.m.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Mass Start Classic, Midget Female 3.75K, 12:50 p.m.; Midget Male 3.75K, 12:30 p.m.; Juvenile Female 7.5K, Noon; Juvenile Male, 7.5K, 11:30 a.m.; Junior Female 10K, 10:45 a.m.; Junior Male 10K, 10 a.m.

**CURLING**—Fairbanks Curling Club, Female Medals Round, Junior Female and Male Bronze Ulu games, 9 a.m.; Junior Female and Male Gold Ulu games, 2:30 p.m.

**DENE GAMES**—Ryan Middle School, Finger Pull, Junior Female and Open Male, 2 p.m.; Junior Male and Juvenile Female, 9 a.m.

**DOG MUSHING**—Jeff Studdert Racegrounds, Junior Coed Team Four-Dog Race, 1:30 p.m.; Juvenile Coed 7.5K Team Four-Dog Race, Noon.

**FIGURE SKATING**—Carlson Center, Team Event (Axel, Double-Double Jump Combination, Flying Came./Back Sit Spin), Layback/Sideways Leaning Spin, Sit Spin, Spiral Sequence. Step Sequence, 3 p.m.

**GYMNASTICS**—Gymnastics, Junior Female Individual Competition, (Vault, Balance Beam, Floor Exercise, Uneven Bars, All Around, 10:30 a.m.

**ICE HOCKEY**—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Bantam Male Semifinals 9 and 11:30 a.m.; Midget Male, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; UAF Patty Center, Junior Female, 3 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

**INDOOR SOCCER**—UAF Student Recreation Center, Round-Robin Games, Intermediate Female, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.; Junior Female, noon and 1 p.m.; Junior Male, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Juvenile Female, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**SHORT TRACK SPEED**

**SKATING**—Juvenile Female 666M, 9:25 a.m.; Juvenile Male 666M, 9:33 a.m.; Junior Female 777M, 9:49 a.m.; Junior Male 777M, 10:01 a.m.

**SNOWBOARDING**—UAF Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park,

Arctic Air, Junior Female and Male, Juvenile Female and Male, 11 a.m.

**TABLE TENNIS**—Hutchison High School, Junior Mixed Doubles, 10 a.m.; Junior Mixed Team Event, 1 p.m.; Juvenile Mixed Team Event, 10 a.m.

**VOLLEYBALL**—Randy Smith Middle School, Junior Female, Round-Robin Games, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Playoffs 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; West Valley High School, Junior Male, Round Robin, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; Playoffs 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**WRESTLING**—North Pole Middle School, Individual Weight Class Tournaments, 10 a.m.

## FRIDAY

**ARCTIC SPORTS**—Lathrop High School, Sledge Jump: Junior Female and Open Female, Junior Male and Open Male, 10 a.m.; Open Male Knuckle Hop, 2 p.m.

**BADMINTON**—North Pole High School Singles Semifinals, Junior Female, 3:30 p.m.; Junior Male, 4:15 p.m.; Juvenile female 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Male, 12:15 p.m.; Doubles: Junior Female 1:45 p.m.; Junior Male, 1 p.m.; Junior Mixed, 10:45 a.m.; Juvenile Female, 10 a.m.; Juvenile Male, 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Mixed, 10 a.m.

**BASKETBALL**—UAF Patty Center, Bronze Medal Game: Junior Female, 4 p.m.; Junior Male, 7 p.m.

**BIATHLON SKI**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Mixed Relay, 2:30 p.m.; Junior Mixed

Relay, 2:30 p.m.

**BIATHLON SNOWSHOE**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Junior Mixed Relay, 11:30 a.m.; Juvenile Mixed Relay, 11:30 a.m.

**CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Relays, Junior Female 10 a.m.; Junior Male 11 a.m.; Juvenile Female, 10 a.m.; Junior Male, 11 a.m.; Midget Female, 10 a.m., Midget Male, 11 a.m.

**CURLING**—Fairbanks Curling Club, Junior Mixed Qualifying and quarterfinals, 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m.

**DENE GAMES**—Ryan Middle School, Pole Push, Juvenile Female, 8 a.m.; Junior Male, 10:30 a.m., Junior Female, 2 p.m.; Open male, 3:30 p.m.

**ICE HOCKEY**—Big Dipper Ice Arena, Junior Female: Bronze Ulu Game, 4:30 p.m.; Gold Ulu Game 7:30 p.m.; Bantam Male: Bronze Medal Game, 9 a.m.; Midget Male: Bronze Medal Game, 12:30 p.m.

**INDOOR SOCCER**—UAF Student Recreation Center, Intermediate girls playoffs, 10 and 11 a.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 7 p.m.; Junior Female Playoffs, 2 and 3 p.m.; Bronze Ulu Game: 7 p.m.; Junior Male Playoffs 4 and 5 p.m.; Juvenile Female Playoffs, 8 and 9 a.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 6 p.m.; Juvenile Male Playoffs, Noon and 1 p.m.; Bronze Ulu Game, 8 p.m.

**SHORT TRACK SPEED**

**SKATING**—Carlson Center, Juvenile Female 1,000M, First Heats 11 a.m. and Finals at 1:35 p.m.; Juvenile Male 1,000M, First

Heats 11:10 a.m.; Finals 1:50 p.m.; Junior Female 1,500M, First Heats 11:30 a.m.; Finals 2 p.m.; Junior Male 1,500M, First Heats 11:45 a.m.; Finals 2:15 p.m.; Juvenile Female 2,000M, 2:35 p.m.; Juvenile Male 2,000M Relay, 2:40 p.m.; Junior Female 3,000 Relay, 2:45 p.m.; Junior Male 3,000M Relay, 2:50 p.m.

**SNOWSHOEING**—Birch Hill Recreation Area, Juvenile Female 5K, 4 p.m.; Juvenile Male, 5K, 5 p.m.; Junior Female, 7.5K, 6 p.m.; Junior Male, 7.5K, 7:15 p.m.

**TABLE TENNIS**—Hutchison High School, Singles, Junior Female and Junior Male semifinals, 9 a.m.; Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 12:30 p.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male semifinals, 9:30 a.m., Gold and Bronze Ulu matches, 12:30 p.m.; Doubles, Junior Female and Junior Male, semifinals, 9 a.m.; Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 12:30 p.m.; Junior Mixed semifinals 10:30 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu games, 2 p.m.; Juvenile Female and Juvenile Male, 9 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 12:30; Juvenile Mixed semifinals 10:30 a.m., Bronze and Gold Ulu matches, 2 p.m.

**VOLLEYBALL**—West Valley High School, Junior Female Bronze Ulu Match 5 p.m., Gold Ulu Match, 7 p.m.; Junior Male Bronze Ulu Match, 1 p.m., Gold Ulu Match, 3 p.m.

**WRESTLING**—North Pole Middle School, Individual Inuit Weight Classes, Noon.

# Cultural experiences today's focus at Winter Games

By Bob Eley  
ULU NEWS

While there have been numerous cultural events taking place all week as part of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, the main event highlights today's schedule.

As the weeklong celebration of sport and culture draws toward its Saturday conclusion, the first of two Cultural Galas is

scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at Hering Auditorium.

Cultural delegations from six of the nine competing contingencies will be on stage to perform during the evening's extravaganza.

There are still a few tickets available for the event and they can be purchased at the Arctic Winter Games office at 333 Barnette St. Admission is \$35 for adults and \$30 for youths,

military and senior citizens.

If you can't make tonight's show, the same show will be held at 7 p.m. Friday with the same ticket prices.

The six contingents putting on performances tonight include Alaska, Alberta North, Yukon, Nunavut, Yamal and Nunavik.

The Yup'ik dancers from Mt Edgumbe represent Alaska, while Alberta's contingent will

be performing traditional powwow dances.

The Yukon contingent performers will be breakdancing and performing a contemporary dance titled "Love in the Aurora" created especially for AWG.

The Nunavut contingent will feature traditional throat singers, dancers and drummers.

## LIVE PERFORMANCES

### At Pioneer Park

2 p.m.: Dance Theater Fairbanks

2:30 p.m.: TBA


3:30 p.m.: UAF Inu-Yupiaq

4 p.m.: Robert Charlie Band


5 p.m.: Arctic Cats

6 p.m.: Marc Brown and the Blues Crew

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# Northern colleges host fair to recruit students

University of the Arctic promotes education opportunities for students in circumpolar north

By Libbie Martin  
ULU NEWS

The University of Alaska Fairbanks offered the visiting Arctic Winter Games participants more than just a few sports venues.

On Wednesday, UAF hosted a college fair for the University of the Arctic, an international cooperative of colleges, universities and other organizations to promote education and research within the circumpolar north.

A founding member of UArctic, UAF realized the goals and mission of the university — to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering indigenous peoples and other northerners through education, mobility and shared knowledge — are shared with the AWG's goals, according to Mary Kreta, director of recruitment for UAF.

"UAF focuses on research at a high level," Kreta said. "And AWG focuses on sports and community. They're two sides of the same coin."

The college fair was set up in the Great Hall on campus, and visitors found information from the University of Greenland, Arctic University of Norway-Alta Campus, Northern Arctic Federal University in Russia, University of Saskatchewan, North-Eastern Federal University in Russia, UAF, University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Pacific University and Ilisagvik College, the only tribal college in Alaska.

UArctic is for students who are invested in their culture, and



The University of Saskatchewan sent Alec Aitken, focused program coordinator for northern studies, left, and Donna Bilokreli, academic adviser, to the University of the Arctic College Fair, which is part of the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, on Wednesday at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. LIBBIE MARTIN/ULU NEWS

want to remain in their communities, Kreta said.

Alec Aitken, focused program coordinator for northern studies, and Donna Bilokreli, academic advisor, came to Fairbanks from the University of Saskatchewan just for the fair.

Another founding member, University of Saskatchewan delivers UArctic programs from their campus and online, including several of the core courses for the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies.

"As part of the group, we take that program and build on it," Aitken said.

The majority of their 20,000 students are undergraduates, and most are local.

"We're late to the game in engaging northern residents,"



**UAF focuses on research at a high level. And AWG focuses on sports and community. They're two sides of the same coin."**

Mary Kreta, director of recruitment at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Aitken admitted. "We need to engage with northern residents beyond our border."

As interest in the northern regions grow, Aitken and Bilokreli see more students who want to get a degree, but they don't want to go too far away.

"Students are interested as long as they can stay in their home communities," Bilokreli said.

"(They understand that) a degree will open up economic

possibilities and they can use that degree to better their communities."

Two Russian universities were represented by UAF students. Jen Sidorova, a graduate student at UAF, graduated from North-Eastern Federal University and Alla Zaytseva is an exchange student at UAF from Northern Arctic Federal University. Both are working on northern studies degrees.

Sidorova wants to work in the

political arena, "maybe international relations between the U.S. and Russia," she said. Zaytseva plans to be an interpreter.

They said the Russian universities, in Yakutsk, would be attractive to Fairbanks students because they share climate, natural setting and unique experiences. But Yakutsk is colder than Fairbanks, Zaytseva said.

"Yakutsk is the coldest city in the world," she said.

# Coach: New exposure good for mushers, dogs

By **Danny Martin**  
ULU NEWS

Mushers in the sled dog competition of the Arctic Winter Games are experienced, having completed in events in their hometowns or state or province.

The Arctic Winter Games is another chapter in their young careers.

It's helping prepare them if they decide in the future to test a major sprint event, like the Open North American Championship in Fairbanks, or a serious distance competition, like the Yukon Quest International, a 1,000-mile race that runs annually between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon.

"Just getting out and getting exposure to other mushers, the way other mushers do things," said Scott Maruskie, head coach of the Team Alaska sled dog contingent, Wednesday during the



**A musher drives his dogs during Tuesday's Arctic Winter Games.** SADIE GROVER/ULU NEWS

media briefing.

"When we race locally, in Anchorage or Chugiak, you're pretty much confined to the same people," he continued, "and by getting someplace here, you're exposed to mushers from Canada, different breeds of dogs and different ways of doing things.

"And just that exposure to other methods and other dogs will help them to not be afraid to leave the home track," Maruskie said.

"When we ran the 6-mile (Tuesday), Zada and Nicholas had never been on that trail," Maruskie said. "That's where having good dogs up front, the

leaders, and being able to count on them to take you around the trails."

Nicholas Cole, of Eagle River, won Monday in the juvenile division's 4.8-mile race and in Tuesday's 6.2-mile race. Zada Maruskie, the Team Alaska coach's daughter, was runner-up in both events for the division.

"Dogs, at times, if they're not familiar with things, they'll stop," Scott Maruskie said, "and that's where the good leaders are critical."

Zada Maruskie, in her first AWG, is incorporating in her racing one thing she's learned from her international counterparts.

"Just to go out there and do it, even if you know you're not going to win," she said.

## Medical report

There's been no major injuries in the Arctic Winter Games, but medical chairman Buddy Lane has seen the flu have its way with a few athletes this week.

With nearly 2,000 athletes and staff in the same geographic location for one week, it's easy for a flu virus to spread.

"When you have 1,980-odd participants in close quarters, and they've been flying on an airplane for six hours, and then you put them into a room with 15-20 people," Lane said, "and they're together 24 hours a day."

Lane noted, too, that some of the young athletes share drinks, which can also help spread the flu.

Lane said the AWG medical staff stresses to athletes not to share drinks and to often wash their hands.

"We've all been around children who say 'Hey, let me have a drink of that,'" Lane said, alluding to athletes sharing the same canned or bottled beverage.

Lane stressed that it's a couple of cases of the flu and not an outbreak.

Contact News-Miner sports editor Danny Martin at 459-7586, [dmartin@newsminer.com](mailto:dmartin@newsminer.com) or follow him on Twitter: @newsminersports.

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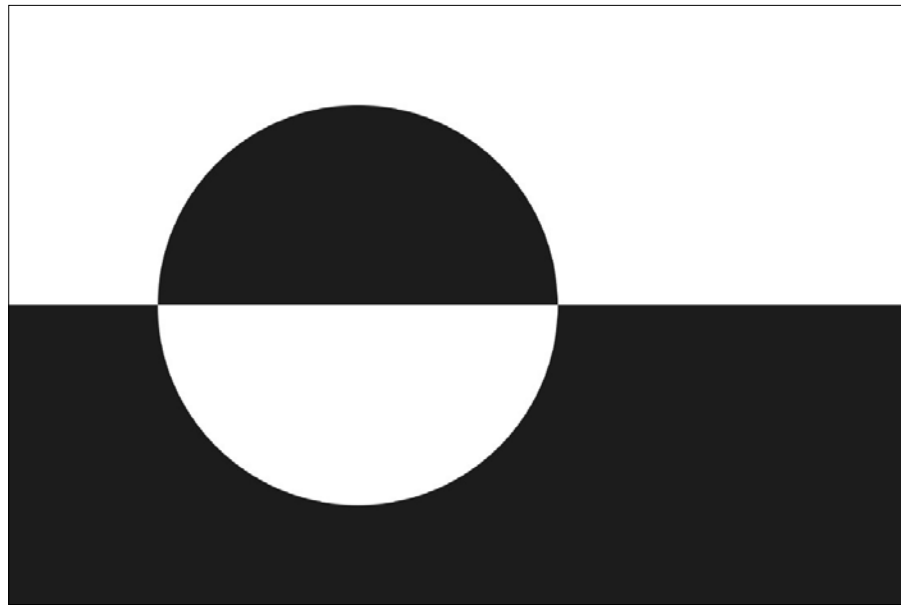
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Greenland flag ULU NEWS

## Greenland taking notes for its turn hosting in 2016

By Libbie Martin  
ULU NEWS

Team Greenland not only sent teams to compete in the Arctic Winter Games — there's a huge group of observers and mission staff watching and learning for their own turn at hosting the Games in 2016.

Team Greenland participated in the Arctic Winter Games for the first time in 1990; in 2002, Greenland co-hosted it, with Nunavut, in Nuuk, Greenland.

The world's largest island, Greenland is the farthest north contingent participating in the Arctic Winter Games.

Team Greenland sent 107 athletes, 14 coaches and managers and eight chaperones to Fairbanks, along with six cultural participants and one cultural manager. Ages range from 14 to 42.

Forty-five of the athletes are first-time participants. Only one of the coaches is a rookie. Each sport sets the guidelines and makes the athlete selections; coaches are chosen for their experience and skill.

"All the sports federations have their own selections," Lauritz Heilmann, Greenland chef de mission said in an email. "Usually the best and longest experience and already participated in the Games if possible."

Preparations for the Games have been long and tough, Heilmann said. Collecting information and planning logistics for such a large contingent, as well as for the many spectators and dignitaries, takes time and effort.

"But thanks to all the hardworking partners from Airgreenland and the staff from our confederation, not least

the mission staff and coaches, the preparations have been done very smoothly," Heilmann said.

First and foremost, the teams hope to do well in the sports competitions, Heilmann said.

"The Greenlandic team won 50 medals earlier, and our goal is to win not less than 50."

But, as with the other contingents, Heilmann knows the AWG are about more than just athletic skills and winning medals. Relationships, sportsmanship and cultural exchange are also vital elements of AWG participation.

"It is important to us to maintain the good relations with the other arctic countries and participate in cultural and social interchange," Heilmann said. "And it is important for all our participants to try out their abilities, and the Games will serve as a basis and a springboard for a healthy exchange benefiting their future in sports."

Accompanying the coaches, participants and mission staff are 26 parents, national media and a cultural documentarist.

Dignitaries who will observe and interact throughout the week include Nuka Kleemann, chairman of the Confederation Sports of Greenland; Mr. Lars Emil Johansen, chairman of the Greenlandic Parliament and Protector for Greenlandic Sports; Nick Nielsen, minister of sports and culture; Mikael Kristensen and Peter Frederik Lyberth, AWG International Committee members; Asii Chemnitz Naarup, mayor of the 2016 host city; and sponsors Christian Keldsen from Airgreenland and Malik Hege-lund Olsen from Royal Greenland.

## Take a gamble with hand games

By Libbie Martin  
ULU NEWS

All of the Arctic and Dene Games have their origins in ancient aboriginal traditions and activities, and the hand games are no exception.

Often played as gambling games, with stakes including bullets, furs, dogs, toboggans or matches, today they serve as a friendly source of community pride. The concept is simple: One side hides an object in the hand; the other side tries to guess which hand holds the object.

Of course, like anything worth a competition, it's far more complicated in practice.

To an observer, it looks like wild gyrations and hand waving, with chanting and drumming in the background adding to the confusion. Many competitors have painted their faces with wild designs and colors.

Those gyrations and hand waves are anything but wild and random — they are designed to simultaneously give hints to the opposition as to which hand is holding the object and confuse and misdirect the opposition so they can't guess where the object is.

There is always a method to the hand

signs, Team Alberta coach Skye Quintel said.

"The faster you move, the harder it is for them to focus on your hands," she said.

Teammates Tiarra Tremblay, 15; Reanna Whiteknife, 11; Toria Marten, 14; and Kyla Ahkimmatiche, 15, enjoy the mind games they play with their opponents.

The music and chanting and drumming serves two purposes, they said — they get the participants revved up and full of energy, and also add to the confusion.

"Helps with psyching out," the girls agreed.

The teams sit across from each other, four players each. They hide their hands under a cloth or blanket, shifting the token from hand to hand until they bring out both hands clenched.

The other team tried to decode the hand signals and waving arms to make the correct guess. If they guess well, they are awarded a stick. If they guess wrong, the stick goes to the other team.

The winner is the team that gets all 12 sticks, or if 30 minutes has passed, the team with the most sticks wins.

The AWG uses a double elimination format for the Hand Games.

## Arctic Winter Games *College Fair*

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Join the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of the Arctic, along with the Arctic Winter Games, for the first Arctic Winter Games College Fair in Fairbanks.

Athletes participating in the games can learn about higher education opportunities in the circumpolar North. The fair offers an unparalleled chance to connect with universities and colleges deeply committed to preserving a northern identity and to learning alongside their northern peers.

UAF is an AA/EED employer and educational institution. UAF photo by Todd Paris, 01/2014



© AWG 2014/Carol Falcetta

A snowboarder competes during Arctic Winter Games on Wednesday. CAROL FALCETTA/ULU NEWS

## Oh Canada! Alberta North, Yukon dominate in snowboarding

By **Scott McCrea**  
ULU NEWS

With techno music thumping in the background and a chilly March wind blowing snow around seemingly in tune with the music, the atmosphere at the Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus had an almost surreal sense to it Wednesday morning.

It didn't seem to phase the competitors who took part in the snowboarding slopestyle competition.

While bundled up spectators

and volunteers looked on, the athletes made their way down the course, some performing feats of aerial acrobatics as they soared over the three different jumps along the way.

The slopestyle competition was a new event to last month's Sochi Winter Olympics, where it got extra attention after Shaun White dropped out at the last minute. It's been a staple at the Winter X games, and has been part of the Arctic Winter Games since the 2010 games in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

In slopestyle, competitors make their way down the course,

hitting obstacles and trying to do the hardest tricks for the highest score. Overall impression is a huge factor in winning a slopestyle contest.

The rider who lands the hardest tricks will not always win over the rider who lands the easiest. Each rider had three runs, with final placement determined by their total score.

Unlike most of the other sports in Arctic Winter Games, snowboarding comes with a very brief technical package from the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, leaving the competition to be conducted

under the spirit and intent of the rules of the United States of America Snowboard Association and the Federation Internationale de Ski.

On Wednesday, the Canadian contingents blew the competition off of the slopes, with 11 of 12 medals going to teams from Canada. These included gold medals in the juvenile male and female divisions to Jack MacDougall (Alberta North) and Haylie Grant (Yukon) and gold medals in junior male and female divisions to Bailey Bonderud (Alberta North) and Alex Mckinnion (Alberta North). Mathias

Mark, of Greenland, was the sole non-Canadian competitor to medal, winning the silver in the junior male division.

AWG snowboarders were getting a chance to do something many snowboarders in Fairbanks haven't had a chance at yet, and that was to try out the new terrain park at UAF, which just opened this year. For a lot of the athletes, it was a huge improvement over what they had to train on back home.

"The coaches and athletes have had a great response to the





A snowboarder competes during Arctic Winter Games on Wednesday. TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS



Snowboarders watch a round during the Arctic Winter Games on Wednesday.

TROY BOUFFARD/  
ULU NEWS

## SNOWBOARDING

Continued from U8

park's features," said Mark Oldmixon, director of UAF's Department of Recreation, Adventure, and Wellness. "Some of them ride a snow-covered gravel pit at home, so the Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park is a major improvement."

That was the case for Team Northwest Territories snowboarders from Yellowknife, who not only did their training on a gravel pit, but even tricked out their slope with rails and jumps using items they salvaged from the nearby cemetery.

Team members also did most of the maintenance themselves, from grooming the pathways to building the jumps.

Missing in action from all of the snowboarding events was Team Alaska, who did not have any athletes participating this year.

Nonetheless, the international contingency was appreciated by race organizers.

"Arctic Winter Games at Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park is a perfect complement to UAF's international atmosphere," said Erik Ofelt, AWG snowboarding sport chair and director of the terrain park.

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# BLAST FROM THE PAST: Aelin Allegood Winter Games competition launched athlete into Olympics

## ATHLETE NAME

» Aelin Peterson (Now Aelin Allegood, but competed as Aelin Peterson.)

## YEARS WITH AWG

» Spectator in 1982 and athlete in 1988

## EVENT

» Nordic skiing

## PLACEMENT

» Gold medal relay, bronze medal individual

### Favorite memory of this time?

Walking into the Opening Ceremonies was quite spectacular. It was a time during the Games when all the contingents were in one place. I was so proud and excited to wear Team Alaska gear and represent Alaska. The Opening Ceremonies was a time to celebrate the hard work of getting to



**Aelin Allegood**

TROY BOUFFARD/ULU NEWS

the Games. It was an incredible feeling. The cultural celebration made it all the more special. It's about the gratitude that pours over all of us when we come together to celebrate culture, hard work and achievement.

Throughout the Games, our focus was drawn to the uniqueness of where we live and on the rich histories of places across the North. This heightened our awareness and our gratitude for the vast, beautiful outdoor playground that we are fortunate to call home. This is very powerful.

### Anything you would have done differently?

I might have tried to get more sleep! I was often too excited, and nervous about my races, to get much sleep that week.

### What are you doing now?

**Job:** Six months ago, I started as the Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing with UAF's Athletic Department.

**Family:** husband Luke and kids Brecken (boy, age 7) and Daya (girl, age 5)

**Hobbies:** skiing with my kids, playing with my kids, photographing my kids

### Did your AWG experience have any influence in later years — decisions about your future, college, jobs, etc?

Absolutely! The Arctic Winter Games was my first multinational competition, and I knew I wanted more. Skiing in Arctic Winter Games provided experience and inspiration for training hard and

racing hard. It was a launch pad to later making the U.S. Ski Team and skiing in the 2002 Winter Olympics which, of course, was a life-changing event.

It also showed me the power of being part of a team. Amazing things can happen when a team pulls together. I'm seeing this now with how tirelessly the host society, staff and all the amazing volunteers are working to prepare for the Games. It's an incredible team effort.

### Are you involved with AWG now? Doing what?

I've been very fortunate to be invited to speak about my Arctic Winter Games experience with multiple groups, such as the Luncheon of Champions here in Fairbanks. It was fun to be part of the video made to promote the Arctic Winter Games. I'm extremely excited for my role as Athlete Ambassador during the games!

### Looking back on your experience, what advice would you give someone looking to become an AWG competitor? Would you recommend the experience?

Without question, I would absolutely recommend the experience! I've not experienced anything like it since because of the strong cultural component and feeling of gratitude, of cultural celebration, felt by participants and spectators throughout the Games.

For advice, I would encourage an athlete to set the big goal of being named to the Arctic Winter Games team, yet celebrate smaller steps of success along the way. It's important to recognize the smaller accomplishments along the way. Take time to notice the things that are going well along the way and to notice the people around you that are investing in your athletic goals. Take time to enjoy the journey.

**Any final thoughts?**  
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# GREAT SPIRITS: 2014 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Susan Kramer runs races and her event business

By Allen Shaw  
ULU NEWS

Some people really like to run, but Susan Kramer, chairwoman of the Medals and Ceremonies committee for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, takes it to another level.

She's not only running around town gathering volunteers to cover all of the award ceremonies during the Games in Fairbanks, she also is running her own event planning business and in her spare time, she runs for the fun of it.

"I train for marathons," she said. "Five years ago, I decided to become a destination marathoner and have run nine marathons since. Running is a great way to keep my mind off of the busyness of my life."

Kramer also finds the time to coach a running program at Weller Elementary School and in the summer spearheads a free running program called the Golden Heart Running Club.

Kramer grew up in Spokane, Wash., and moved to Fairbanks after marrying a "local" in 1995. Her and husband Mike have an 11-year-old daughter, Kendall. They enjoy being outdoors, fishing and traveling.

Before opening her business in 2004, Kramer worked as the manager of Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge, Aramark and the Westmark Hotel. She has been deeply involved with the community since she hit the ground and is no stranger to taking charge and making things happen.

Kramer has been the race director for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Midnight Sun Run that coincides with the summer solstice in June and co-producer of the Equinox Marathon in September.

"When Karen Lane (2014 AWG general manager) asked if I wanted to be the Medal and Ceremonies chair in January 2013, I just couldn't say no," she said. "She has

done so many favors for me over the years."

At this point, Kramer said her biggest challenge is making sure she has enough volunteers to cover all of the award ceremonies.

The experience of helping with AWG has been both enjoyable and stressful." She said, "The Host Society wants to put on the best Games ever and they have been working hard for two years to accomplish this goal."

Kramer is a ball of energy that doesn't shy away from hard work. She is eager to accept a challenge and embodies the spirit that is the Golden Heart City.

"I have met so many wonderful people volunteering or working for nonprofit organizations over the years," she said. "The Interior of Alaska is a fantastic place to live and give back. I hope everyone who comes to Fairbanks appreciates the effort and knows how much our community wants to succeed."



Susan Kramer ULU NEWS

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# ON THE SLOPES



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Above and below: Arctic Winter Games participants ski during competitions on Wednesday. SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN/ULU NEWS



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**Inuk elder Lukasi Nappaaluk, shown here in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik-Quebec, is having the time of his life traveling with the region's Arctic Winter Games team. KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PHOTO/MATHIEU COUTURE**

# Nunavik elder shares culture and wisdom at the Games

**By Brent Reaney**  
ULU NEWS

This week in Fairbanks, Inuk elder Lukasi Nappaaluk is happily working as an unofficial cultural ambassador for Team Nunavik-Quebec.

Sixty-four years old, Nappaaluk grew up in an igloo, remembers when parkas were made from seal and caribou hide and hunting every day was a matter of survival.

“That was our life, in the old

days,” he said. “Today, for young people, everything is already made, like houses, Ski-Doos and planes. All of these things we were never expecting, we’re now using.”

At the Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks, he’s talking with as many people as he can about Inuit traditional culture and encouraging others to share their stories with him. Occupying the top third of the Canadian province of Quebec, about 90 percent of Nunavik’s roughly

12,000 people are Inuit.

Though he’s passionate about the past, he doesn’t see a problem with technology and appreciates access to houses, doctors and other modern conveniences.

“Today, the young people have a much better future, I can feel that,” he said. “But I would like the young people to know what we did before.”

Sharing is one of the values he thinks was just as important in the past as it will be in the future.

He also believes in the power of sport.

“When the young people have something to do, it’s good for the mind, it’s good for the body and it’s good for the life,” he said, while wishing Nunavik’s athletes many gold ulus and for the team to enjoy the Games.

While at the Games, he’s taking photos with his digital camera paired with detailed notes and observations that will later be compiled into a presentation.

Reporting is nothing new

for Nappaaluk, who regularly reports on local events in his community of Kangiqsujaq for radio listeners around the region in his first language of Inuktitut.

Nappaaluk probably doesn’t know it, but he may have helped TNQ start a new tradition of bringing elders to the Games.

He’s the first to travel with the team, but with how the athletes and members from other delegations have responded to him, he probably won’t be the last.



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# Skaters enjoy 'once-in-a-lifetime experience'

By Angela Major

ULU NEWS

More than 400 figure skating enthusiasts and young hopefuls filled the stands of the Carlson Center on Wednesday for the Ladies Free Skate program.

Watching from the stands, family and friends of Team Alberta North were out in force cheering on their favorite skaters. For Terry Yanishewski, whose daughter Brooke skated in her third and final AWG, seeing her skate was watching the culmination of a lot of hard work.

"Brooke travels up to one hour to the rink. She's on the road up to three hours for practice," Terry said. "That is on top of school, other activities and work."

Valerie White and Frank Hennebury, whose daughter Chloe placed fourth in her first appearance at the Arctic Winter Games, considered making the trip to watch their daughter skate a "once-in-a-lifetime experience, something that money cannot buy."

Beyond the skating, White found tremendous value in the "great experience of skating against girls from other countries, the cultural experience gained from, their new found friendships, and meeting other kids whose whole lives are skating."

And new friends they definitely seemed to be making. The girls from Team Alberta North and Yukon were all smiles in their locker room after the Levels 1 and 2 finished skating.

Chloe listed meeting new people and trading pins as her favorite part of the Games. Her comments were echoed by Nicole Sharrott, Meghan Birmingham and Tessa Margaret Moore, who all excitedly talked about communicating with the skaters from Yamal using Google Translate.

Sarah Dyrkach was excited about "presenting" her skills to the audience and doing so on a much larger sheet of ice



©AWG 2014/Steve DuBois

A figure skater competes at the Tuesday Arctic Winter Games. STEVE DUBOIS/ULU NEWS

than they have to skate on at home.

They are all excited to visit North Pole before traveling home on Saturday.

Back at rink side, as the level 4 skaters were preparing to warm up, Bernadette Wilson, coach for Team Alaska took a few minutes to talk about her expectations for the girls coming into the Games.

"They are all incredible athletes. I (am expecting them) to skate clean, come out and do what they know how to do," Wilson said. "This is their territory, they have the home advantage. It's their rink, their crowd, their state."

"Sarah did an incredible job and skated amazing for her bronze."

With Grace Lee sitting

in first place after the short program, Wilson was really looking forward to watching her skate in the Level 4 competition.

When asked if Grace felt the pressure of being in first place, Wilson responded, "The free skate is their opportunity to showcase what they enjoy, what makes their skating unique."

And for Team Alaska that is exactly what they did. All three Team Alaska skaters placed within the top four.

If she felt any pressure, it wasn't noticeable on the ice as Lee kept her top spot to take home the gold ulu. Team Yamal was the only team to break through the strength of Team Alaska's level 4 with Alena Dernovich earning a spot on the podium in second place.

The free skate competition followed Tuesday's short program, and the results of each event combined determine the overall standings.

Team Yamal, in a show of power, speed and grace dominated the competition to earn the gold and silver in competition levels 1, 2 and 3. Team Alberta followed suit earning the bronze and taking fourth place in levels 1 and 2. Team Alaska earned the bronze in the level 3 competition with Team Northwest Territories taking fourth.

The figure skating competition continuing today is the Team Competition beginning at 3 p.m. The Team and Overall Medal Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. following the figure skating exhibition.



A figure skater competes at the Tuesday Arctic Winter Games. GREG MARTIN/ULU NEWS

TODAY'S PINS

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ULU NEWS

## Visual art show displays changing arctic landscapes

By Jonni Roos

ULU NEWS

A changing arctic landscape and preservation of heritage are the central themes of the artwork displayed for the Arctic Winter Games cultural art show at the North Pole Grange Hall.

Artwork brought by contingents from Yamal and Nunavik depict centuries old traditions adapting to survive in a time of progress.

"Yamal in the Children's Eyes" is the focal piece of the art show. The exhibit brought from Yamal is a series of children's drawings collected between 1987 and 2002 during contests held to depict and promote Aboriginal

sports in the Yamal region. A total of 3,500 works devoted to 60 themes, all created by children from the aboriginal communities of the Yamal-Nenets.

The Yamalo — Nenets are an indigenous tribe in the northern central area of Russia that still adhere to many of the old traditions and customs of their ancestors.

Migrant reindeer herders, they roam seasonally with the herds along ancient migration routes, continuing their centuries old customs as nomadic hunter-gatherers.

The 35 representative prints that making up the exhibit depict the traditional lifestyle of the Nenets.

Drawings of teams of caribou pulling wooden sleds across Ural mountain foothills are a repeated theme, emphasizing the continued reliance on this traditional way of life. Arctic Sports are also depicted in several of the pictures, underscoring the cultural significance of hunting games that are less games and more a means of passing along ancient skills needed to survive.

Most of the drawings are surprisingly skilled, above the level of most children of the same age. They depict vast landscapes, animals and remoteness that defines Yamal, which literally translated means "End of the World."

One of the most poignant

drawings in the exhibit was by an 11-year-old from Ovgort from 1993 titled "Summer in the Mountains." A simple colored pencil child's drawing that shows many of the same repeated scenes of the others — the cone huts made of reindeer hide, high mountains and wide streams, but made exceptional by one subtle detail: a helicopter traverses the sky, overlooking a small primitive encampment.

That innocuous detail underscores the curious anachronistic dance of the Nenet people — as progress continues to encroach on them and potentially threaten their way of life, rather than capitulate to extinction, the Nenet people continue with

their traditions of their forbearers while attempting to adapt to progress so their aboriginal culture can co-exist with the modern world.

Other pieces in the Yamal exhibit include samples of handcraft art from their region: carved wooden festival masks, woven grass bowls, beadwork trim and pouches and detailed carvings of animals.

The art provided by the contingents of Nunavik, Quebec, tell the story in photographs of the changing landscape of Kuujjuaq, also known as Fort Chimo. Kuujjuaq is Nunavik's largest community, inhabited



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## GAMES

Continued from U3

Performers from Yamal will do song and dances of the Nenets culture and Nunavik artists will perform a Brazilian drumming incorporating their traditional stories.

On the sports side of the Games, Team Alaska has garnered 16 more medals than Yamal during the first three days of the competition. Both contingents have garnered 26

gold ulus.

Yamal has more silver than Alaska, 38-27, but Alaska has a large advantage in bronze 36-9.

Alberta North is in third place with 50 medals, including 23 gold, followed by Yukon with 48 (14 gold), Northwest Territories with 38 (10), Nunavik-Quebec with 16 (3), Sapmi with 15 (7), Greenland with 13 (5) and Nunavut with 10 (3).

Today is the busiest day of the Games, with 19 of the 20 sports being contested.

Snowshoeing is the only sport

not on the schedule.

Alpine skiing, dog mushing, figure skating and snowboarding all have their final events today.

The combined event will take place today in alpine skiing at Mt. Aurora Skiland north of town. The dog mushing team event will take place at Jeff Studdert Racegrounds. Figure Skating has its team event today at the Carlson Center, while gymnastics will feature the individual events at Gymnastics Inc. on Airport Way. Snowboarding

wraps up at the Hulbert Nanook Terrain Park on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus with the Arctic Air event.

Curling will crown its boys and girls champions at 2:30 p.m. today at the Fairbanks Curling Club. Once that happens, the mixed event will take place on Friday and Saturday.

Cross-Country skiing, Biathlon Ski and Biathlon Snowshoe will hold their final day of individual competition today at Birch Hill Recreation Area.

Arctic Sports and Dene

Games continue at Lathrop High School and Ryan Middle School, respectively.

Wrestling begins to crown its individual champions today at North Pole Middle School and short track speed skating resumes at the Carlson Center after the skaters took Wednesday off.

Most of the other sports are in the process of playoffs to determine who will be in the gold ulu and bronze ulu competitions.

For a complete schedule of events go to [www.awg2014.org](http://www.awg2014.org).

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ULU NEWS

## YAMAL

Continued from U16

by 2,132 residents. Photographs provided by Avataq Cultural Institute are part of an ongoing

historic preservation project to preserve the cultural heritage of Nunavik.

The exhibit is comprised of a pictorial series showing the inhabitants of Kuujjuaq from 1897 through 1957.

The photo progression shows the progress from a far north rural village to a more modern city: an Inuk family stands outside their skin tent of a photo dated 1897, an overhead view of Fort Chimo from 1897 shows a

few houses scattered across the shore of the Koksoak River.

Later photos from 1947 to 1955 depicts a relatively modern group of inhabitants, a storefront shot of the Hudson Bay Company, and modern boats

sailing off the beach.

The Arctic Winter Games Cultural Art exhibit will be on display at the North Pole Grange Hall through Saturday, Grange Hall hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission to the exhibit is free.




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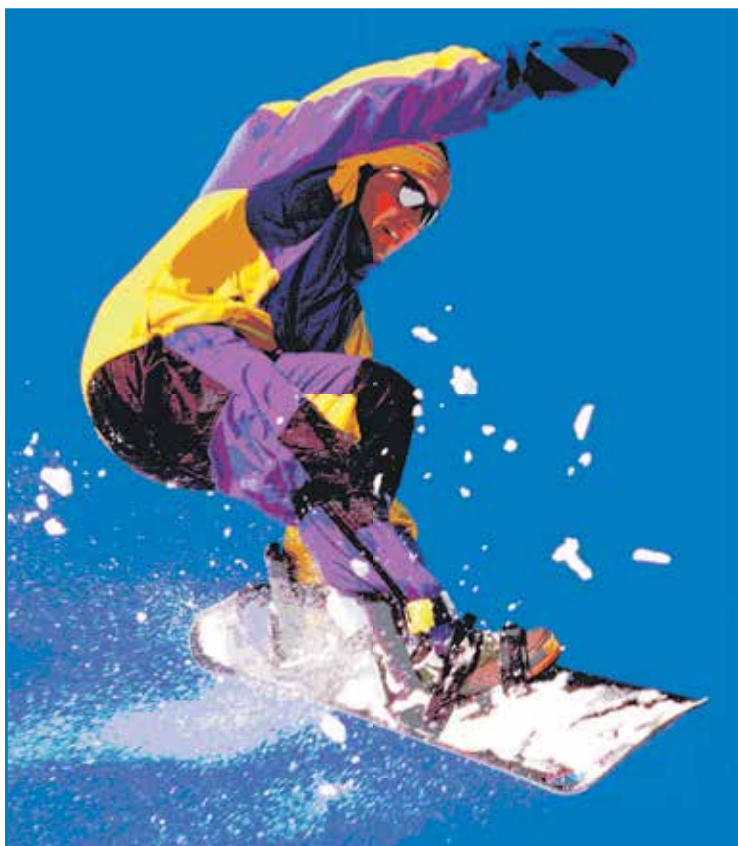
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