'Alaska Native Studies Program' goal realized

By ROSE FOSDICK

After seven years of perseverance on the part of Dennis Demmert the goal of establishing an Alaska Native Studies Program has been realized. Students at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks) can now receive a B.A. degree in Alaska Native Studies. Dennis Demmert, now Assistant to the President (Jay Barton) is teaching ANS 425 Native American Legal Rights and Legal Relationships.

The ANS program under the direction of Mike Gaffney introduced the ANS luncheon seminars last year to bring Alaskan leaders to the students. The seminars which are rather informal have already attracted some interesting speakers. So far this semester, Robert Arnold, the Assistant Director of Bureau of Land Management for Alaska and Dennis Tiepelman, President of Mauneluk Corporation, have spoken to UAF students. Mr. Arnold spoke on land conveyances to native corporations under the 1971 ANCSA. Mr. Tiepelman spoke on the non-profit corporations and also encouraged students to continue to work toward a degree and "to remember where you're from."

Possible future luncheon guests include Nels Anderson, Oscar Kawagley, Willie Hensley, Byron Mallot, Tim Wallis, Jacob Adams and Georgianna Lincoln. Previous speakers came to Fairbanks on other business but took the time to be at the luncheons. For further information on this seminar contact the Alaska Native Studies Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

CONVEYANCES THE TOPIC. Mr. Robert Arnold of BLM speaks to UAF students at a recent luncheon seminar. Seated from left are Mike Gaffney, Alaska Native Studies Program Director and Dennis Demmert, Assistant to the President of the University of Alaska.
(Photo By ROSE FOSDICK)

GUEST SPEAKER. Robert Arnold of BLM speaks at a UAF class and explains the process of conveying land to native corporations.
(Photo By ROSE FOSDICK)

LUNCHEON SPEAKER. Dennis Tiepelman of Mauneluk Corporation speaks to UAF students. Dennis is from Deering, Alaska. (Photo by Rose Fosdick)