

Johnson to Teach Tlingit Culture



MR. A.P. JOHNSON, distinguished authority on Tlingit culture, prepares Tlingit culture course to be taught during the spring semester at Sheldon Jackson College.

The Valedictorian of the first Sheldon Jackson High School graduating class will be instructor for the first Tlingit Culture college course, to be offered at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka.

The instructor is Andrew P. Johnson, distinguished authority on Tlingit customs and life styles. Johnson established the first college course in the Tlingit language at the college in 1968. He will be teaching both courses during the Spring Semester.

Johnson's teaching career has spanned more than thirty years, most of it with the Bureau of Indian Affairs school at Mt. Edgecumbe, which he helped establish. He has also served as an ordained field evangelist with the Presbyterian Church.

According to Johnson, the Tlingit Culture course will include, "how we live, when and how we teach, who teaches, arts and crafts, what constitutes design, where designs come from and the religion of the people."

The Academic Dean of Sheldon Jackson College, Dr. Charles C. Bovee, in making announcement of the course, said, "The

main purpose of the course will be to describe, study and share the rich cultural heritage of the Tlingit society. Mr. Johnson will discuss Tlingit culture as compared with other American Indian cultures, noting significant differences."

Bovee said students would weigh information from regular library sources against oral tradition handed down from generation to generation through

primary sources.

The Dean recommended the course especially for elementary and secondary teachers who may have Native students but noted that everyone was welcome.

The three-credit Tlingit Culture course will be offered by Sheldon Jackson's Department of Social Sciences Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Room 3 of Yaw Building, beginning February 4.