

# Anthropologists to gather at UAF May 27-June 1

**FAIRBANKS** — Throughout 99 percent of human history, people lived as hunters and gatherers, a notion often forgotten in a society dependent for nourishment on supermarkets and microwave ovens.

The lives of early and contemporary hunters and gatherers and will be the focus of the Sixth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies, according to the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Officials said they expect 400 anthropologists from 30 nations at UAF for the conference from May 27 to June 1.

"Alaska research on hunting and gathering societies is a long way ahead of research in many other parts of the world," said Dr. Linda Ellanna, the conference chair and an associate professor of anthropology at UAF.

"Because we're somewhat isolated, though, we sometimes aren't included in the international network of information. An important aspect of this conference is that all the top researchers in the world will be coming here, and we'll be making connections that we would have never otherwise had the chance to establish."

CHAGS 6 is sponsored by the UAF College of Liberal Arts and Department of Anthropology and will be convened by the college's dean, Dr. Anne Shinkwin.

One reason the conference is coming to UAF is the major role hunting and gathering plays in the lives of many Alaska Natives.

"Alaska is a critical example. The economics in rural Alaska are similar worldwide. While there is a market influence, hunting and gathering is the principal factor in determining the community's social life and cultural traditions," Ellanna said.