

NOTED PROFESSOR DESCRIBED AS ANTHROPOLOGIST, PLUS!

By DR. CHARLES R Dean, College of Behavioral Sciences and Education

To give a mighty quotation from Shakespeare in his time plays many facets as an individual. Shakespeare might have said: But I shall only consider professional contributions that as anthropologist to the state, and the world.

An anthropologist, by definition, deals with the study of man in the present. And the study of man — his beliefs, values, interpersonal relationships — draw forth information negatively conceived, conservation and prevention from being obtained, without peer when it can personal dealings with of complete absence of pomp and his ability to listen contributed to his as a scientist as well as to his as a human being.

One only need travel out the State to appreciate and affection with Dr. Skarland was held, less of the size of the one might visit, identify a staff member at the University of Alaska inevitably call requests for passing along to Ivar. While it is to obtain prestige by being associated with an institution of higher learning by virtue of the University of Alaska, the University of Alaska gained additional prestige with Dr. Skarland identified. And, of course, his close identification with the University (indeed, to some he WAS the University) was of long standing.

Professional contributions many forms, and it is virtually impossible to attempt to determine where Ivar's greatest strength might have lain. But risk type of evaluation is, I suggest that first and foremost Dr. Skarland was a teacher, and if my judgment is possibly I can be excused for in reflecting my own

bias, no higher tribute can be paid anyone than to say, "He was a great teacher."

To begin with, I have received no quarrel in suggesting that Dr. Skarland taught more students during his tenure at the University than any other staff member past or present. He enjoyed teaching the introductory courses as much as the advanced offerings. And it was a standing rule of thumb that anytime Dr. Skarland would be available to teach workshops or courses in other communities throughout Alaska, he was wanted. The course in Alaska natives (which by common knowledge and consent should have been called "Ivar Skarland 342" rather than Anthropology 342) was the most popular as well as the most enduring of all summer sessions-offerings.

Any faculty member who advised students must have been confronted with students who refused to run their forefingers down the left hand side of the course schedule list which stated that the course name and number but rather scanned the right hand column which listed the instructor's name, explaining that they must have a course by Dr. Skarland. And I'm certain other advisors might have employed my automatic response to this statement which was, "Well, of course you must." And Ivar taught more than anthropology. As an English major who graduated from the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines with a B.A. in 1935, he never let a paper by without noting grammatical mistakes and errors in punctuation, which led to an incident which was one of his favorite stories.

During the summer session of 1958, two sisters from Kansas (both of whom were in their sixties) enrolled in the Alaska Natives course. These were sweet little gray-haired ladies both of whom taught the first grade and spoke in kindly and precise sentences born from long years of instructing very young children. Following the return of the first quiz in which Dr. Skarland had made notations about syntax as well as statements of anthropological accuracy on the papers, the two little ladies were leaving

the room not knowing that Ivar was behind them. One sister turned to the other and stated clearly and precisely, "I don't mind his grading me on anthropology but when that damn Swede corrects my English that's too much!" And of course as a Norwegian, Ivar thought being referred to as a Swede was doubly hilarious.

While Dr. Skarland never missed an appointment nor a deadline, he was by his own account less than intrigued by committee meetings. In fact, he deplored them. A graduate student working with Ivar stopped in his office one day to make an appointment. He carefully skimmed the pages of his appointment calendar which contained many blank spaces until he discovered a scheduled committee meeting for two o'clock on a given day and suggested to the student that this would be a convenient time for an appointment. The student, thinking Dr. Skarland was confused, said, "But you have a meeting at that time." To which Ivar responded, "Yes, Yes, I know. Which is why this is just the perfect time for us to get together so that I will have another appointment."

Last summer Dr. Skarland presented a paper dealing with climate and culture change at the Seventh International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Moscow held August 3 through the 10th. Fortunately, in addition to his paper he wrote a delightful account of his trip and in his report of professional observations, he included such "Ivarisms" as when describing Helsinki he stated, "Sometimes one has the feeling that a statue has been put in a place because it is more lasting than a tree." And in one postcard which he wrote to me from Finland, he said, "Mosquitoes here are lively but slow. One Alaskan mosquito would run them out of the Country."

No account, however lengthy or brief, will do justice to the professional contributions made by Dr. Skarland, but suffice it to say his reputation locally, nationally, and internationally is indelible. And in reflecting on our own lives, I suggest this is probably more than any of us can hope for.

JANET PI

IVAR SKA

By JA

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JANET PETRI, senior, speaks from the students point of view at Ivar Skarland's Memorial Service.

IVAR SKARLAND—

The Students' Friend

By JANET PETRI

Dr. Skarland was part of the stability factor on this campus. We would see him coming down the halls of Eielson, in the cafeteria, in the coffee shop and we could depend on his not to swell self saying "Hello, how are you." We could depend on his mood, it would be cheerful (he didn't tolerate excessive unhappiness in students) and he was always interested in you, your family, and where you had gone for the holidays. He was consistent and his feelings were consistent. He liked us.

One girl told me in a slightly surprised voice that although she had never had a class from him, he always said hello, and some of her own teachers wouldn't even talk outside of class. Dr. Skarland was a lesson in humanity, but he literally loved young people. He has been known to give not only moral but financial support to students. We were his and if any student had a relative who had previously attended the U of A, Dr. Skarland knew about it. If that relative had been a classmate of his, the student was as good as related to Skarland himself.

He had a very long memory. He could remember things your parents did and parts of your own childhood if he had even so much as a glimpse of you then.

Dr. Skarland had a sense of humor and the sharpness of it completely counteracted his hearing difficulties. I remember seeing him with different students laughing uproariously over some private joke, but when you came up to see what was going on you seldom found out because he would promptly bring out your personality. This wasn't hypocritical. He cared about you, but he also kept quiet about what he shared with other students. And the deeper the relationship a student had with him, the more humorous life seemed to be. He could lead you to laugh over situations which had hurried you before. And this in turn kept you a little more stable.

Good Reason

Jones—"The Chinese make it an invariable rule to settle all their debts on New Year's Day."

Smith—"So I understand, but then, the Chinese don't have a Christmas the week before."

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One only need travel throughout the State to appreciate the regard and affection with which Dr. Skarland was held. Regardless of the size of the community one might visit, identification as a staff member at the University of Alaska inevitably called forth requests for passing along greetings to Ivar. While it is common to obtain prestige by being associated with an institution of higher learning by virtue of the institution's reputation for excellence, the University of Alaska gained additional prestige by having Dr. Skarland identified with it. And, of course, his close identification with the University (indeed, to some he WAS the University) was of long standing.

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DR. IVAR SKARLAND

ODE TO IVAR

High along the crest of Rainey Ridge,
His woodman's lodge just there ahead,
He fell alone.
A great North Spruce frost-laden
Topped quietly
Here an empty, aching void against the ice-blue sky
There, surely the Hall of Herces,
The hands of Ben and Otto reach out in happy greeting.
He taught us all the simple, honest truths.
We loved and honored him as he did us.

(—William R. Wood)

STUDENTS ASK FOR VOICE IN NAMING NEW WOMEN'S HALL

How much does a name of a building mean to the people who live in that building. It means quite a bit, as the women of the new hall will tell you. It becomes a little awkward to answer the phone, "New Women's Hall, may I help you?" It also becomes embarrassing when someone's parents or friends write and ask for the correct address of our hall.

Seven girls have become quite interested in the naming of the new hall and have begun work on a suggestion. The suggested name is Skarland Hall. The students feel that there should be a lasting memorial to Ivar Skarland, anthropologist. One girl said, "I would like to live in Skarland Hall; I'd feel good every time someone asked where Hall I lived in."

In the past years when the name of a dormitory was needed the names have been chosen from one main source, those on the Board of Regents. This is perhaps the thing to do, but couldn't an exception be made this time? Ivar Skarland was and always will be the pride of Alaska—wouldn't it be nice to have a student building named after such a man?

The students who are now present at the University are not the only ones who remember Skarland. Some of the students Skarland has taught in the past have been the parents of those students now attending the University. Skarland enjoyed his job as much as he enjoyed his students; should such a man be forgotten? The answer is no! For the first time in a long while some students have shown an interest in what is going to happen to the University, even if it is only the naming of a building. Shall this interest go unattended? The answer to this question is also no.

There is a chance that the New Hall already has a name waiting for it or that the Board of Regents is saving Skarland's name for a new administrative building. In either of these cases, the students will understand, however, the name Skarland Hall should be seriously considered. Would it be so hard to let the students know what is going on? (Sue Owen)

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Semester

Ohhhh, end of the semester finals. Chances are in biological categories. There are studios also, and there are habits usually come to class wear past six weeks.

Of course professors not groomed student who chance about his class work. The noticeably more successful is as in most other fields of interest.

But of course we can't go to class with the same dirt. What Sach's couldn't do for

Socially and scholastic what Sach's Mens Store can