Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET)

Stewardship Report 2013-2014

A forum for students, staff, faculty, and community members to share their passion for economics, SWEET encompasses a discussion group, a lecture series, and SWEET Scholars, a scholarship program. Sherri Wall has been the faculty advisor since SWEET’s beginning in 2006.

“I have enjoyed being a member of SWEET Scholars. When I originally started, I didn’t know a lot about economics – I’m now an economics major. SWEET has been a great way for me to explore and discuss economic theory while meeting new friends.”

–Caleb Holloway

“In SWEET we explore diverse topics. I now understand that economics is an all-encompassing topic and fundamental to society. Each week fruitful discussion leaves me brimming with energy and eager to thrive in a really free market.”

–Eric Williams

UAF photos by JR Ancheta. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.
Guest Speaker Series

For the last seven years, SWEET has hosted 37 speakers who have addressed economic issues facing Alaska and the nation.

In the fall, SWEET hosted Governor Sean Parnell, “Alaska: How sweet it is!”, Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, “Sustaining Alaska’s Economy: Opportunities and Challenges in the Arctic”; and Dr. Bradley Hobbs, “Environmentalism Through the Economic Lens.”

This spring featured Dr. Larry Persily, “The Economics and Policies of State Investment in an Alaska North Slope Natural Gas Pipeline Project.” SWEET also organized an “Economic Freedom in Action” watch party with students and the public.

Testimonials from guest speakers:

“I presented my work on economic history, data and materials painting a broad picture of extraordinary progress which counters the “pessimistic bias” many students and professors have about human flourishing. The students enjoyed the real-life stories of economic history. Spending time with UAF students was a joy. They are engaged, energetic, and asked excellent questions! Kudos to Sherri Wall and her colleagues for making economics as it ought to be – engaging and exciting!”

Dr. Bradley Hobbs
Professor of Economics and Professor of Free Enterprise
Florida Gulf Coast University

SWEET Guest Speaker, Fall 2013

“My time with Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking has been among the best speaking events I’ve participated in— and that includes panels and speeches in London, Seattle, Canada and across Alaska. The students are engaged, inquisitive, animated, educated and direct. They are the perfect audience. The events are a great forum for UAF students to learn and ask questions to further their learning. That seems to me to be the real purpose of college: insightful students asking questions, and forming their own opinions.”

Larry Persily
Federal Coordinator
Alaska North Slope natural gas pipeline

SWEET Guest Speaker, Spring 2014

SWEET Scholars

SWEET Scholars is an academic scholarship program that provides students with a forum to investigate economic theories and concepts. SWEET Scholars maintain a blog and meet weekly to discuss and explore economic literature. This past year, SWEET scholars have written over 25,000 words discussing their readings.

See the SWEET Scholars in action, read their blog at uafsweet.blogspot.com. Over 270,000 words and counting!