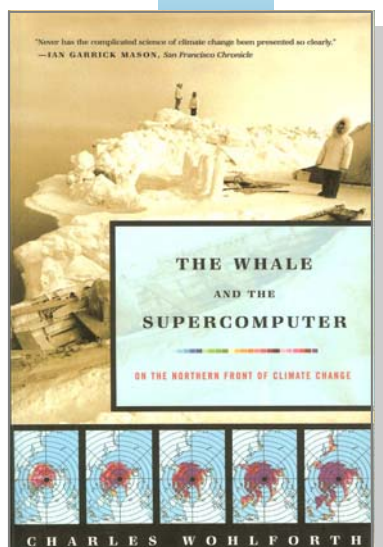


## 2009-10 UAA/APU Books of the Year

### Responding to Climate Change in Alaska



UAA and APU are pleased to announce our Books of the Year for 2009-10.

***The Whale and the Supercomputer*** by Charles Wohlforth is a non-fiction account of how climate change is affecting life on Alaska's North Slope. The book describes the philosophies, methods, and reactions of the local Inupiaq whaling culture and the Western scientific community and demonstrates the valuable insights each provides into what is happening in the Far North.

***Shopping for Porcupine*** by Seth Kantner is a series of essays about growing up in the wilderness north of Kotzebue. These essays describe a way of life without Western technology, show how people can live with a small carbon footprint, and provoke questions about how much of our own ways of life we might be willing to forgo in the face of climate change.

Based in Alaska, written by Alaskans, these two books provide a good introduction to rural Alaskan ways of life. Together they reveal many of the changes that have occurred there over the past half century and demonstrate what's at stake for rural communities facing the effects of climate change.

The books also contrast the ways Alaska Native people and scientists acquire and use knowledge. They call upon both Native wisdom and Western science to address the problems associated with climate change, and they illustrate how profoundly climate and cultural change can affect both people and entire ecosystems.

Both books are very readable, with chapters and essays that can also stand alone as individual assignments. They are applicable to the physical sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities.

Please visit our website at

**[www.uaa.alaska.edu/books-of-the-year](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/books-of-the-year)**

for



Activities throughout the year



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*The UAA/APU Books of the Year program is a direct result of both universities' involvement with the Ford Foundation's Difficult Dialogues initiative.*