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INSTITUTE OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE ■

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

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**ENVIRONMENT AND BEHAVIOR RESEARCH PROGRAM**

# **James R. McGoodwin**

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder

## **“Climatic Variability and Yup'ik Eskimo Subsistence-Fishing Strategies”**

**April 11, 2005  
12:30-1:30**

**IBS 3 Conference Room**

Professor McGoodwin will discuss his research exploring how climatic variability influences the subsistence-fishing strategies of Yup'ik Eskimo in Southwest Alaska. While most ethnographies describe Yup'ik subsistence economies as a virtually immutable round of certain activities during certain seasons, in fact climatic variability prompts considerable variability in subsistence-activity strategizing from one season to the next. Complicating the research is the fact that climatic variation is not the only factor influencing Yup'ik subsistence strategies, as other factors also play important roles, for example: changing relationships among various Yup'ik communities; changing relationships with various governing bodies; wage-labor opportunities in the region and beyond; desires to develop "eco-tourism" that capitalize on traditional subsistence activities; and local-level consequences of global cultural and economic phenomena. A better understanding of how the Yup'ik adapt their subsistence strategies to contemporary climatic variation may help with forecasting of how they may (or may not) be able to adapt to longer-term and more extreme climatic and global change in the future.

**IBS 3 is the second building north of Starbucks Coffee on Broadway.**  
Feel free to bring a brownbag lunch.