

# Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter



**Volume 32, Number 2**

**September 2006**

## **President's Message**

*Polly Wheeler*

Given the amount of rain that has fallen in the past few weeks, and the steady loss of daylight, it is apparent that once again summer is about over, and another field season is almost behind many of us. Rather than bemoan the loss of daylight, warmth (?) and field-work, however, I think fall is a time of renewal. Perhaps it is a function of having gone to school for so long, but I always look forward to fall as a time to settle in, to get back to routine, and to look ahead. I also look forward to hearing about summer field seasons, new discoveries, and new ideas emerging. I hope that in the next newsletter, those of you who have something to report will do so, as a way of keeping us all informed as to our colleagues' work.

While my job these days consists mostly of sitting at a desk overseeing and administering others' projects, I did have the opportunity to spend a week at a TEK/science camp located at a camp about 6 miles below Ft. Yukon. A cooperative effort by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, and Tanana Chiefs Conference, the camp involved a mix of scientists, youth, elders, and locals from the Yukon Flats area learning about all aspects of fish. Lessons incorporated both western and Native science; for example, a lesson on how to build and place a traditional fish trap was mixed with a walk to learn about stream ecology. Another lesson involved learning the western and Gwich'in names of fish species common

to the Yukon Flats, and learning characteristics (both scientific and local) about these fish. Another day, a lesson involved learning traditional fish cutting techniques along with fish anatomy, which segued into a lesson on fish pathology.

Camps of this type, focused on incorporating both western and local science, have flourished in recent years, and I suspect and hope that this will continue to be the case for all kinds of reasons. I think that we, as anthropologists, have a lot to offer, and a lot to learn, from such efforts. While I know that I don't need to elaborate on that point, one idea worth mentioning is that efforts like this help to keep our discipline relevant in the broader public sense, and I'm not sure we can ever do enough towards that end.

*Continued on next page*

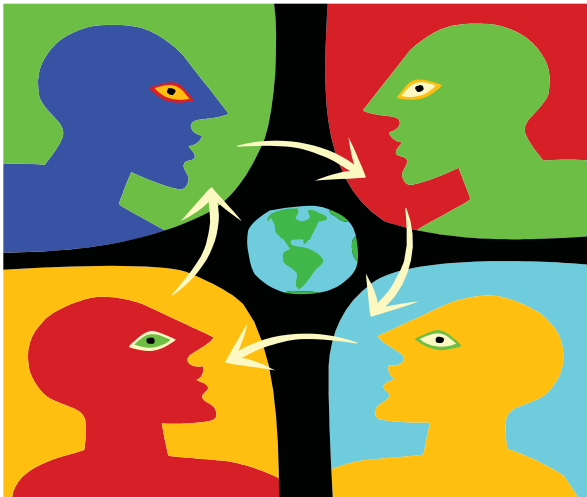
**The 2007 aaa meetings  
will be held March 14-17  
Westmark Hotel  
Fairbanks.**

**Interested in organizing a session ?  
Contact Daniel Odess at  
ffdpo@uaf.edu by January 20th.**

**Abstracts for individual papers are due  
January 30th.**

On that note I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Association's Public Education Group, which works in myriad ways to foster anthropological and archeological educational efforts throughout Alaska. I thank the people who are active with this group, and everyone else working in the public education arena. I also encourage any of you that have an opportunity to be part of efforts such as the Ft. Yukon Science Camp to take advantage of it. It's not only fun and rewarding, but it makes a difference in, and for, our discipline.

On that note, I hope you are able to wrap up your summer efforts before the snow flies for real (though I would note that there is a dusting in the hills in Anchorage just today!). Have fun getting back into the classroom, and back into the routine that fall time almost always offers. Take care.



## Meeting Update

*Daniel Odess*

The 2007 annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association will be held March 14-17 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. Plans include a reception at the newly expanded University of Alaska Museum and a keynote address by Dennis Stanford.

Those interested in organizing a session should contact this year's conference organizer, Daniel Odess, at [ffdpo@uaf.edu](mailto:ffdpo@uaf.edu) by January 20th. Abstracts for individual papers are due to the organizer by January 30th.

## ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President

Polly Wheeler

Board Members

Alan Boraas

Lisa Frink

Owen Mason

Rachel Mason

Dan Odess

Secretary - Treasurer

Vacant

*The purpose of the Alaska Anthropological Association is to serve as a vehicle for maintaining communication among people interested in all branches of anthropology; to promote public awareness and education of anthropological activities and goals; to foster sympathetic appreciation of the past and present cultures of Alaskan peoples; to encourage Alaskan Natives to participate in the elucidation of their respective cultures; and to facilitate the dissemination of anthropological works in both technical and non-technical formats. Membership is open to any individual or organization indicating interest and concern for the discipline of anthropology. The Association holds its annual meeting during March or April of each year and generally publishes four newsletters each year.*

*The membership cycle runs from the date of payment for one year; dues may be prepaid for more than one year at a time. Dues are \$20.00 for student members and \$40.00 for regular or institutional members. Checks or money orders, in US dollars, should be made out to the Alaska Anthropological Association. To become a member, send your name, affiliation, mailing address, city, state/province, postal code and payment to the Association at P.O. Box 241686, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1686, USA. Items for the newsletter may be sent to the editor, Becky Saleeby, at the above address, attention "Newsletter Editor," or to [becky\\_saleeby@nps.gov](mailto:becky_saleeby@nps.gov).*

## Obituary

### William L. Sheppard, 1955-2006

*Submitted by Kenneth Pratt*

William L. (“Bill”) Sheppard died of cancer in Portland, Oregon on July 19, 2006 at the age of 50. He had fought an aggressive and courageous battle against the disease for over two years, throughout the course of which he maintained the characteristically sharp wit, zany sense of humor and keen intellectual curiosity that defined and endeared him to friends. Just a few weeks into his chemotherapy treatments, in fact, I answered a phone call one evening and was greeted by Bill’s tired voice saying, “I’ve been vomiting non-stop since I woke up this morning, so I’ve been thinking of you all day.” Whereas some people might take offense to being so blatantly compared to vomit the intended insult actually made me happy, as it served notice that Bill’s humor was undamaged. Besides, Bill had compared me with countless other disgusting things and substances over the many years of our friendship.

Born August 14, 1955, in Richland, Washington, Bill came to Alaska in 1976 to assist on an archaeological excavation in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of Southwest Alaska. He later conducted ethnographic and archaeological fieldwork in remote locations across the state, developing particular expertise in the Seward Peninsula, Norton Sound and Upper Tanana River regions. With the late James W. VanStone as his primary mentor, Bill earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1986. His professional work experience in Alaska included employment with all of the following: the Anthropology and Historic Preservation—Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Alaska Fairbanks; the Bureau of Indian Affairs, ANCSA Office; the Environment and Natural Resources Institute/Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska Anchorage; Hart-Crowser, Inc.; and Northern Land Use Research, Inc.

After leaving the state in 1992, he taught anthropology courses at colleges in Maryland and Virginia, and launched a consulting business specializing in



archaeological, ethnographic and archival research... bemusedly lamenting that only friends would hire him. A passionate commitment to his professional work induced Bill to return to Alaska whenever possible, often on shoe-string budgets to pursue personal research interests—which were numerous, varied in nature and frequently based on novel ideas. This commitment is exemplified by the fact that, despite significant physical challenges, in 2005 he organized and directed a self-financed project in the Upper Tanana region of eastern Alaska. It was destined to be the last of a series of projects he conducted there over the years, all of which were undertaken with the knowledge and support of local Native communities. Staffed by a volunteer crew of friends and colleagues (and receiving logistical support from others unable to participate directly), the 2005 project was a testament to the high respect accorded Bill by those who knew him well. Cancer also did not prevent Bill from continuing to work on professional writing projects: thus, over the past two years he published one article, got a second to the “in press” stage, and virtually completed two others. He once told me that only when engaged in his professional work was he somewhat immune to cancer’s distractions.

As the preceding remarks suggest, Bill took his work very seriously; but, as in other aspects of life, he also made a concerted effort to have fun...and often at others’ expense. I’m sure all of his friends and many of his co-workers can recall pranks, ungracious nicknames  
*Continued on next page*

(e.g., Smegma, Sputum), outlandish comments or bizarre actions attributable to Bill. Examples are abundant and I am compelled to mention a few here, just to impart a glimpse of his one-of-a-kind and unconventional personality.

While living in Fairbanks in the early 1980s Bill had a mummified vole (picked up on the Seward Peninsula and affectionately named “Snaa”) that gave him endless delight. For instance, he used to entwine the creature in his unkempt, scraggly beard then casually walk up to an unsuspecting victim and initiate a conversation; if an immediate reaction did not ensue Bill would thrust his chin out to make the rodent’s existence more pronounced. When poor old Snaa finally became too fragile for the beard-nest routine Bill ingeniously pressed him into service as an earring.

On Adak Island in 1983, Bill arguably became the first person in history to conduct an archeological site survey in the Aleutian Islands in formal attire. Reliable sources report that he more recently performed an archeological transect in interior Alaska in far less restrictive and more natural “dress”—an act I am grateful did not occur in my presence. Even in the most trying field situations (such as excavating an archeological site near Tok during a major forest fire) Bill could be relied upon to provide amusement to his co-workers, usually through his remarkable eccentricity or sheer folly. He was never a dullard and always an interesting companion.

His quirky tendencies did not stay behind when he left Alaska. Though he enjoyed life along the eastern seaboard part of him missed the north. Unable to journey to Alaska whenever the whim hit him, on one occasion he decided to seek out a closer ‘northern’ adventure. Bill scrounged up an old beater car, named it “Bob Lee” and set out to drive to the shores of Hudson Bay. Whatever character it already had when first obtained by Bill surely increased after he found and mounted a Marge Simpson doll head on the car as a hood ornament. Details of the journey are sketchy but the bottom line is that Bob Lee died somewhere along the road, short of Hudson Bay, and Bill had to be “rescued” to get back home.

As perhaps his oldest and closest friend, I am well aware that Bill—like all of us—had his rough edges. He could be crusty, judgmental, acerbic and intolerant, and not everyone he came in contact with appreciated his unusual sense of humor or his timing in its use. These traits sometimes led to misunderstandings, hurt feelings or mild animosities that impeded his professional work. But Bill was an honest and loyal friend, a strong supporter of underdogs, and possessed a big and fun-loving heart. He was also an outstanding researcher and writer with a great capacity for critical and innovative thinking. His passing is a true loss to Alaskan anthropology.

### **Selected Works by William L. Sheppard**

1983 *Continuity and Change in Norton Sound: Historic Sites and Their Contexts*. Anthropology and Historic Preservation, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, Occasional Paper No. 37. University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

1985 *Northwest Alaska Ethnology*. In *Northwest Alaska: Cultural Resources Report*, edited by Craig Mischler (pp. 18-34). Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Fairbanks. (Public data file 85-42L.)

1986 *Variability in Historic Norton Bay Subsistence and Settlement*. Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston. (University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor.)

1988 *The Later Prehistory of Norton Sound as Viewed from Norton Bay*. In *The Late Prehistoric Development of Alaska’s Native People*, edited by Robert D. Shaw, Roger K. Harritt, and Don E. Dumond (pp. 137-147). Aurora: Alaska Anthropological Association Monograph Series, No. 4. Anchorage.

1995 *Alternative Models of Dorset-Thule Succession*. Paper presented at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, Anchorage. (On file at Sheppard Research, Portland, OR.)

*Continued on page 6*

## Special Interest Group News



**Alaska Consortium  
of Zooarchaeologists**  
*Diane Hanson*

Part of the ACZ/UAA comparative collection was cremated in the Hooper Bay fire last month. The entire northwest and southwest Alaska shellfish collections were lost, as were many birds, some fish, and some mammals. It's odd that some of the animals have stories that go with them even after they've become part of a relatively impersonal comparative collection. The river otter was one that I was processing in a bathtub in Craig, Alaska the night the landlord dropped by to see if I needed anything; one of the birds had a note left by the high school students that said something like, "not all of the bones are here because it burned to the bottom of the pan"; and one was a marten Susan Bender carried around for years before placing in the collection. I think it also had a note that said "remember me?" Strange at it seems, we do form an attachment to some of the specimens. The Office of History and Archaeology has very generously offered to help with the processing of new replacement animals. Fortunately, we have collected animals that have been sitting for years in freezers waiting for their chance in the limelight. They'll probably have some stories too.

Speaking of stories, some of you in the Anchorage area may have heard the story of the three bears. Three bear carcasses (without heads or feet) were dumped in back of a hair salon (giving us the Goldilocks angle). In a commendable example of multi-agency cooperative effort, representatives from the State of Alaska, National Park Service, and the University of Alaska came to remove the bears for the comparative collection. They're being processed now and will probably be added to the comparative collection by late winter or spring.

Our first meeting will be in mid or late-September. Keep your eye on the web site or look for an announcement on the discussion list if you'd like to attend.



**Public Education Group**  
*Mark McCallum*

Here is a friendly reminder that we are due to reconvene the aaa public education group with a scheduled meeting on Sep. 19th at 10 a.m. at the Office of History and Archaeology in Anchorage. I'll set up a telephone bridge number soon for those who would like to connect telephonically.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Books, Books, Books**

Lorie Kirker at Alaskan Books would like to buy or trade Alaska anthropology books, papers, or bulletins. Please contact her at [alaskanabooks@alaska.com](mailto:alaskanabooks@alaska.com) so she can advise on what she needs in her collections, or you can simply bring books to the aaa meetings in Fairbanks. You can also call her at 1-888-354-9483 or 907-745-8695.

**INTERESTED IN....  
learning more about the  
Association and  
working with  
great people?**

**The position of Secretary-  
Treasurer is open. Knowl-  
edge of Microsoft Access  
is a plus. Contact President  
Polly Wheeler for details.**

**[polly\\_wheeler@fws.gov](mailto:polly_wheeler@fws.gov)**

*Continued from page 4*

1996 Book Review: Things That Were Said of Them: Shaman Stories and Oral Histories of the Tikigaq People (Told by Asatchaq, Translated by Tukummiq and Tom Lowenstein). *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 20(2):248-250.

1998 Population Movements, Interaction, and Legendary Geography. *Arctic Anthropology* 35(2):147-165.

1999 Book Review: The Inupiaq Eskimo Nations of Northwest Alaska (by Ernest S. Burch, Jr.). *Arctic* 52(2):224-226.

2000 Contact Period Settlement Dynamics in Norton Sound, Alaska. In *Culture Contact and Change in Northern North America*, edited by James W. VanStone, Roger K. Harritt, and Robert D. Shaw. *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska* 25(1):75-85.

2001 Obituary: James W. VanStone, 1925-2001. *Arctic* 54(2):199-200.

2003 An Emerging View of Prehistoric Upper Tanana Settlement Patterns. Paper presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, Fairbanks. (On file at Sheppard Research, Portland, OR.)

2004 The Significance of Dog Traction for the Analysis of Prehistoric Arctic Societies. *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* 2(1-2):70-82.

n.d.[a] Assault on Qawiaq: Siberian-Alaskan Warfare in Historical and Cultural Context. In *Shadowlands: Legacies from the Alaska Native Past*, edited by Kenneth L. Pratt. Volume in progress for publication by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, ANCSA Office, Anchorage.

n.d.[b] Traditional Culture of Deering Society. In *The Archaeology of Deering, Alaska*, edited by Peter M. Bowers. Monograph in preparation for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – Village Safe Water Office, the Native Village of Deering, and the City of Deering. Northern Land Use Research, Inc., Fairbanks.

**Co-Authored Works by William L. Sheppard**  
Sheppard, William L., Bruce A. Ream, and Robert M. Weaver  
1989 Alaska Radar System Over-the-Horizon Backscatter. Report of Investigations: 1988 Cultural Resources Investigations. Hart Crowser, Anchorage. Submitted to SRI International.

Sheppard, William L., Amy F. Steffian, David P. Staley, and Nancy H. Bigelow (with contributions by Robert A. Sattler and Thomas E. Gillispie)  
1991 Late Holocene Occupations at the Terrace Site: Tok, Alaska. Report for the US Air Force Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar Program. Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska Anchorage.

Pratt, Kenneth L., William L. Sheppard, and William E. Simeone (eds.)  
1998 No Boundaries: Papers in Honor of James W. VanStone. *Arctic Anthropology* 35(2).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Announcement of a New, Unmoderated E-mail-List -- AnthroAlaska**  
*Douglas Veltre*

The focus of AnthroAlaska will be on discussions, questions, news, etc. pertaining to the whole of anthropology in and about Alaska. The list may be used to send out announcements concerning upcoming events, such as professional meetings, public talks, museum exhibitions, and university colloquia; to keep list members informed of current research plans and findings; to announce new publications; and to seek information on Alaskan anthropological topics. The list was begun in February 2006; there are currently approximately 300 subscribers.

If you would like to sign up, please go to <http://lists.uaa.alaska.edu/mailman/listinfo/AnthroAlaska>. If you have questions concerning the list, please contact me directly ([afdvw@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afdvw@uaa.alaska.edu)).

## Scholarships and Student Paper Competition

**Two graduate (one M.A. student, and one Ph.D. student) scholarships and one undergraduate scholarship** will be awarded for the 2007-2008 academic year. The Association Scholarship Committee reserves the right to withhold one or both awards in the absence of qualified applicants. Each scholarship is \$750.

**Purpose and Eligibility:** These scholarships are designed to assist eligible students in their pursuit of an appropriate degree. Ordinarily the scholarship should be used to underwrite a program consisting of at least eight academic credits. If fewer credits are taken, the student must be engaged in full-time work toward a degree and be formally enrolled at an appropriate institution to be eligible for the award. Under no circumstances may this scholarship be utilized to underwrite part-time studies, nor to cover expenses of doing fieldwork not directly connected with academic courses. Applicants must be members in good standing of the Alaska Anthropological Association (i.e., current year dues must be paid at or before time of application). The scholarship may be used at any appropriate institution.

**Application Procedure:** The evaluation criterion is tangible evidence indicating a commitment to the academic study of anthropology. No special forms are needed to apply, but please provide:

1) Name, current contact address, and telephone number; 2) Current academic status (year, institution, major); 3) A list of courses in anthropology taken to date, including course title, instructor, institution, and grade (this need not be an official transcript); 4) (OPTIONAL) A list of course titles, instructors, and grades received in courses clearly related to the anthropological interests of the applicant; 5) Names, addresses, and phone numbers of two individuals willing to provide references for the applicant. Letters of reference do not have to be directly solicited by the applicant or included with the application.; 6) A brief statement of the applicant's personal goals and interests, and intentions with regard to anthropology. **Deadline for Application: Applications must be received by February 15, 2007** and be addressed to: Scholarship Committee, Alaska Anthropological Association, P.O. Box 241686, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1686.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Applications will be accepted for the 2007 ACZ-Christina Jensen Scholarship.** Application for the \$300 scholarship is open to all undergraduate and graduate students, who are members of the Alaska Anthropological Association, working on a zooarchaeological paper or project. The evaluation criterion is based on a letter, describing the project and demonstrating a commitment to the academic study of archaeology. Please provide a letter stating:

1) name, address, telephone number, and e-mail; 2) academic status (year, institution, major); 3) a list of archaeology courses taken to date, including instructor and grade (official transcripts are not necessary); 4) names, addresses, and phone number of two references (letters of reference do not have to be included with the application); 5) a statement of the applicant's personal goals, interests, and intentions with regard to archaeology; and 6) one or two paragraphs describing the intended paper or project.

**Submit the letter no later than February 1, 2007** to: ACZ-Christina Jensen Scholarship, Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists, P.O. Box 240613, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0613. The recipient of the award will be announced at the 33rd annual meetings in Kodiak, and the scholarship check mailed after these meetings. The recipient will also be expected to follow-up with a letter to ACZ describing how the scholarship assisted with the project or with his/her continued studies in archaeology.

## ALSO...

The Alaska Anthropological Association offers two \$250 awards for student papers under the auspices of the **Edwin S. Hall, Jr. Student Paper Competition**. Winners to be announced at the 2006 annual meeting in Fairbanks.

### Application Procedure:

- 1) Students must be members in good standing with the Alaska Anthropological Association to be eligible for this award.
- 2) Subject: Papers must apply anthropological perspectives to a question, topic or issue of interest to northern anthropologists. Theoretical and methodological approaches may derive from any of the four subfields of anthropology. Interdisciplinary papers are welcome.
- 3) Specifications/Format: Papers should be clearly reasoned and demonstrate creative use of sources, whether from fieldwork, library, or archival research; Papers should be no more than 45 pages, typed and double-spaced; American Anthropological Association format should be used for references, notes, and citations.
- 4) Papers submitted to this competition must also be submitted for presentations at the Alaska Anthropological Association's annual meeting. Abstracts should be submitted separately to the meeting's organizers.
- 5) On separate pages, entrants must submit an abstract of not more than 150 words, and a short biography (up to 10 lines) detailing anthropological education, interests, experience, and publications, as applicable.

Deadline: **Submit THREE copies postmarked on or before January 15, 2007 to:**

Edwin S. Hall, Jr. Student Paper Competition

Alaska Anthropological Association

P.O. Box 241686

Anchorage, AK 995234-1686

## Association Awards: Call for Nominations

The Alaska Anthropological Association offers annual awards in three categories: 1) Career Achievement; 2) Outstanding Service to the Association; and 3) Outstanding Current Contribution.

Past recipients of the Career Achievement Award: 1993 - Frederica de Laguna, Margaret Lantis, and James VanStone; 1994 - Wally Olson; 1997- Don Clark; 1998 - Don Dumond; 1999 - Bob Ackerman; 2000 - Lydia Black; 2002 - Doug Anderson; 2003 - E. S. Burch, Jr. and Allen McCartney; 2004 - Tom Hamilton; 2005 - Catharine McClellan; 2006 - William Workman.

Past recipients of the Outstanding Service to the Association Award: 1993 - Ed Hall; 1998- Jack Lobdell; 2002 - Doug Reger; 2004 - Theresa Thibault.

Past recipients of the Outstanding Current Contribution Award: 2004 - Aron Crowell, Amy Steffian and Gordon Pullar.

Please send your nominations, along with a short justification by **November 15, 2006** to:

Annual Awards Committee

Alaska Anthropological Association

P. O. Box 241686

Anchorage, AK 99524-168



Use this form to register or update your membership, make donations, subscribe to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology, or purchase Aurora volumes.

**Contact Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_



Please make checks payable and mail to:  
 Alaska Anthropological Association.  
 P.O. Box 241686  
 Anchorage, AK 99524

| Membership                                  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Fees:</b>                                | <b>Donations:</b>                               |
| Regular/Institutional: 1 year \$40.00 _____ | Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists \$ _____ |
| 2 years \$75.00 _____                       | Public Education Group \$ _____                 |
| Student: 1 year \$20.00 _____               | Publication Fund \$ _____                       |
| 2 years \$35.00 _____                       | Student Scholarship Fund \$ _____               |

| Alaska Journal of Anthropology        |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Two Issue Subscription</b>         | <b>Four Issue Subscription</b>                               |
| aaa Regular Member \$35.00 _____      | aaa Regular Member \$60.00 _____                             |
| aaa Student Member \$25.00 _____      | aaa Student Member \$50.00 _____                             |
| Non-Member \$50.00 _____              | Non-Member \$85.00 _____                                     |
| Institutional \$150.00 _____          | Institutional \$300.00 _____                                 |
| Lifetime Subscription \$1000.00 _____ | <b>Please add \$15.00 for Postage Outside North America.</b> |

| Aurora Monograph Series  |            |              |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Title  | List Price | Member Price |
| When Our Bad Season Comes by Ann Fienup-Riordan  | \$28.00    | \$22.40      |
| Lake Minchumina Prehistory by Charles E. Holmes  | \$15.00    | \$12.00      |
| Bibliography and Index of Alaskan Archeology<br>by C. Eugene West and Richard O. Stern | \$10.00    | \$ 8.00      |
| The Hidden Falls Site edited by Stanley D. Davis                                       | \$28.00    | \$22.40      |
| In the Belly of the Whale by Glenn W. Sheehan  | \$28.00    | \$22.40      |
| Ellikarrmiut: Changing Lifeways in an Alaskan<br>Community by Dennis Griffin           | \$26.00    | \$20.80      |
| <b>Please add \$4.00 per book for Shipping and Handling with your order.</b>           |            |              |

For Payment by VISA or MasterCard:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please fold this page for mailing in thirds, not in half!**

---

**Alaska Anthropological Association  
P.O. Box 241686  
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

---

**ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
BOARD ELECTION  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Three positions will be opening on the Alaska Anthropological Board in 2007. Nominations will be accepted for President and for two board members. President Polly Wheeler is serving her first term and can be nominated for a second term. Board members Alan Boraas and Rachel Mason have each served two terms so they are not eligible for nomination. **Remember that it is your responsibility to nominate only those willing to serve.** Nominees must be members of the association.

Please use this form to make nominations. The names of candidates who are nominated the most times (sometimes even it is only twice!) will appear on the ballot in the February newsletter. Candidates included on the ballot in the February newsletter will be asked to supply a few lines of biographical information.

**Please return this form no later than February 1, 2007**

Your nominations:

President \_\_\_\_\_

Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Current Association officers are:

President - Polly Wheeler

Board Members -

Alan Boraas

Lisa Frink

Daniel Odess

Owen Mason

Rachel Mason

**Instructions for mailing:** Re-fold this sheet so that your address is hidden and the Elections Committee address is showing. Then staple or tape together, add a stamp, and mail. You can also put the ORIGINAL form (no copies!!) in an envelope and mail to:

**Elections Committee  
Alaska Anthropological Association  
P.O. Box 241686  
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

**Note: Please fold this page for mailing in thirds, not in half!**

---

**Election Committee  
Alaska Anthropological Association  
P.O. Box 241686  
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

---

## Anthropology in the News

### Let's Honor Those Who Were Here First

Alan Boraas

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Anchorage Daily News, Comments section on July 8, 2006.*

The proposed name of Anchorage's new civic center, the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, is a positive step to honor the indigenous people of Cook Inlet, who are much too invisible in Alaska's largest city.

Thirty years ago, if you were to ask people on the street to name the Native group within whose territory Anchorage is located, few would have known the answer -- Dena'ina. Some would have guessed Indian, some Eskimo, and a few may have answered with the generic term Athabascan. But most would have said, "I don't know," and they might have added, "and I don't care either."

That's because back then most people in Anchorage were from somewhere else and had come with an ideology of place based on the perception that Alaska was a new, raw land of opportunity and challenge. Among the newcomers, to "be the first" bestowed significant cultural capital in what was perceived as a land for pioneers. Many still think that way.

But it's not a new place.

It would be more accurate to say that the 20th-century migrants from the Lower 48 states were among the first to bring American-style institutions to the north. Their accomplishments should be recognized, remembered and contextualized. But in fact, the opportunities and challenges of living in Cook Inlet began when Pleistocene glacial ice receded far enough to permit the first Native group to walk in, look around and say "Looks pretty good to me" in whatever language they spoke -- probably an early version of the Dena'ina language.

Anchorage will be able to use the civic center's name as an opportunity to tell visitors about the long, rich history of Cook Inlet --Tikahtnu -- dating back 8,000 years. More importantly, it will be an opportunity for those of us who reside in Dena'ina territory to reaffirm that, by virtue of the fact that we live here, we inherit its history and are duty-bound to understand it. Every significant economic event of Alaska -- nomadic caribou hunting, sea mammal hunting, subsistence salmon fishing, the fur trade, commercial salmon fishing, gold mining, timber, oil and tourism -- has had its counterpart in Southcentral Alaska. No other place can make that claim. And through it all the Dena'ina people have been a constant.

The Dena'ina part of the story includes development of a pre-contact culture based on catching salmon. As every salmon fisher knows, catching them is the easy part; the hard part is properly processing and storing fish, particularly if you don't have electricity. About 1000 A.D., the Dena'ina invented an insulated, underground cold storage system. From that emerged a clan-based society that was notable for its sustainability and gender equity. This is no small thing. The pre-contact Dena'ina culture could have operated in perpetuity had not European expansion intervened.

Traditional Dena'ina believe that "there is good and bad in all things," and it would be wrong to characterize Euro-American occupation as all bad for the Dena'ina. But there was plenty of bad to go around. An 1838-'39 smallpox epidemic cut the population in half; the same thing happened in 1918-'19 with the Spanish flu. In the early and mid-20th century, the American Territorial School teachers carried out a cultural extinction policy, punishing Dena'ina children for speaking their Native language. Many were ridiculed for being Dena'ina, and they were largely written out of history for not being traditional enough or not being materialistic enough.

*Continued on page 14*

## Upcoming Meetings

### **Beringian Days**

Annual meeting sponsored by National Park Service Shared Beringian Heritage Program  
September 7 - 8, 2006  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art  
Contact Bruce Greenwood  
(bruce\_greenwood@nps.gov)

### **Arctic Conference**

14th Annual Conference  
October 20 - 21, 2006  
UO Museum of Cultural and Natural History  
University of Oregon, Eugene  
Judi Pruitt (541) 346-1671 or  
judip@uoregon.edu  
<http://natural-history.uoregon.edu>

### **Oral History Association**

October 25-29, 2006  
(Generational Links: Confronting the Past,  
Understanding the Present, Planning the Future)  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
( Madelyn Campbell, 717-245-1036 or  
[www.dickinson.edu/oha](http://www.dickinson.edu/oha))

### **The Chacmool Conference**

Decolonizing Archaeology: Archaeology and  
the Post-Colonial Critique  
November 14 - 17, 2006  
University of Calgary  
Alberta, Canada  
<http://www.arkey.ucalgary.ca/arkey1/Chacmool2006/index.htm>

### **American Anthropological Association**

105th AAA Annual Meeting  
November 15-19, 2006  
San Jose Convention Center  
San Jose, California  
<http://www.aaanet.org/>

### **Society for Historical and Underwater Archaeology**

40th Annual Meeting  
January 9 – 14, 2007  
Williamsburg, Virginia (in conjunction with the  
400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestowne)  
<http://www.sha.org/>

### **Alaska Anthropological Association**

March 14 - 17, 2007  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks  
Dan Odess (ffdpo@uaf.edu)

### **Society for American Archaeology**

72nd Annual Meeting  
April 25 – 29, 2007  
Austin, Texas  
<http://www.saa.org/meetings/index.html>

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Continued from page 13*

Too many succumbed to alcoholism or abuse.

But through it all, the Dena'ina people persevered thanks to core values recognizing family and place as the foundation of life. Though their language is now down to 50 or 60 speakers, it is undergoing resurgence. And thanks to the work of elders and linguists, Dena'ina has one of the richest bodies of literature of any indigenous language in North America. Someday every schoolchild in Anchorage will learn some Dena'ina and have an opportunity to better understand the place of their youth -- their home.

Putting the name Dena'ina on one of the most prominent buildings in the most prominent city in subarctic North America will make the Dena'ina people proud. And it should make us all proud as we affirm our northern roots as northern people, because our heritage and our future is where the northern forest meets tidewater -- Tikahtnu.

# Alaska Anthropological Association Board Proposal

## Report on Alaska Journal of Anthropology and Membership

Submitted by Lisa Frink (and modified by the Board on September 5, 2006)

The aaa Board is currently investigating the feasibility of integrating membership annual dues with an automatic subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology. Currently the total fees for the journal are approximately \$8,800 per issue (\$17,600 for two issues per year). There are 161 regular and 57 student current (not expired) members and 11 institutional subscribers. Annual fees would go up \$15 for students and \$35 for regular members (one year membership). The proposed fees compare with other similar professional associations (e.g., Canadian Archaeological Association). Note that other associations (e.g., Society for American Archaeology) have a "joint" membership designation for double-member households.

### Current Costs Per Issue

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| Layout   | 3500 |
| Printing | 5000 |
| Mailing  | 300  |

---

One Issue: \$8,800

### Current Subscribers

|               |                 |                            |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Institutional | 11              | 150.00 per year (2 issues) |
| Member        | 81 (9 students) |                            |

| <u>Current Membership</u> |         | <u>Proposed Membership Fees</u> |        |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Student                   | 1 year  | 20.00                           | 35.00  |
|                           | 2 years | 35.00                           | 55.00  |
| Regular                   | 1 year  | 40.00                           | 75.00  |
|                           | 2 years | 75.00                           | 140.00 |

### Proposed Fee Model (calculated for one year Current Members only)

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Institutions | 1650     |
| Students     | 1995     |
| Regular      | 12075    |
| Total        | \$15,720 |

**If you have any questions or ideas about how to make this proposal work, please contact the President or a Board member. The proposal presented here is for your information only. Members will be asked to vote on this proposal at a later date.**

**ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 241686  
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Anchorage, AK  
Permit No. 318**

**NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER  
DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS: November 15**

