



Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter

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Fall, 2017

2018 Annual Meeting

A call for organized sessions at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association in 2018 is officially open. To submit an abstract for your session topic please visit the Alaska Anthropological Association website and follow the links. The conference will be held on **March 21-24, 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska**. Registration and presentation/poster abstracts submissions will open by November 15, 2017.

Interested in becoming an AAA Board Member? Elections are coming up this winter. Stay tuned for more information!



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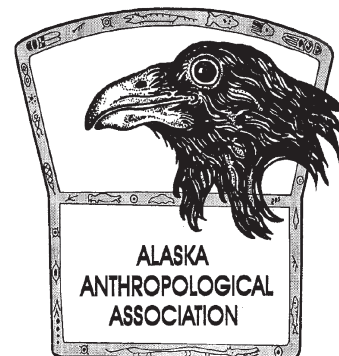
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**Deadline to submit
materials for the next
newsletter is
December 1, 2017!**

Do you know of any upcoming conferences, workshops, exhibits, funding or job opportunities, calls for papers, or other events that are of interest to aaa members? Please submit news items and photographs to the editor at: sccoffman@alaska.edu



A Message from the President



Dear AAA Members,

Fairbanks is getting an extended field season this year, but I think I enjoy the usual fall routine just as much as searching for archaeological sites. Breaking out the down jackets, fires in the wood stove, getting new AHRS numbers, organizing field data... tucking things in for the winter! The Alaska Anthropological Association is also in fall organizational mode. The 2018 budget (which our members reviewed at the annual meeting in March) was finalized at our September board meeting and is posted in the meeting notes on the web site. We are currently working on the 2019 budget and will present it to the membership in Anchorage in March. We are happy to report the travel grant motion was approved by our voters. A committee is being organized to finalize the award criteria, and we hope to offer travel grants for the next meeting.

Speaking of the annual meeting, it is time to start thinking about symposia and abstracts! I have seen a couple of ideas floating around already. If you would like to reach a broader audience with your symposium solicitations, please send an email to alaskaanthro@gmail.com. We can send out abstracts through our mailing list and post them to facebook. A formal call for abstracts will go out by November.

October 1st is the start of our annual fiscal cycle. Please renew your membership for 2018 between now and the end of the year. This schedule helps us pay for the journal and put on the conference without having to borrow money from our investment accounts.

There is finally snow in the forecast, so I will wish you a happy and productive start to your winter!

Julie Esdale

**Renew your
membership
TODAY! (see
page 7)**

President

Julie Esdale

Vice President

Amy Phillips-Chan

Board Members

Shelby Anderson

Phoebe Gilbert

Yoko Kugo

Secretary

H. Kory Cooper

Treasurer

Elizabeth Allen

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 support for anthropological activities and goals; to foster knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Alaska Native and circumpolar cultural heritage; to work in collaboration with Indigenous communities on all aspects of research and education; and to facilitate the dissemination of anthropological works in both technical and non-technical formats.

Membership is open to any individual or organization indicating an 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 begins each year on 1 October. Annual membership dues include a subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology. Dues are \$50 for student members and \$100 for regular members. Memberships may be purchased online at www.alaskaanthropology.org.

Please e-mail submissions to the newsletter to the editor, Sam Coffman (scoffman@alaska.edu).

Remembering Eileen Devinney

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By Rachel Mason

National Park Service

Eileen Devinney, cultural anthropologist for the National Park Service, Alaska Region, died on September 21, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. She worked at the NPS for 25 years, at Yosemite National Park, Yukon-Charley National Preserve, the Western Arctic Parklands, and in the Alaska Regional Office. She completed a Master of Arts in 1997 from the University of British Columbia, writing a thesis entitled “Consultation, Collaboration, and Community Participation: The Archaeological Excavation of Two Prehistoric Iñupiaq Burials at Kotzebue, Alaska.”

She formed lasting partnerships and worked closely with many Alaska Native communities. For over a decade, she worked persistently to locate and return recordings of interviews made for an NPS project in the village of Kiana, finally succeeding in 2015. In the same community, she worked for years to initiate a Traditional Use Study, amid various obstacles. In the past two years, the project has finally gained traction, largely due to Eileen’s diligence and persistence.

Eileen participated in many archeological and ethnographic research projects in the course of her work as Cultural Resources Manager and as Cultural Anthropologist. I only once had the pleasure of doing fieldwork with Eileen. That was in 2004, when she and I were both helping ADF&G do a subsistence harvest survey and social network analysis in Buckland. Twelve years later, in 2016, I had a lot of fun in her company at the Centennial Science Symposium in Fairbanks, where Eileen presented a poster on the Iñupiat Place Names Map, a compilation of several place names studies in Northern Alaska.

With other NPS staff, Eileen has been working for years to develop and add to this map.

Eileen was the manager of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act program for the Alaska region. She conducted tribal and other consultations and provided guidance to parks on consultation. Eileen’s actions responding to inadvertent discovery of human remains prevented or alleviated numerous conflicts among stakeholders and managers. She wrote a manual of instructions for parks on how to respond to such discoveries. She managed NAGPRA funds for projects in the region. Largely for her NAGPRA work, Eileen was the 2012 winner of the national NPS Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award.

I was Eileen’s supervisor, which was a joke. I don’t think there was ever a time when I completed an employee evaluation without her reminding me and producing the necessary forms. All her co-workers were in awe of her competence and organization. She was an excellent editor. Eileen was a lot of fun, in a low-key kind of way. A few years ago, she told me about one of her favorite videos. It’s a Canadian film in English and Inuktitut called “Qallunaat: Why White People are Funny,” and tells of research done at the Qallunaat Studies Institute to understand the peculiar behavior of white people in the Arctic.

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With students in Koyuk. Photo provided by NPS/NPS staff.

OUT AND ABOUT:

Recent Happenings in Alaska Anthropology

Sam Coffman, Newsletter Editor

"Out and About" is an opportunity for our readers to hear the latest news, achievements, and other information about our colleagues and our discipline.

If you know of an Alaska or northern individual, institution, or group that deserves recognition for recent work; or a colleague who has recently won an award, scholarship, or grant; or has embarked on an exciting new career journey or field work experience; or who has achieved a professional or personal milestone in their lives, please submit that information to our editor at sccoffman@alaska.edu.

Fairbanks

UAF Summer Camp

By Fawn Carter, UAMN:

UAMN's archaeology lab hosted a one week long kids' camp this June. The twenty 4th and 5th graders got to participate in a mock dig and practiced identifying and analyzing the artifacts they found. They also got to learn about forensic anthropology, zooarchaeology, and how to use a GPS. Overall though the activities they seemed to enjoy the most were making spears and using atlats.



Students and staff. Photo by Scott Shirar.

Nome

Nome Archaeology Camp Blends Traditional Knowledge and Archaeological Science to Expose Rural Students to Career Opportunities

By Jeff Rasic, NPS:

For the past three years a group of local, federal, and nonprofit partners--the National Park Service, Katirvik Cultural Center, Kawerak, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Alaska Geographic, and the Carrie M. McLain Museum--have organized the Nome Archeology Camp. During the week long camp high school age students from rural Alaska converge at Salmon Lake outside of Nome. They visit archaeological sites to practice survey techniques, interview elders and local experts during an oral history workshop, join fish biologists to collect samples, and tour local museums and cultural centers to learn how exhibits are created and shared with the public. The camp emphasizes the interplay between traditional knowledge and science and the productive insights that can result when the two perspectives intermingle.

The free camp aims to be a first step in training the next generation of experts caring for the regions' resources in a respectful and responsible way. A focus on field sciences and resource management highlights career opportunities in the natural and social sciences for young people in rural Alaska to consider. Students can receive college credit through the UAF Northwest Campus. After the camp adult mentors actively work to match students with internships and jobs in areas like museum studies, archaeology, and wildlife biology.

Perhaps most importantly, the busy week of field trips, camaraderie and hands on activities stokes curiosity and deeper awareness of the natural and cultural treasures that abound in the region.

Caitlynn Hanna, a recent participant in the camp, says "The Nome Archaeology Camp was very enjoyable to me...to even get a glance at how our ancestors lived. And see all the stories I had been told of come to life as I saw the places they lived. I learned to analyze things more carefully. I'd urge anyone who has the slightest interest in history or archaeology to apply to this camp...I definitely will keep my mind open to the possibilities of a future career."

Planning for the 2018 session is underway. We can use your help identifying students for next summer's camp. And please consider our roster of more than 30 experienced students as interns or employees on your next project. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/nomearchaeology/> to learn more.



Students at the Nome archaeology camp. Photo provided by Jeff Rasic.

Bering Sea Days

A Celebration of Students and Science

By Josh Lynch, CEMML and TAMU:

Bering Sea Days is a very special week in the school system on the island of St. Paul, Alaska. An annual tradition that is marking its tenth anniversary in the fall of 2017, Bering Sea Days is a week long event where scientists and experts from across the country take over the St. Paul school and share their love and passion for their work while engaging students in numerous scientific lessons and activities, including field trips on the land and in the waters around St. Paul, and initiating long-term research projects with the students. The Bering Seas Days program has exposed students to lessons in scientific topics, including archaeology, glaciology, oceanography, toxicology, wildlife biology and management, geography, geology, and climatology taught by leading experts in the fields. Older students are also encouraged to work with instructors and adults from the tribe to participate in safety instruction and training to engage in traditional subsistence practices. In recent years, Bering Sea Days has expanded to include lessons and hands-on-learning modules developing student's reading, writing, and producing skills through journalism and communications.



Veronica Padula helps students dissect seabirds, and collect tissues samples for contaminants analysis.



Putting the finishing touches on the backbone of the orca calf skeleton, "Pearl."

Bering Sea Days was developed with the vision of engaging K-12 students in activities to which a standard curriculum would not expose them, while having the added benefit of exposing the students to scientists and subject matter experts that might provide examples of careers in the sciences, communications, and technologies. Since 2015, students have participated in dissections of seabirds taken around the island (documenting any plastics introduced into the birds diets), studies of trophic webs that describe the complex ecosystems of the Bering Strait, assisted in measuring and documenting change in temperature and salinity from data gathering stations, analyzed footage taken from the sea floor around the island to conduct studies of species diversity, construct a greenhouse that the students care for year round, and much more. The students are given the opportunity to participate in multiple specialized lessons during the week, each complete with activities, games, skits, or field trips, as well as document their own experiences through photojournalism, art, video production and editing, and creation of professional style presentations delivered to their peers and parents at an annual community gathering associated with Bering Sea Days.

Bering Seas Days is shining example of the power of combining the expertise of dedicated scientist and the natural -



Bioblitzing with Jasmine Shaw. Students ventured outside and identified all the flora and fauna at a study site near Reef Point.

curiosity and energy of Alaska's rural students. The success of this program must be equally distributed between the students, the scientists, those who work tirelessly to organize the event, the teachers and administrators in the St. Paul school system, and the Aleut community of Saint Paul. The program continues to grow, expand, and improve with every year and we look forward to Bering Sea Days 10, scheduled to take place early October 2017.



Lauren Divine teaches students about reindeer, showing them what antlers look and feel like when covered in velvet.

All photos and captions taken from Bering Sea Days promotional material prepared and distributed by Veronica Padula (vmpadula@aleut.com).

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Remembering Eileen Devinney

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By Rachel Mason, National Park Service

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One of Eileen's projects was to transcribe and compile Bob Uhl's diaries, which he donated to the NPS. Bob and his wife Carrie were long-time residents of Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and for 20 years Bob kept a record of his observations of birds, fish, wildlife, weather and sea conditions, and human visitors at their remote residences.

Eileen continued to be a productive employee of the Cultural Resources team, even when she was no longer able to come in to the office. During her travels to the east coast, she worked with SUNY Brockport to collect Edwin S. Hall's papers, and interviewed Jean Swearingen, a retired colleague, for a project on women in the NPS.

We can never replace Eileen. She had unique skills, compassion for fellow humans, and was held in high esteem by everyone. Eileen's passing is a loss to all of us.

Friends and colleagues at the NPS are planning to organize a symposium in Eileen's honor at the Alaska Anthropology Association meetings in the spring. Please let Rachel Mason know (Rachel_Mason@nps.gov) if you would like to make a presentation on a project you worked on with her, or that represents Eileen's influence on anthropology in Alaska.



At an excavation in Noatak National Preserve. Photo probably by Chris Young.

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Quartz Lake

Alaska Summer Research Academy

By Sam Coffman, UAMN:

For the sixth straight year, the UA Museum and the Alaska Summer Research Academy (ASRA) have taught high school students the fundamentals of archaeology. The summer of 2017 saw the teaching of seven students, from Alaska and the Contiguous United States. Several sites around Quartz Lake

(near Delta Junction, AK) were investigated, tested, and mapped during the two week program.

Students spent the last several days of the program analyzing, interpreting, and cataloging the artifacts they recovered, before giving a presentation to their peers about their findings and adventures in the field! To learn more about ASRA please visit: www.uaf.edu/asra/



Photo to left; Cutting fish on Yukon River, 2001. Photo provided by NPS/NPS Staff.



ASRA students excavating. Photo by UAMN Staff.

Meetings of Interest

Sam Coffman, Newsletter Editor

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The following are a list of upcoming conferences and meeting pertaining to Alaska and anthropology. If you know of others or would like to advertise a specific conference please contact Sam Coffman at: sccoffman@alaska.edu.



The dates for the 5th international Landscape Archaeological Conference (LAC2018) at the Universities of Durham and New Castle have been confirmed. The core dates for the conference will be Tuesday 18th September to Thursday 20th September 2018. For more information on the conference outline visit LAC2018. Important key dates: Call for sessions closes on the 31st of October 2017. Call for papers closes on the 15th of April 2018.

So mark your calendar for the lustrum of the LAC conferences celebrated in the United Kingdom at Durham/Newcastle, with a rich heritage in landscape archaeology.

2018 Alaska Native Studies Conference

Past, Present, Future—Working Together

April 13–15, 2018



Áak'w K̄wáan Aaní Káx'
Juneau, AK



Society for American Archaeology

SAA 83rd Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
April 11 - 15, 2018



SHA Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
January 3-6, 2018



AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems

Publications update!

By Shelby Anderson

Members should have received their copy of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology (AJA) Volume 14 (1-2) in the mail last month. Volume 15 (1-2) is anticipated at the end of 2017. Please continue to submit your work to AJA and Aurora, and encourage students and colleagues to do so as well. Submission information and other publication details can be found here:

<https://www.alaskaanthropology.org/publications/>

Submissions wanted!

The AJA and the Aurora Monograph Series are looking for submissions for publication.

The AJA accepts original research articles, reports, translations, essays, book reviews, and thesis and dissertation abstracts, as well as research notes. You may access the submission guidelines at:

http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/AJA-Style-Guide-final_111015.

NOW! Is the time to renew your AAA membership. All members receive an annual subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology and the Association's quarterly electronic newsletter, delivered by email. Additional benefits of membership include discounted registration for the Annual Meeting, and discounted prices on the Aurora Monograph Series and print copies of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology, in addition to website access to free downloads of prior AJA issues. Each membership, with the exception of an institutional one, also includes voting privileges!

Research Fellowship in Urgent Anthropology: The Circumpolar North



The British Museum and the Anthropologists' Fund for Urgent Anthropological Research offers two Research Fellowships in Urgent Anthropology. The Fellowship provides (non-salaried) financial support for an eighteen month period of field research and writing, with a specific focus on the circumpolar north. The Urgent Anthropology Fund is managed by the Royal Anthropological Institute and the fellowship is designed to facilitate ethnographic research on peoples whose culture and language are currently threatened. The programme's primary aim is to contribute to anthropological knowledge through detailed ethnography, and also if possible help the peoples being described in their particular circumstances. The British Museum is hosting the fellowship programme for the years from 2018 - 2020. For more information and to learn how to apply visit:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/



UAA in the News

By Kerry Feldman, UAA

UAA Professor Emeritus Anthropology Receives AFN Denali Award, Highest Honor given to a non-Native person for dedicated service to Alaska Natives, 2017 -- Dr. Steve J. Landon.

The award has been given since 2001. Prof. Lawrence Kaplan of the UAF Linguistics Dept. received the award in 2015.

The award will be given at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Anchorage on Oct. 19, where the AFN meeting is being held.

Shawn Hegna, president of Koniag, Inc. nominated Dr. Langdon. He has conducted research for four decades on behalf of the rights, traditions, history and cultures of Alaska Native peoples. He did not know he was being considered for this honor.

AMQUA

Nominations are being solicited for the 2017 and the 2018 AMQUA Distinguished Career Award. The award recognizes a Quaternary scientist who has contributed significantly and continuously to the advancement of Quaternary science in any discipline.

To nominate a scientist, please send a letter outlining why the nominee is qualified for the Distinguished Career Award and forward her/his current CV. All nominees are retained as candidates for five years. Please send your nominations by November 7, 2017 to Sheri Fritz, AMQUA President at: sfritz2@unl.edu

Alaska Archaeology Day

October 21, Saturday
at the
University Center Mall
Old Seward and 36th Ave
10am-4pm



Find artifacts in a mock dig, learn about the human skeleton or how people used to grind corn with rocks, how to make a stone arrow head, what animal bones can tell you, how to make a mask, and hear about archaeological work across Alaska!



The displays and activities are for all ages from children through adults. The demonstrations and activities are led by professional archaeologists.

For more information write to
dkhanson@alaska.edu
or call 786-6842

