

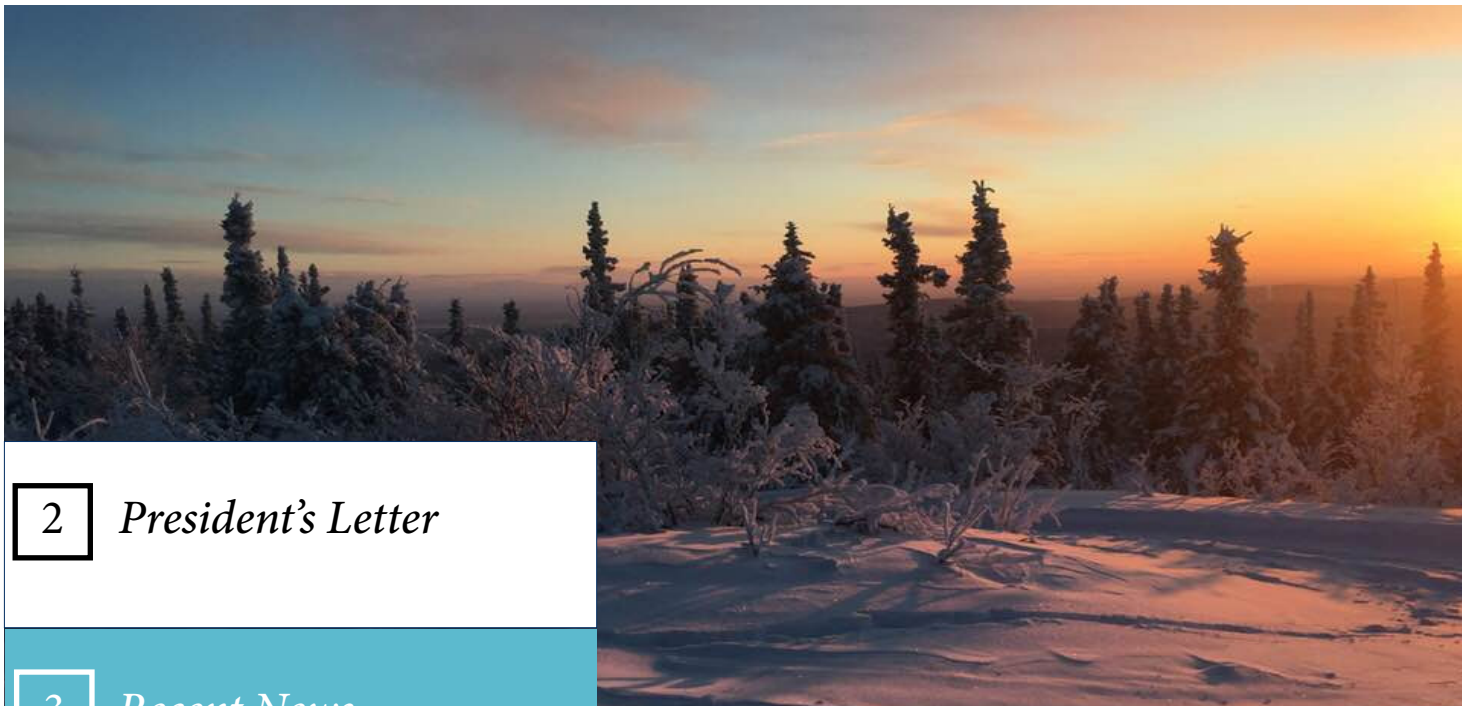


Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter

Volume 46, Number 1

www.alaskaanthropology.org

February 2020



2 *President's Letter*

3 *Recent News*

7 *Recent Literature*

8 *Remembrances*

10 *47th AkAA Annual Meeting*

Key Dates

AkAA Annual Conference: February 26-29 Fairbanks, Alaska	Society of American Archaeology Annual Conference: April 22-26 Austin, Texas
Festival of Native Arts: March 19-21 Fairbanks, Alaska	Society for Cultural Anthropology Biennial Conference: May 7-9 Virtual
Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Conference: March 17-21 Albuquerque, New Mexico	

Recent publication? Have a field school to advertise? Email dskinnner2@alaska.edu to be featured in April 2020 newsletter.



Like the AkAA Facebook page to stay current on news and events in Alaskan anthropology



Thank You Fairbanks NPS for Planning 2020 AkAA Conference!



President's Message



Dear Members,

Blankets of fresh snow and plummeting temperatures remind us that winter is in full swing across Alaska. The cold season offers us an opportunity to slow down, make some headway on projects, and of course, catch up with friends and colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. This year the 47th Annual Meeting will be held at the Westmark Hotel and Conference Center in Fairbanks from February 26-29, 2020. The conference kicks off on Wednesday night at VENUE, a modern art gallery, event space, and coffee bar. On Thursday morning, I hope you join us for an important workshop organized by the AkAA Board to discuss the Alaska Anthropological Association Anti-Harassment Policy and participate in an educational training opportunity held in partnership with STAR (Standing Together Against Rape).

We are excited to welcome a trio of amazing keynote speakers this year! Princess Daazhrai Johnson is Neets'aii Gwich'in and serves as creative producer on the show "Molly of Denali," the first nationally distributed children's series to feature a Native lead character. Walkie Charles, originally of Emmonak, is an associate professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and heads the Yup'ik-degree program. Billy Charles has worked for many years with the Center for Alaska Native Health Research on strength-based projects that help reduce Alaska Native Health Research on strength-based projects that help reduce Alaska Native suicide and alcohol misuse, including the Qungasvik Project that aims at wellness for Yup'ik communities. The keynote addresses will be held during the luncheon and banquet so make sure to purchase your tickets before they sell out!

President

Amy Phillips-Chan

Board Members

Morgan Blanchard

Joshua Lynch

Phoebe Gilbert

Sam Coffman

Brittney M. Howell

Other Association Officials

Ann Biddle, treasurer

Liz Ortiz, student intern

Dougless Skinner, newsletter
editor

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.

Conference sessions for 2020 encompass a rich diversity of presentations from best practices in community-based research to current applications of digital technology and student perspectives on entering the anthropological field. Additional highlights include a hands-on workshop led by ACZ and exploration of Fairbanks with a cross country ski excursion and tour of the Army Corps of Engineers permafrost tunnel. The Association's Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday morning. This is your opportunity to hear about activities that are happening within the Association and share your thoughts as members on ways to make our organization even better. Please plan to attend. Your voice matters!

Thank you to the organizers, sponsors, and presenters who have all contributed their efforts to make sure the 47th Annual Meeting will be a success!

The beginning of a new year also provides a great occasion to thank those around us who offer support and encouragement in our professional and daily lives. On the Association team, sincere appreciation goes to the Board of Directors for their enthusiasm and commitment to tackling a myriad of tasks that happen behind the scenes. Special thanks goes to Phoebe Gilbert for her four years of dedicated service to the Board. Treasurer Ann Biddle tracks our revenue streams and expenses, student intern Liz Ortiz coordinates all the mailings, and newsletter editor Dougless Skinner just gave our e-newsletter the fresh new look that you see in this issue.

The *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* team handles an impressive workload to make sure members receive a professional, peer-reviewed volume of the journal each year. Big news for 2020 is the option for authors to publish their accepted manuscripts as open access for immediate download online. Visit the Alaska Anthropological Association website to learn more.

Hope to see you in Fairbanks!
With best wishes,
Amy Phillips-Chan

Recent News

Erica Hill Is New Program Director for NSF Arctic Social Sciences

Erica Hill has joined the National Science Foundation as the new program director for the Arctic Social Sciences Program (ASSP). She is taking over the role from Colleen Strawhacker, who has directed the program since the departure of Anna Kerttula de Echave. Erica is an archaeologist (Ph.D. U New Mexico, 1999) with experience in Alaska, Chukotka, Peru, and Mexico and has been teaching at the University of Alaska Southeast since 2007.



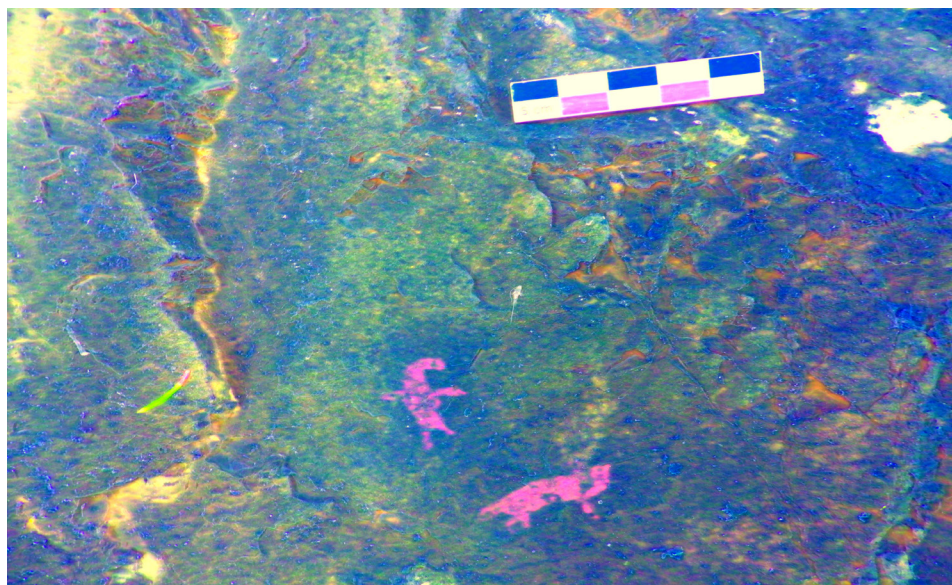
Erica will be attending the upcoming AkAA meeting in Fairbanks, and will be available to talk to both current and prospective principal investigators and graduate students. The Arctic Social Sciences Program funds research projects and dissertation work in all fields of anthropology. Erica is looking for innovative, transformative research proposals, as well as projects that contribute to the basic understanding of Alaska's past and present. ASSP has funded projects in cultural anthropology, historical archaeology, and language preservation as well as dissertation research in all sub-disciplines. For more information on the program, visit: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13425

Erica's own research has focused on the prehistory of human-animal relations, studying museum collections and ethnohistories from the Bering Sea coast. She taught at UAF until 2007, when she transferred to University of Alaska Southeast. She was promoted to Professor of Anthropology at UAS in 2018. Her work has appeared in *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, *Antiquity*, *Environmental Archaeology*; she has published two edited volumes, *The Archaeology of Ancestors* (2016) and *Iñupiaq Ethnohistory*. She will continue her work as book review editor for the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*.



Feel free to contact Erica to set up a meeting at the AAAs or to discuss proposal ideas: erhill@nsf.gov

Recent News



Pictographs at Bear Island. Image
enhanced with DStretch
(by Sébastien Perrot-Minnot)

Research project on the rock art site of Bear Island (Kachemak Bay, southern Kenai Peninsula, Southcentral Alaska)

Rock art represents a notable and intriguing aspect of the Native archaeological heritage of the Kachemak Bay area (southern Kenai Peninsula, Southcentral Alaska), where it appears in the form of pictographs. Although the Kachemak Bay rock art sites have been subject to investigations since the 1930's, they still offer vast prospects for scientific research. In this field, the author carried out an archaeological project on the Sadie Cove decorated rock shelter (SEL-00005) in 2017-2018, and since last year, he has been conducting the Bear Island Project, which is dedicated to the eponymous site (SEL-00036). This project is aimed at documenting, analyzing and contextualizing the rich rock paintings of Bear Island. It is funded by the Éveha archaeological studies center (France) and has received support from the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, the Pratt Museum (Homer), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Homer independent archaeologist Janet Klein.

The Bear Island pictographs can be seen on an overhanging rock wall rising behind a little cove. Before the Bear Island Project, the site had motivated field investigations by Cornelius Osgood (in the 1930's), Frederica de Laguna (idem) and Janet Klein, who has

been working on the archaeology and the history of the Kachemak Bay area for many years.

The author visited the place with Janet Klein last September. On this occasion, we made a survey of the site and a photographic recording of the decorated rock wall. Thereafter, I enhanced the pictures of the rock wall with the DStretch plugin to the ImageJ program, which allowed me to identify several new pictographs, including a rare polychrome motif. Now, 60 pictographs are evidenced at SEL-00036, which appears as one of the richest Alaskan rock painting sites. The comparative study of these manifestations is revealing significant analogies with rock art sites in Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound and Kodiak. At this point, the Bear Island rock art is hypothetically attributed the Kachemak Tradition (about 1000 BC – AD 600 to 1000 in the Kenai Peninsula).

Further field work is planned this year at Bear Island, including an additional photographic recording of the decorated rock wall, a photogrammetric recording, a topographic survey and the excavation of a test pit (a Prehistoric midden was discovered at the site by Frederica de Laguna).

Recent News

Collaborating Cross-culturally to Improve Alaska Native Health and Well-being--Jean E. Balestrery

Dementia is on the rise around the world, and health organizations in Canada and the United States are responding to the urgent need—voiced by communities and practitioners—for guidance on how best to address memory loss in Indigenous communities. Eliminating associated health disparities in Alaska's Indigenous populations is a related priority. These disparities are typically addressed through Alaska's conventional health and social service organizations, whose health care delivery system can create cultural disjuncture based on "rhetorical ruptures—gaps between the rhetoric of care service provided and Alaska Native cultural communication practices." (Balestrery 2014) Collaborating across cultural differences is key to eliminating these disparities.

An example of effective collaboration between two women from different worlds is illustrated in the teaching story, "A Fecund Frontier: We listen...in between talk...We listen...", that highlights "story-telling as medicine" (Hulko, Balestrery & Wilson 2019) in the book *Indigenous Peoples and Dementia: Memory Loss and Memory Care* published by UBC Press earlier this year (2019). Collaborating across the urban-rural divide in Alaska, these women show that listening can be transformative and healing.

The basis for this teaching story extended over many

years between an Alaska Native Iñupiat Elder, originally from Cape Prince of Wales, a remote rural Alaska village, and a woman (Balestrery) among the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer (LGBTQ) community from the Lower-48 with childhood roots in São Paulo, Brazil. These women met as social workers and later continued together in research based on extensive ethnography, older adult participatory action research, community engaged research, and relational research approaches. The Iñupiat Elder participated as an Elder cultural consultant and received compensation as a co-researcher through research study funding sources. During an anthropology and gerontology academic conference, an attendee noted that researchers were very impressed with this cross-cultural collaboration, explaining, "It is the exact opposite of helicopter research and what we are all striving to work toward as a model—but we wonder how it could ever be replicated?" The Iñupiat Elder responded, "Well, why not? We're doing it, aren't we?"

She also said, "I think what's happening here is really great. When I was growing up, I never heard about this dementia. We didn't have a word for it in my Inupiaq language. It's a problem, though, so we need to deal with it, but just like everything else, we need to do it slowly, otherwise it will be retraumatizing."



Collaborators Sophie "Egeelana Tungwenuk"

Nothstine (left) and Jean E. Balestrery (right).

Photo courtesy of Jean Balestrery.

Further information is available via a National Association of Social Workers Social Work Talks Podcast, *Indigenous Peoples and Dementia*

For additional information, contact Jean E. Balestrery by email (jbalestrery@gmail.com) or by phone: 612-308-4234.

Recent News

Archaeological Field School: Shaw Creek

May 11 – June 13, 2020

ANTH F490 – (6 credits) – no prerequisites



Learn to excavate, identify, and interpret the past among the oldest sites in Alaska! Students will gain experience using state-of-the-art excavation techniques including total station 3D mapping. Be prepared for plenty of off-the-grid backwoods hiking and camping in the Shaw Creek region near Delta Junction, Alaska. The periods of occupation for these sites range from 14,200 cal BP to 1915 AD.

Topics Covered:

Ethnoarchaeology
Geoarchaeology
Ecological Archaeology
Lithic Analysis
Zooarchaeology
...and much more!



TUITION AND FEES: \$3407

Includes field trip fee, upper level tuition, food, transportation from UAF to site and lodging.

Application and non-refundable deposit of \$300 due by April 1st.

For more information contact Gerad Smith at gmsmith2@alaska.edu or the UAF Department of Anthropology at uaf-anthropology@alaska.edu.
<https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/uaf-swan-point-field-school/home>



The Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has offered archaeological field schools spanning almost two decades in the central Tanana River Valley. Currently, our focus is on excavating and interpreting prehistoric residential features that span the past 2,000 years. Our previous field schools have brought together undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world to learn fundamental field methods pertaining to:

- Lithic Analysis
- Faunal Analysis
- Ethnoarchaeology
- Geoarchaeology
- Ecological Archaeology
- and much more!

The focus of the current field school (6credits) will be to explore archaeological components associated with these horizons in the surrounding Shaw Creek flats. This is a great opportunity for field school students to participate in the excavation of an important North American site and will provide experience with cutting edge archaeological equipment and methodology that will provide valuable training for their professional future. Additional field trips will be taken to other important cultural sites throughout the Interior every Sunday. The Pickupsticks Site dates to ~1000 cal BP, representing a residence feature at a critical juncture of cultural change in the Alaskan Interior.

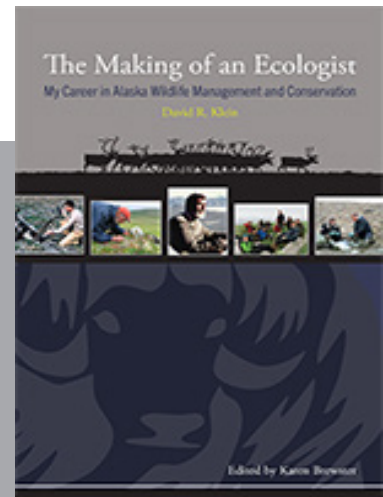
Recent Literature

The Making of an Ecologist

This book "The Making of an Ecologist: My Career in Alaska Wildlife Management and Conservation" by David R. Klein and edited by Karen Brewster is an innovative and collaborative life history of one of Alaska's pioneering wildlife biologists. David R. Klein has been a leader in promoting habitat studies across wildlife research in Alaska, and this is his first-hand account of how science and biological fieldwork has been carried out in Alaska in the last sixty years. This book tells the stories of how Klein did his science and the inspiration behind the research, while exposing the thinking that underlies particular scientific theories. The first portion of the book is comprised of stories from Klein's life collected during oral history interviews, while the latter section contains essays written by Klein about philosophical topics of importance to him, such as eco-philosophy, the definition of wilderness, and the morality of hunting.

David R. Klein is professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He was leader of the Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks from 1962 until 1991, and then a senior scientist with the unit until his retirement in 1997. Karen Brewster is a research associate with the Oral History Program at the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

This book fits with anthropology as Klein not only explored biology and ecology in his career, but also the human uses of species and human impacts on the environment. Also, as a work of oral history it falls under the guise of anthropological research and methodology. I am sure that there is an audience for this book within the Alaska anthropological community.



Kerry D. Feldman Book Review of "Living on thin ice: the Gwich'in Natives of Alaska"

Kerry D. Feldman published a requested review in the 08 November 2019 volume of the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He reviewed a book about the the Gwich'in of Alaska by Steven C. Dinero.

Dinero, Steven C. Living on thin ice: the Gwich'in Natives of Alaska. 201 pp., maps, tables, illus., bibliogr. Oxford, New York: Berghahn Books, 2016. £60.00 (cloth)

The review begins: "This engaging monograph is a tightly written, balanced, and timely narrative about the indigenous people of Arctic Village, Alaska (pop. less than 300), and some of the nearby related eight communities in northern Alaska, plus an associated community across the border in Canada...."

Book Review. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 25(4):834-835.

Remembrances- Alan Boraas



On Nov. 4, 2019, Kenai Peninsula College's (KPC) longest-serving professor, Alan Boraas, professor of anthropology, passed away peacefully with family at his side in Anchorage.

Boraas first came to Alaska as a young graduate student to pursue his master's degree in anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, although he ended up finishing his master's program at the University of Toronto. Originally from Minnesota, Boraas had an affinity for the outdoors and wilderness but had not quite

experienced as rugged a landscape as Alaska, and it captivated him. He left the state for a short stint, intending to complete a Ph.D. program, but made a split-second decision in a gas station parking lot along the Alcan Highway to return to the 49th state and make it his home.

In 1972, while working on a construction project, Boraas was approached by KPC's founding director, Clayton Brockel, who'd heard he was looking for a teaching position and offered him a job as a general education development instructor for a program through the Kenaitze Tribe. Over the next four years, Boraas worked closely with the Kenaitze Tribe and established a lifelong connection with tribal members. In 2000, at a Potlatch, he was awarded an honorary membership to the tribe.

From 1977-1981, Boraas took a brief break from teaching to open an anthropological consulting firm for two years and then earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Oregon State University in Corvallis. In 1976, Boraas returned to Alaska and KPC as an anthropology professor, teaching both lower and upper-division courses. In addition to his teaching career, Boraas was an avid researcher and contributed his expertise to numerous books, journals and articles, and was often asked to consult on various anthropological projects in Alaska and across the U.S. From 2001-2014, Boraas had a weekly opinion column in the Anchorage Daily News, and continued his weekly pieces when the newspaper changed hands as the Alaska Dispatch News in 2014 before retiring his column in 2017.

Boraas's career is extensive and he's been widely recognized in Alaska and across the nation for his contributions in anthropology, his volunteerism and community efforts. In 2009, the University of Alaska Foundation awarded him the Bullock Prize, and he has been recognized by KPC at their 2001 commencement ceremony as Faculty of the Year, in 2003 for his 30 years of teaching and in 2008 for 35 years of teaching. In 2009, the Kenai Chamber of Commerce awarded Boraas a Log Cabin Award of Lifetime Achievement, and he was recognized as an honorable mention for the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists' Praxis Award in 2009. In 2017, Boraas received a Paul Harris Award from the Soldotna Rotary Club.

Remembrances- Ronald Senungetuk

Artist Ronald Senungetuk of Homer died on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 after a long illness. He was born in 1933 in Kinigin, Wales, Alaska in a traditional sod house. He attended Mt. Edgecumbe School in Sitka. Ron Senungetuk was Inupiat, a sculptor, silversmith and wood carver of massive cultural influence as an artist, educator and mentor.

On a Fulbright scholarship in Oslo, Norway beginning in 1960 he both met his wife Turid and was offered and accepted a position at University of Alaska Fairbanks in the budding metalsmithing program.

In 1965, he joined the faculty as founding director of the UAF Native Arts Center and served as the head of the UAF Arts Department from 1977 until his retirement in 1986. He moved to Homer in 1998.

Homer artist Rika Mouw came to KBBI studios on Wednesday to remember Ron Senungetuk's art and legacy.

As a high school student at Mt. Edgecumbe, Ron met teacher George Fedoroff and learned wood carving, initially making bowls and trays. He went to Rochester Institute of Technology at the School of American Craft and furthered in wood carving and furniture making. Ron was drafted in the Army for 2 years during the Korean war and upon his return, there were no spaces left in the woodworking program at RIT, so he explored silversmithing and loved it which spurred an extraordinary period of metalsmithing.

Ron later returned his focus to woodworking, carving marvelous panels of traditionally inspired subjects in a truly contemporary expression. He was a meticulous carver and worked in a meticulous studio expressing animals, people, celebration, light, the ocean and pattern.

His work is in private collections all over the world. It is in the collections of the Museum of the North at UAF, the Anchorage Museum, State Museum, Pratt Museum and the Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

He has large 1% for art installations in Fairbanks, Kodiak and Golovin and was one of the original members of what is now called the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Their logo is his design.

Ron was a teacher, lecturer, curator mentor and international traveler. In 2008 The Rasmuson Foundation gave him a Distinguished Artist Award. In 2014 the AK State Council on the Arts awarded him a lifetime achievement award. He served on the boards of the Homer Foundation and Bunnell Street Arts Center.

In the past 20 years, I have had many, many stimulating conversations on art, travel, culture, politics, fishing with Ron. It is an honor and incredibly enriching to have watched Ron at work in his studio, admired and acquired his work, and learned



47th AkAA Annunal Meeting



Fairbanks, Alaska

Westmark
813 Noble Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

February 26-29th, 2020

Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, Feb 26: opening reception, ACZ workshop and registration

Thursday, Feb 27: sessions, workshops, luncheon and keynote address

Friday, Feb 28: sessions, workshops, banquet dinner and keynote address

Saturday, Feb 29: sessions, Belzoni Society meeting--at the Marlin

Extra Curricular Activities

The Archaeology of Skiing By Monty Rogers



Nordic Happy Hour
Sponsored by the Alaska Anthropological Association
and the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks



Extra Curricular Activities

Tour of Army Corps of Engineers Permafrost Tunnel

Bring your warm clothes

\$25 Tickets on Eventbrite Registration

Email Julie.esdale@colostate.edu if you are a non-US citizen.

Maximum 30 people

Pick up at 8:30am from the Westmark, return around 10:30am

Birch Hill Cross Country Ski Excursion

Pick up at 1pm from the Westmark, return around 4pm

Bring your ski clothes

\$25 with ski rental, \$free ticket without

Email Julie.esdale@colostate.edu if you would like to set up a lesson

Maximum 10 people



2019 Photograph Requests!

Show us what you've been working on this year! For the upcoming Annual Alaska Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, we are calling for field, laboratory, and other interesting photos of your work for a slideshow that will play in the background during the Opening Reception on the evening of February 26, 2020. Please send the photographs as a .jpeg and a brief caption to hilary_hilmer@nps.gov at your earliest convenience. Deadline for submissions is February 21, 2020.

Anthropology of Alaska, Two Minutes at A Time!

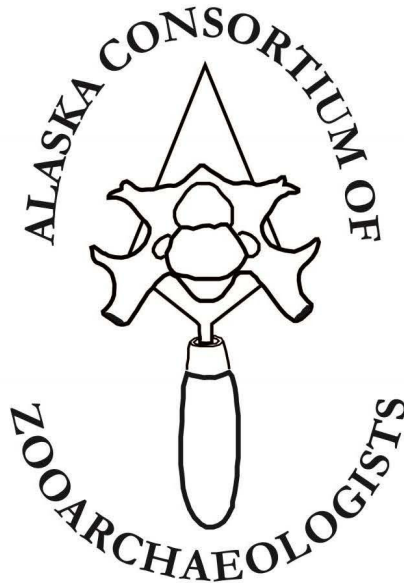
Back by popular demand, Anthropology of Alaska, Two Minutes at a Time will be happening at this year's opening reception on Wednesday, February 26! Share a project highlight, an amusing anecdote, or an interesting discovery related to your work in Alaska, all told beer in hand. Presentations must be under 2 minutes in length and contain 3 or fewer powerpoint slides. For more information or to sign up, contact Joshua.Lynch@colostate.edu



Full Figured Figurines--
Two Minute Talk by
Joshua Lynch

Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists 2020 Workshop

“Now What? – The Discovery of Skeletal Remains in a CRM Context”



Topic: This workshop will address the unanticipated discovery of human remains in a CRM context, what to do, and how to distinguish them from animal bones.

Where: Westmark Hotel at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, Room TBD

Registration: \$40 (regular), \$15 (student)

When: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Contacts: Ranna Wells, (516) 728-8513, alaskazooarch@gmail.com

Liz Ortiz, (907) 825-2324, alaskazooarch@gmail.com



Keynote Speakers

Lucheon--Princess Johnson

Neets'aii Gwichin; Creative Producer for PBS Kids' Molly of Denali

The Need for Indigenous Narrative Sovereignty



Dinner Banquet--Walkie & Billy Charles

Walkie Charles: Originally of Emmonok; associate professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

Billy Charles: Co-PI of the Qungasvik Project (among others) aiming for wellness in Yup'ik Communities

Defining Ethical Research
from a Local Perspective





47th AkAA Conference Sessions

Museums and Meaningful Consultation Panel

Organizer: Judith Ramos, Gail Dabaluz & Scott Shirar

Our panel presentation focuses upon how to foster meaningful tribal and museum consultation to implement the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Through our repatriation experience, we observe that effective repatriation programs have hallmarks including:

- A shared commitment to foster greater collaboration between museum personnel and Indigenous people regarding the management of scientific research and public programs related to Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Advocating for organizational practices that act in ways that go beyond the minimum requirements of the NAGPRA legislation.
- Establishing a long-term professional relationship that go beyond the successful repatriation claim.
- Each panelist will discuss their experience working on repatriation

CBPR is a methodological approach that includes community members in all aspects of the research. CBPR is purpose driven, designed to address a social injustice, development effort, or research question of

relevance and interest to the community. In the circumpolar North, CBPR has been focused on small, rural communities, usually with mostly or fully Indigenous populations, and research for whatever purpose relies on the local Indigenous knowledge to inform the research. A wide variety of topics are studied within CBPR efforts, including environment and climate change, economy, education, health, local cultural traditions, history (including local and ethno-history), and archaeology. The session presents place-based participatory and community-driven methods for recent projects in the circumpolar North, followed by a roundtable panel discussion on CBPR and related topics.

Community-Based Participatory Research in Alaska

Organizer: Dougless Skinner

Current Directions in Alaska Medical Anthropology

Organizer: Sally Carraher

Medical anthropology is a growing field within Alaska, as evidenced by the past decade of medical anthropological conference sessions at the aaa; an increasing number of medical anthropology faculty and students in Alaskan universities; and the different agencies that employ medical anthropologists. However, we are spread out across communities where we work and live, different types of employment, and across a wide array of research interests. To learn from and support each other, we invite paper submissions that will speak to the diverse current directions of research, pedagogy, and applied practice in this growing anthropological subfield in Alaska.



47th AkAA Conference Sessions

The Military in Alaska: World War II and Cold War Cultural Resources

Organizer: Kelly Eldrige,
Forrest Kranda &
Joseph Sparaga

Alaska has been shaped by military activities since the Treaty of Cession, and continues to be a significant national defense asset. Some of the most impactful events in recent history involve military expansion and operations during World War II and the Cold War. Military construction in Alaska modified landscapes, reshaped communities, and influenced modern military tactics, techniques, and procedures. Recent archaeological investigations of World War II and Cold War era sites can inform us about the experience of military personnel during deployment, as well as how local communities adapted to and continue to deal with the repercussions of military activity.

Undergraduate students play an important role in the production of anthropological knowledge. These students bring new energy and new ideas to enduring anthropological questions. While some students gain research skills and experience through course-related assignments, others embark on independent or collaborative projects with fellow students, faculty, and community members. This session presents innovations and experiences in current

Innovations and Experiences in Undergraduate Anthropological Research

Organizer: Elaine Drew

undergraduate anthropological research and creative activities, followed by a roundtable panel discussion on the transformative power of experiential learning.

Digital technology promises to reduce documentation time, improve accuracy, and provide data not otherwise

Assessment of Digital Technology in Alaska Field Archaeology

Organizer: Ted Parsons,
Ryan Harrod & Diane Hanson

available to archaeologists. Most technology is developed in temperate or controlled environments. Alaska provides variables that might not be considered during the development of some of the techniques. These might include traveling to remote locations necessitating gear weight or space limit considerations, frozen ground, extreme weather, and the lack of electricity to charge batteries or generate the power required for some equipment. Participants in this session will present their assessment of some of the many digital aids designed for field archaeology, but under Alaska or Arctic/Sub-Arctic conditions.



47th AkAA Conference Sessions

Recent Archaeological Research of the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago

Organizer: Sam Coffman & Linda Chrisholm

The Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago combine for over 35,000 sq mi (~91500 sq km) of land that extends southwest from mainland Alaska. The Peninsula serves as a natural boundary, separating the Pacific Ocean from Bristol Bay and Bering Sea. Archaeological and cultural records of the area are complex and largely unknown, with much of our understanding of the Native Alaskan populations based on historical accounts. Large scale archaeological survey and excavations in the twentieth century have led to clarity in some areas helping understand the complexity and interconnectedness of the natural and cultural histories in some parts of the region, whereas other regions remain understudied. More recent studies have begun increasing our knowledge of human lifeways, trade networks, and resource planning. This session is meant to grow our increasing knowledge and understanding of the cultural record of the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago

The National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office, in partnership with the Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology, has commissioned a new National Historic Landmark (NHL) theme study as part of its Earliest Americans in Alaska project. This study will identify elements of past and present research about the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene in Alaska as they relate to specific sites vital to the nation's cultural heritage. Themes will include the place of Alaskan sites in research about human migrations into the New World, and subsequent adaptation of early Alaskans to changing paleoenvironments. The study will incorporate emerging research on paleogeography and paleogenetics, and scholarly debate surrounding the routes and timing of population movements. This project will include an NHL nomination for the Upward Sun River site, an early archaeological site of great national importance. Comments by discussants and attendees will help guide formulation of this project.

The Early Peopling of Alaska in Connection with the Earliest Americans National Historic Landmark Theme Study

Organizer: Richard Vanderhoek and Rhea Hood



47th AkAA Conference Sessions

Learning to Replicate Past Practices, Replicating Past Practices to Learn: Experimental Approaches and New Techniques in Alaskan Archaeology

Organizer: Marine Vanlandeghem &
Caitlin Holloway

This session seeks to bring together researchers working with experimental approaches to understand past lifeways and site formation processes. Topics can range from short to long term experiments, tests of new equipment, or application of new techniques or analyses within the field of archaeology. We encourage participation from multidisciplinary researchers focused on replication of past tool and weapon systems, food processing and butchery techniques, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, site formation and taphonomic processes, and incorporation of traditional knowledge systems in analyses and interpretation of the archaeological record.

The goal of this session is to stimulate interest in reconstructive and experimental archaeology and to discuss key issues in the design and implementation of experiments (protocols, replication and reconstruction, statistical analyses, etc.). Discussions will provide resources to help guide archaeologists considering new techniques and experimentation in their research in Alaska. Furthermore, we encourage inclusive conversations of research findings and needs, avenues for public outreach, and the co-production of knowledge in archaeology in Alaska.

Early Days in Large Project Archaeology in North Alaska

Organizer: Ken Pratt, Matt Ganley
& Julie Esdale

Large field projects in Alaska during the 1970s and early 1980s spawned a breed of archaeologists whose diverse accomplishments and sometimes bizarre behaviors are the stuff of legend in Alaska's anthropological community. To help preserve that rich history, selected members of the breed were invited to this session to share scholarly anecdotes, accounts of archaeological discoveries, favored stories and memories with a broader spectrum of colleagues. Designed to be informal and amusing, the session features open commentaries from not only the panelists but also a knowledgeable and mysterious discussant (or possibly two).



47th AkAA Conference Sessions

Placename and Language Research in Alaska

Organizer: Hannah Atkinson, Nicole Braem, Justin Junge, Marcy Okada & Jillian Richie

This session presents examples of recent placename and language research in Alaska with an emphasis on community driven or requested research. Presenters include local knowledge holders to northwest and northern Alaska as well as throughout the state. This session will also include a period of discussion of current needs, available assistance, and future direction of placename and language research to assist Alaskan Native communities and tribes.

General Session on Archaeology of the Yukon and Northern Interior Alaska

This session is a group of papers that focus on archaeological research within the Yukon and Northern Interior of Alaska.

General Session on Aleutian Archaeology

This session is a group of papers that focus on archaeological research within the Aleutian and southern Bering Sea region.

General Session on Alaskan Archaeology

This general session is a group of papers that focus on archaeological research within Alaska

General Session on Alaskan Anthropology and Ethnography

This general session is a group of papers that focus on anthropological and ethnographic research within Alaska.