

AkAA 48th Annual Meeting
Academic Support & Success / Career Development Workshop

Work opportunities in Alaska

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Work Opportunities in Alaska

- Introduction to ourselves
- Work and Training Opportunities in the state
 - Work, Work, Work, Work, Work, Work
 - The Alaskan Hiring Cycle
 - What employers are looking for
 - Where to look
 - Volunteer/Internship Opportunities
 - Field Schools
- Learn from our mistakes (and occasional successes)



Introductions to ourselves

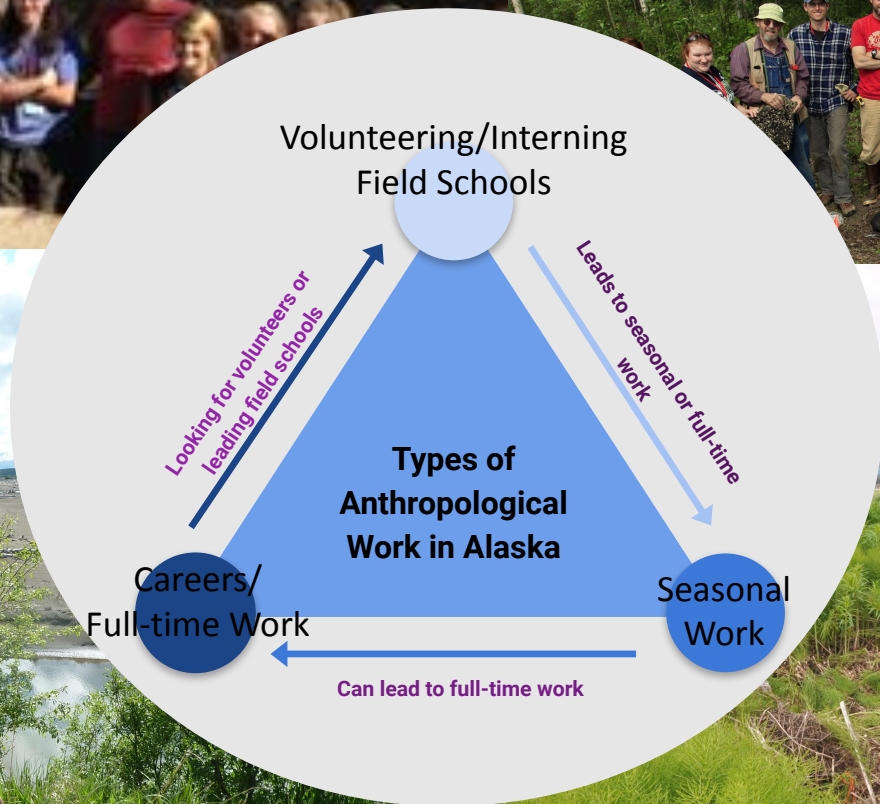
- I'm Joshua Lynch!
- I've worked in archaeology in Alaska for more than 10 years
 - As grad student working in academic archaeology and associated field schools
 - As a hybrid seasonal worker on research projects and in Cultural Resource Management in interior Alaska
 - As a full-time archaeologist with the Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands, CSU
 - As Assistant professor at Arkansas Tech University





Introductions to ourselves cont.

- I'm Sam Coffman!
- I've been practicing archaeology in Alaska for more than 15 years
 - I have worked as an undergrad student working in academic archaeology and associated field schools
- As a seasonal worker on research projects for Federal Agencies and local governments
 - Currently as a full-time researcher and archaeologist with the UA Museum of the North



The Alaskan Hiring Cycle

- We reached out to several the largest employers in the state and one of the major points of agreement was that if you are looking for summer field work in May, you are probably already too late!
- Companies want to fill positions early with employees they can count on to commit!
- On-boarding and training often takes place before its it even possible to jump into fieldwork, so be prepared!





Field Schools

- COVID-19 has changed things!
- UAF is offering a 2021 fieldschool
- Other universities that usually offer field schools include:
 - University of Alaska Anchorage
 - Adelphi University
 - Texas A&M University
 - Paris 1 University / Nanterre University
- Make sure credits TRANSFER to your home university!
- Look into Financial Aid/Grants to attend - help reduce costs
- Use Professional Organizations or people in your own Dept. to ask questions about field schools
- Ask Questions and be your own advocate!

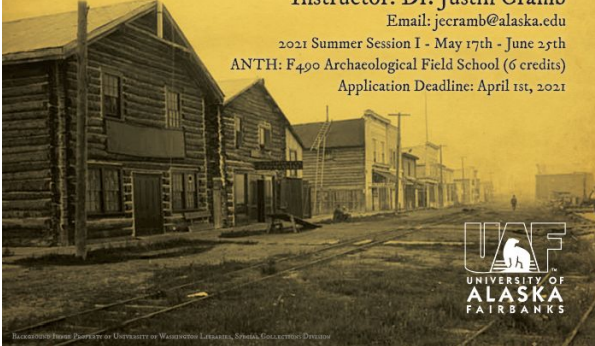
**UAF 2021 CHENA TOWNSITE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL**

Founded in 1902 on the north bank of the Tanana River, The Chena Townsite was a bustling goldrush town home to thousands of miners and settlers that flocked to the region in search of prosperity. Chena rivaled its close neighbor Fairbanks as the commercial center of mining operations in the Alaska Interior. The rivalry lasted only a few short decades, however, before Fairbanks emerged victorious. Chena became a ghost town by 1920 and was all but forgotten. Little remains of the once thriving town. In the past two decades however, archaeologists have mapped, surveyed, and begun to excavate parts of Chena in hopes of better understanding its birth and abandonment. This year we will continue this research by conducting archaeological survey and excavations at the site where Chena once stood.



The Chena Townsite is located just outside of Fairbanks, Alaska. Students will live in their own accommodations and report to the site daily. Students will provide their own lunches, but all tools and equipment will be provided. Participants will learn the fundamental skills of archaeological fieldwork while excavating and documenting historic structures and artifacts. They will examine artifacts, botanical, sediments, and faunal materials to learn analytical techniques while providing insight into the lives of the traders, miners, and other members of this short-lived historic community.

Instructor: Dr. Justin Cramb
Email: jccramb@alaska.edu
2021 Summer Session I - May 17th - June 3rd
ANTH: F490 Archaeological Field School (6 credits)
Application Deadline: April 1st, 2021



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FAIRBANKS

Volunteer/Internship Opportunities

Alaska Office of History and Archaeology

Forest Service - Passport in Time

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): www.volunteer.gov OR [contact local office](#)

National Association for the Practice of Anthropology: <https://www.practicinganthropology.org/discover/volunteer/>

Museums Alaska

Voluntouring.org/tag/anthropology

National Park Service

Job Fair Tomorrow!!

The screenshot shows the website for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archaeology. The header includes the department's name and a search bar. The main navigation bar lists: OHA HOME, PROGRAMS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OHA NEWS, ABOUT US, and FREQUENTLY USED. Below this, a sub-header reads "Parks Home / Office of History and Archaeology / Archaeological Survey". The main heading is "Archaeological Survey Unit". Under "Services", it describes the unit's work in conducting archaeological and historical investigations in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies. A photo shows people working at an archaeological site, with a caption: "Bulken Mammoth Archaeological Dig ca. 1990". A text block states: "If you or your program are interested in these research services, please contact us with a brief description, timeline, and any other pertinent information." Below that, it lists examples of projects: survey of state land before disposal; cultural resources survey, excavation, and interpretive mitigation before development; historic context development and research; building surveys; and cultural resource management plans. A red box highlights the "Internship Opportunities" section, which states: "For some projects, seasonal volunteers are recruited under the state's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program, available to U.S. citizens. Additionally, Alaska residents may apply for a limited number of seasonal College Intern and Alaska Conservation Corps positions." At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the "Mission Statement" and "Office of History & Archaeology".

The screenshot shows the National Park Service Archaeology Program website. The header includes the National Park Service logo and the text "National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior". The main heading is "Archeology Program". Below this, there are three columns: "explore" (research in the parks, visit archeology, discover archeology, national archeology day, news & links), "learn" (distance learning for kids, learn), and "participate" (volunteer opportunities, events in your state, amateur certification, caring for sites). At the bottom, there is a section for "public benefits of archeology" with a photo of green donuts. The footer includes links: DDI, Discover History, Search, Contact, FOIA, Privacy, Disclaimer, and USA.gov. A small text at the bottom right says "Last updated: 02/13/2012 13:43:40 HST/ETA".

The screenshot shows the Passport in Time website. The header includes the National Park Service logo and the text "Passport in Time U.S. Department of the Interior". The main heading is "Passport in Time". Below this, there are several tabs: Home, About, Current Projects, Previous Projects, PIT Honor Roll, PIT Highlights, Announcements, and Contact. The main content area has a large heading "Welcome to Passport in Time!" and a quote: "The goal of PIT is to preserve the nation's past with the help of the public. As a PIT volunteer, you contribute to vital environmental and historical research on public lands. Your participation helps us not only to protect and conserve the sites, memories, and objects that chronicle our collective past, but also to understand the human story in North America and ensure that story is told to our children and grandchildren. We cannot do it without you!" Below the quote, it says "Will Reed PIT National Coordinator U.S. Forest Service".

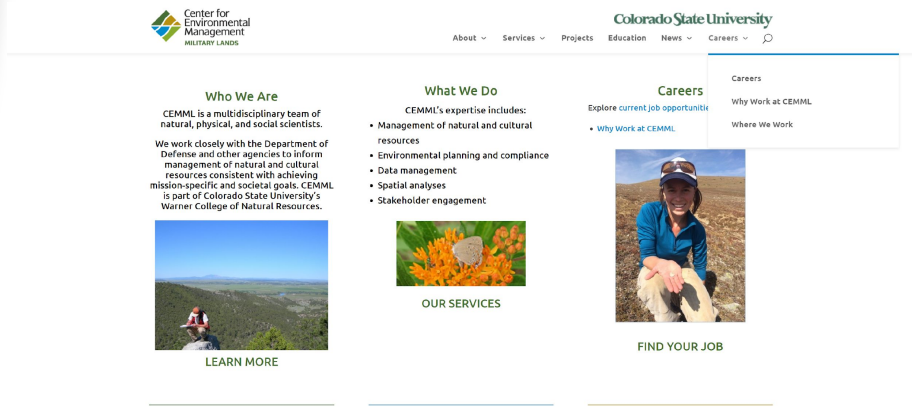
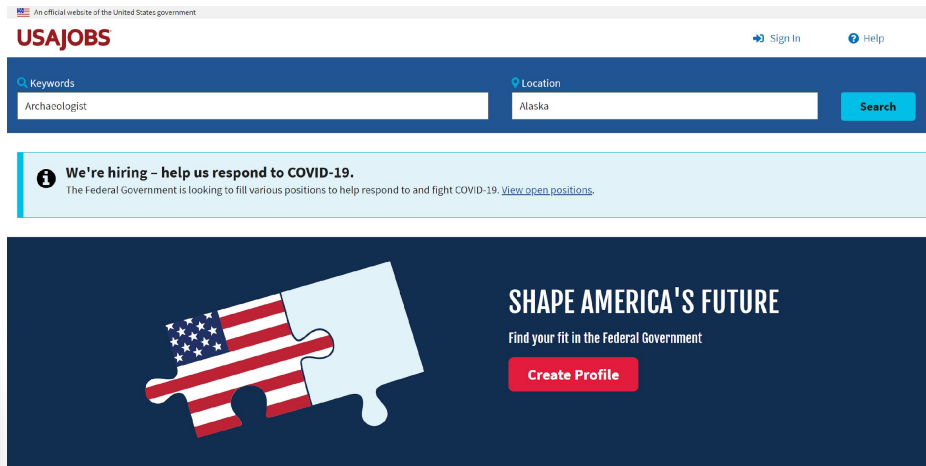


Types of Work Available in Alaska – **Seasonal Field Technicians**

- The **most hired** positions across the spectrum are **seasonal field technicians** employed to conduct archaeological surveys, site evaluations, and excavations
 - Often filled by those with BA degrees and a field school or other field methods training
 - Technicians are generally hired for 3-4 months during the field season and are expected to work full time (and often more) schedules that can be highly irregular
 - Some seasonal technician positions are suitable for daily commuting, but many require extended periods of remote work
 - Employees are often expected to provide their own accommodations between projects which can present logistical challenges

Where to look for Seasonal or Full time work in Alaska?

- Cultural Resource Management and Government Agency employers advertise positions in many of the same places!
 - Keep your eye on employment websites in the early spring:
 - Usajobs.gov
 - Shovelbums.org
 - Indeed.com
 - Local CRM firms
 - Native Corporations
- Go to the sources! Seek out agencies and companies you would like to work with and make inquiries!
 - For example: Cemml.colostate.edu
- Watch for announcements disseminated through your department or posted online through REGIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS (wink, wink)
 - Access to this information is a perk of membership – use it!



Lessons Learned

- Flexibility is key – getting your foot in the door is half the battle and sometimes those experiences take some work around
- Lean into Professionalism from Day 1
- In transitioning from seasonal to full time work – apply for everything
 - Put in dozens of applications in the year leading up gradation to only get two interviews



Lessons Learned Cont.

- Being flexible is key – there are so many “what if’s” and variables in Alaska
 - A matter of choice - if you can pick projects that feed you and/or are gone for long durations.
- Use your professional contacts and reach out to people.
 - Word of mouth goes a long way
 - Advocate for yourself
- The rewards are worth it!





Thank you!

Questions, Comments?