

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

52nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

Alaska Anthropological Association

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MARCH 12 -15, 2025



Artwork by Evelyn Combs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recognition

The Alaska Anthropology Association 52nd Annual meeting is being held on unceded Dena'ina lands. The meetings include research conducted on the traditional lands of Indigenous cultures across Alaska and the Circumpolar North. We thank the Indigenous communities, research partners, elders, and subject matter experts who are integral to sustainable and holistic research perspectives, but also recognize the historical and ongoing legacies of colonialism. Our organization is committed to anti-colonial and anti-racist practices in Anthropology, and we encourage our members to make these same commitments in their professional endeavors.



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Vendors

Aaka's Place

Iñupiat doughnuts

Art by Sorto

Art prints, t-shirts, original screen-printed designs, and hand-knit/crochet items

<https://www.artbysorto.com/>

Chloe Bourdukofsky-Price

Earrings of beads, fur, gut, and hide

<https://www.gaadax.com/>

DallasJeanne

Original art merchandise, featuring: stickers, 8x10 prints, memory games, playing cards, greeting cards

Damize Arthur Kompkoff

Alutiiq ivory carver and jewelry making

Dink Tieva Made and Spooky Souls Studio

Qaspeqs and beaded earrings

Edwin Mighell

Alaska themed tiles made from Anchorage mudflats clay

<https://alaska-native-tile.com/>

Eileen & Abraham George

Ivory and bone earrings, bracelets necklaces; cups, fur, books and CDs

Enchanted Treasurers

Bead Art

Hooked On Yarn Alaska

Crochet wearables & plushies

Huckleberry Haus Crafts &

Desserts

epoxy resin jewelry (pressed flowers) and crafts, and sweets, cupcakes, mini cakes, and cookies

https://www.instagram.com/huckleberryhaus907?igsh=ZXk1ZTBzNTJzM3U5&utm_source=qr

Joy Boston

Beaded jewelry earrings,

bracelets, and rings

Kathy Vickers

Dolls, fur earrings

Kay Wilson

Bead artist, lanyards and keychains, beaded jewelry

M5's Kitchen

Homemade bread, grass-fed butters

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566306015142>

Manifest Native Creations

Native Alaska crafts and jewelry using leather, bone, horn, and fossilized ivory; Alaska themed tote bags; baby moccasins

Martha Anelon

Rhinestone water bottles and pens, and beaded earrings

Misbehaving Magpie

Hand-made jewelry, sculptural macramé, and original watercolor paintings

<https://www.instagram.com/misbehavingmagpie/>

Olia Sutton

Traditional seal skin ear rings, ivory ear rings, seal skin mittens, grass baskets, dance fans

Pattie Okeef

Rugs, quilts, stuffed animals, painted projects, dolls

Pauline Bayakok

Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, & lanyards

Princess Charming

Handcrafted jewelry

Shirley's Kids Kuspuks

Fleece kuspuks, knitted yarn socks, crocheted head bands, beaded earrings

The Trinket Box

Tumbler mugs, coffee cups, mouse pads and key chains

Book Sellers and Contractors

Alaska Native Language Center
(ANLC)
Lexington Press
Springer Press

University of Alaska Press
National Park Service
Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Anthropological Association

TN|SDS
true north sustainable development solutions

- Section 106 consultation
- Historic preservation plans
- Historic neighborhood surveys
- National register nominations
- Certified historic structure applications
- Historic structure reports
- Historic american buildings survey documentation
- Archaeological surveys
- Heritage tourism studies
- Rehabilitation plans
- Design guidelines

Contact us for job opportunities!



Robert Meinhardt, MA *Principal Consultant*

robert.meinhardt@truenorthsds.com | www.true-north.solutions | **907.841.4096**

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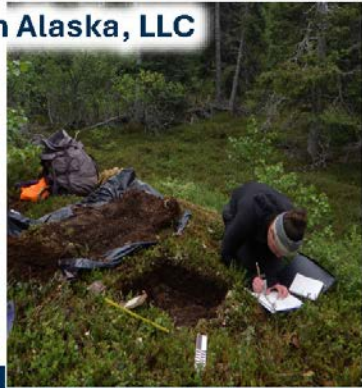
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Dedicated to:

- Responsible preservation and management of cultural resources
- Tribal, community, and agency collaboration
- Mentoring the next generation of Alaskan CRM professionals



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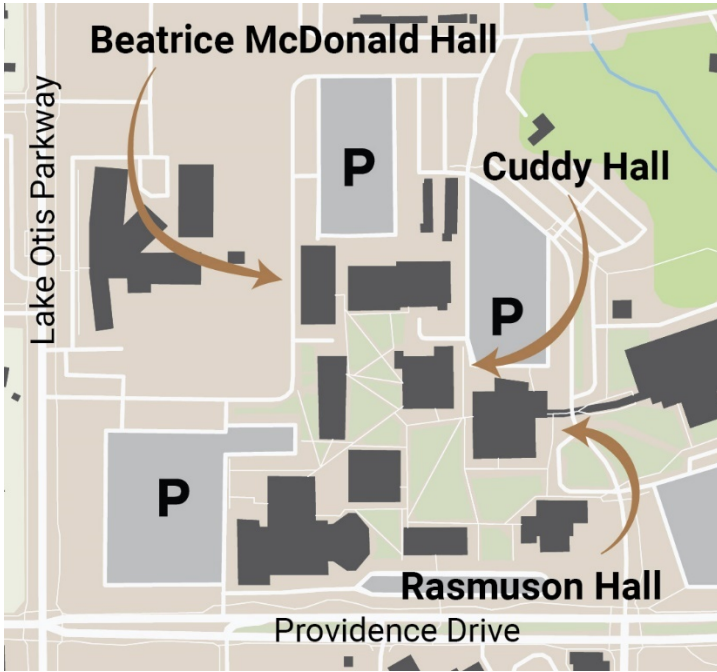


www.northernlanduse.com



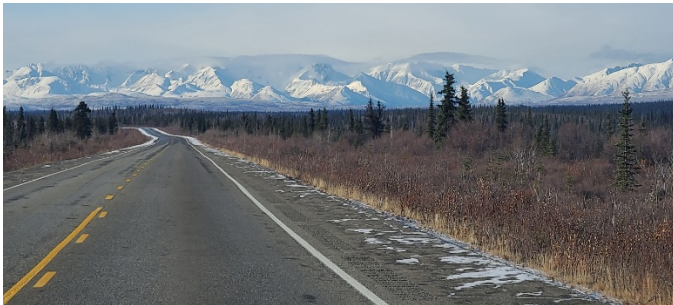
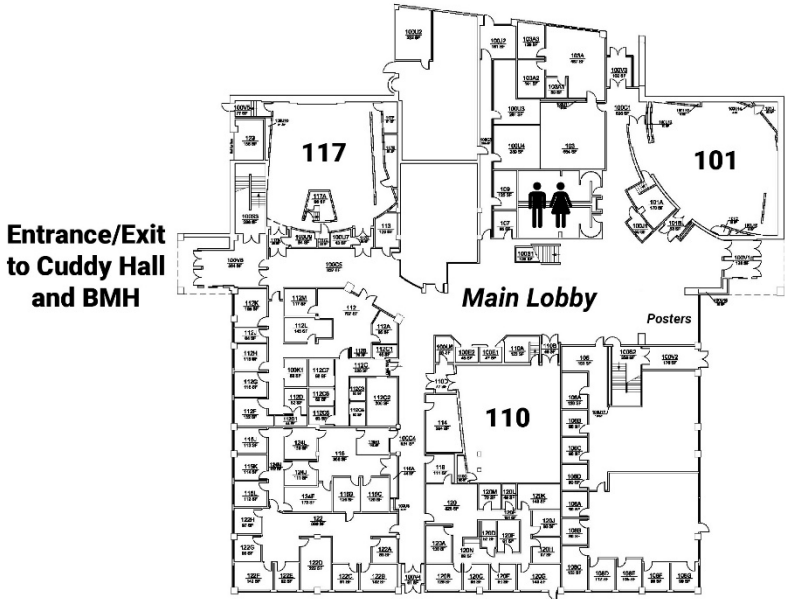
MAPS AND MEETING INFORMATION

University of Alaska Anchorage - Parking Map



University of Alaska Anchorage - Meeting Location

Rasmuson Hall



Meeting Information

The meeting registration and information desk is in the **Cuddy Hall** building. It will be during the opening reception March 12; Thursday, March 13th from 8:00 am- 5:00 pm; Friday, March 14th from 8:00 am- 5:00 pm; and Saturday, March 15th from 8:00 am- 12:00 n. On-site registration payments will be by check, credit card, or exact cash only.

The paper presentations will be in the **Rasmuson Hall** in either Room 101 (auditorium on the south side of the main lobby) or Room 101 on the east or “mountain-side” of the building near the exit. The posters will be in the corner of the lobby on the east side. Restrooms are between the two auditoriums.

The book room, vendor and contractors will be in the **Cuddy Hall**, a former cafeteria west (ocean-side) of the Rasmuson Hall. A list of book sellers, contractors, and vendors is provided in the program. There will be two lunch trucks in front of the Cuddy Hall on Thursday and Friday from 11:30am - 1pm and the tables and chairs are set up for you to use to eat your meal and check out the vendors. This is also where coffee and refreshments will be available during the day.

The Banquet (Friday evening) and the Luncheon (Saturday noon) will both be in the **Cuddy Hall**. For those that opted to not pay for the meal but still want to listen to our guest speakers, we will have chairs for you in the back.

Paper Presentations

Papers should not be longer than 15 minutes. There are 20-minute blocks scheduled for each paper, but that also allows for a question or two and time for the speakers to set up between papers. Please come well before your session begins to load your slides onto the laptop. Session chairs should bring a laptop for their session. The rooms have a podium and projector.

Paper Presentations

Posters are divided into Thursday and Friday sessions. Poster presenters have been sent instructions for their posters. Posters should be up by 9am. Push pins are provided and a small card with the first author’s name will be pinned on the board where your poster should be. If you choose to trade with someone that is presenting the same day as you, that is fine. Do not trade with someone scheduled for the other day, however. At least one

author will be at the poster between 1 - 2pm to speak with interested attendees. Posters will be removed at the end of the day (5pm).

Workshops

Workshops are all being held Wednesday (the flintknapping workshop is Tuesday and Wednesday) in the **Beatrice McDonald Hall**. Some workshops required registration to attend. There will be signs directing you to the proper workshop. These workshops are hosted by groups affiliated with the Alaska Anthropological Association through membership or more formally.

WiFi

Use the **UAA WiFi - Guest** network. According to UAA: "Anyone can use this network for basic internet access. This network has speed and security restrictions. You'll be redirected to a self-registration portal after opening a web browser to create your Guest account where your password will be emailed and texted to you. After signing in with your created account you'll be asked to agree to the terms and conditions, after which you'll have internet access."

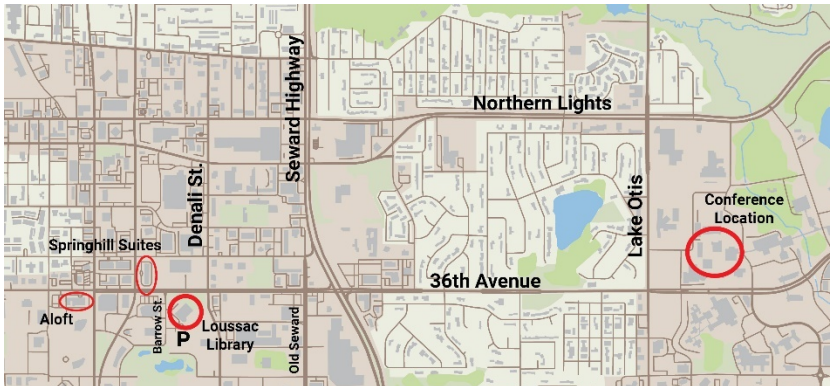
Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting will be held in **Rasmuson Hall**, Room 101, near the east entrance, on Thursday at 4:20pm until it concludes. The business meeting provides information about financial health, activities, election results, and where the conference is next year (or possibly even the year after!) Please come to find out more about the association and to share ideas you might have.

Public Presentations

There are two public presentations by our guest speakers at the **Wilda Marston Theater** on the ground floor, near the entrance of the Loussac Library in mid-town Anchorage (3600 Denali St, Anchorage, AK) near the corner of 36th Avenue and Denali Street.

This is within walking distance of the conference hotels. Iain McKechnie will speak Wednesday night at 6pm just before the Reception and Registration (*Ancient dogs raised for wool, weaving, and protection along the Pacific Northwest Coast*), and the Julia Christensen will speak Thursday night at 6pm (*Housing, Homelessness and Social Policy in Northern Canada*). Abstracts and details are provided in the program.



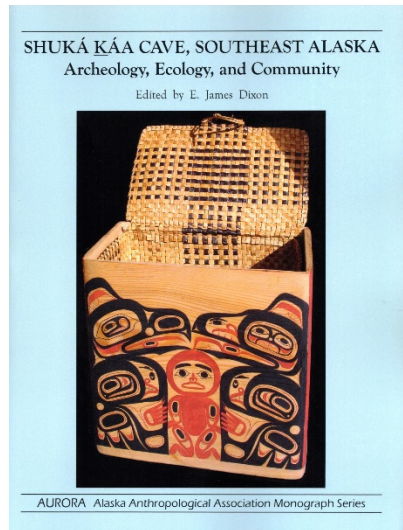
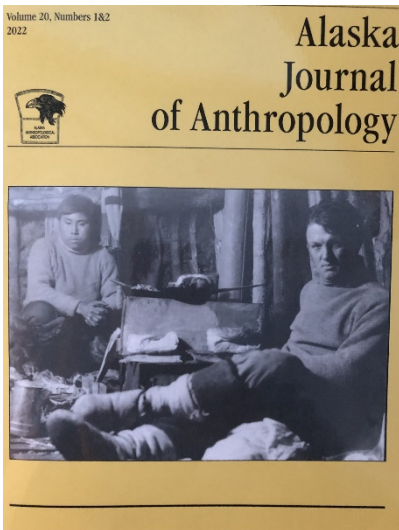
CONFERENCE EVENTS

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!



www.alaskaanthropology.org/membership

All members receive an annual subscription to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* and the Association's quarterly electronic newsletter. Additional benefits include discounted registration for the Annual Meeting, discounted prices on previous print editions of the *Aurora Monograph Series* and the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*, access to members-only content on the website, and voting privileges.



Opening Reception and Registration

Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Events Room at the Loussac Library (the room the Alaska Collection used to be house in). To get to the Events Room go to the third floor of the library, cross the sky bridge, and continue past the Ann Stevens room to the Rotunda. There are stairways to the bottom floor.

Join us to celebrate the opening of the conference. People are invited to attend the first public talk open to both conference members and the public.

The reception is catered by Turkish Delight.

First Public Talk / Banquet and Awards

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Iain McKechnie (Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC)

Wednesday, March 12, 6:00-7:00 pm Wilda Marston Theater, Loussac Library
“Hunting for Fur, Hair, Pelts, and Textiles across four corners of the Pacific Northwest Coast.”

Friday, March 14, 6:00-9:00 pm, Cuddy Hall
“Ancient Dogs Raised for Wool, Weaving, and Protection along the Pacific Northwest Coast.”



Dr. McKechnie is a coastal archaeologist. His research considers how archaeological records of Indigenous hunting and fishing traditions expand perspective on coastal ecosystems and resource management and conservation.

Dr. McKechnie directs the Historical Ecology and Coastal Archaeology Lab as well as the UVic Zooarchaeology Lab and is involved in ongoing research with

Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, the Hakai Institute, Parks Canada, and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

Second Public Talk / Luncheon

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Julia Christensen (Department of Geography and Planning, Queens University, Kingston, ON)

Thursday, March 14, 6:00-7:00 pm, Wilda Marston Theater, Loussac Library
“Housing, Homelessness, and Social Policy in Northern Canada.”

Saturday, March 15, 12:00-1:30 pm, Cuddy Hall
“We Cannot Have Home without Self-Determination”: Housing, home, and Indigenous self-governance in Denendeh, Northwest Territories, Canada.”



Dr. Christensen is from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories and notes it is “my home, but it is not my homeland.”

Her upbringing in Yellowknife contributed to her interest in homes and homelessness in northern and Indigenous communities. She is also interested in the value of arts, storytelling, and creative writing in health.

She is presently the Project Director for At Home in the North, a consortium of university researchers, Indigenous, and northern community governments and organizations

developing solutions and tools to deal with housing crises in the north.

Belzoni Society

Saturday, March 15, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, The Blue Fox

Come join us for the unofficial finale of the annual Alaska Anthropological Association meeting on Saturday, March 15, at The Blue Fox (3461 E Tudor Road). For 44 years, the Belzoni Society has met at the end of every conference to celebrate, bond, and let off some steam! As always, there will be a sacred reading from the Diary of Belzoni, followed by the best awards ceremony of the year!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

	Tuesday BMH 124		Wednesday	
		Room: BMH 116	BMH 119	BMH 124
		8:20 AM		
		8:40 AM		
	Flintknapping Workshop 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 AM	Seal Bone Identification Workshop 9:00 am - 5:00pm	Flintknapping Workshop 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
		9:20 AM		
		9:40 AM		
		10:00 AM		
		10:20 AM		
		10:40 AM		
		11:00 AM		
		11:20 AM		
		11:40 AM		
		12:00 PM		
		12:20 PM		
		12:40 PM		
		1:00 PM		
		1:20 PM		
	1:40 PM	Office of History and Archaeology 1:30 - 3:00 PM		
	2:00 PM	AHRs Workshop		
	2:20 PM			
	2:40 PM			
	3:00 PM			
	3:20 PM			
	3:40 PM			
	4:00 PM			
	4:20 PM			
	4:40 PM			
	5:00 PM			
		6:00 PM	Wilda Marsten Theater, Ground Floor, Loussac Library Public talk by Iain McKechnie Ancient dogs raised for wool, weaving, and protection along the Pacific Northwest Coast 6-7pm	
		7:00 PM	Registration and Reception 4th Floor, Loussac Library Catered by Turkish Delight	

Thursday

Room	Auditorium 101 Rasmuson Hall	Auditorium 110 Rasmuson Hall	Rasmuson Hallway	Cuddy Hall
8:20 AM				
8:40 AM	SESSION 1 Anthropological Approaches to Subarctic	SESSION 2 Alaska Housing Design Storytelling 8:20am - 9:40 am		
9:00 AM	Anthropology 8:20am - 9:40 am			
9:20 AM				
9:40 AM				
10:00 AM	Break	Break		
10:20 AM	SESSION 1 Anthropological Approaches to Subarctic	SESSION 3 Alaska Anthropology 10:20 - 12n		
10:40 AM	Anthropology (continued) 10:20 - 12n			
11:00 AM				
11:20 AM				
11:40 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:20 PM				
12:40 PM	Lunch		Poster Session A 10 am -4pm presenters available 1-2pm	Book room and Vendors, Coffee, 10am - 4pm
1:00 PM	Food Trucks Papaya Tree & Yeti Dogs 11:30am - 1pm			
1:20 PM				
1:40 PM		SESSION 5 Indigenous Oral Narratives and Methodologies 1:40 - 3:00 pm		
2:00 PM	SESSION 4 Anthropological research in the Dená'ina Region 2:00 - 3:40 pm			
2:20 PM				
2:40 PM				
3:00 PM		SESSION 5 Indigenous Oral Narratives and Methodologies 3:20 - 4:20 pm		
3:20 PM				
3:40 PM				
4:00 PM				
4:20 PM	Business Meeting 4:20 - end			
4:40 PM				
5:00 PM				
6:00 PM	Wilda Marsten Theater, Ground Floor, Loussac Library Public talk by Julia Christensen Housing, Homelessness and Social Policy in Northern Canada 6-7pm			
7:00 PM				

Friday

Rooms:	Auditorium 101 Rasmuson Hall	Auditorium 110 Rasmuson Hall	Rasmuson Hallway	Cuddy Hall
8:20 AM				
8:40 AM				
9:00 AM	SESSION 6 Current Research in Aleutian Archaeology 8:20 - 10am	SESSION 7 Cultural Resource Management 8:40 - 10:20 am	Poster Session B 10 am -4pm presenters available 1-2pm	Book room and Vendors, Coffee, 10am - 4pm
9:20 AM				
9:40 AM				
10:00 AM	Break	Break		
10:20 AM				
10:40 AM				
11:00 AM	SESSION 6 Current Research in Aleutian Archaeology (continued) 10:20 am - 12:20 pm	SESSION 7 Cultural Resource Management (continued) 10:40 am - 12:00 n		
11:20 AM				
11:40 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:20 PM	Lunch			
12:40 PM	Food Trucks Papaya Tree & Trendy Eats 11:30 am - 1:00 pm			
1:00 PM				
1:20 PM				
1:40 PM				
2:00 PM	SESSION 8 Destination: Katmai 2:00 pm - 3:40 pm	SESSION 9 Public Community and Indigenous Engagement with the Past 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm		
2:20 PM				
2:40 PM		Break		
3:00 PM				
3:20 PM				
3:40 PM		SESSION 9 Public Community and Indigenous Engagement with the Past (continued) 3:40 - 5:00 pm		
4:00 PM				
4:20 PM				
4:40 PM				
5:00 PM				
6:00 PM	Banquet and Awards - Cuddy Hall 6pm - 9pm			
7:00 PM	Speaker: Iain McKechnie presents Hunting for Fur, Hair, Pelts, and Textiles across four corners of the Pacific Northwest Coast.			

Saturday

Rooms:	Auditorium	Cuddy Hall
8:20 AM	101 Rasmuson Hall	
8:40 AM		
9:00 AM	SESSION 10 Kodiak Archaeology 9:00 - 10:40 am	
9:20 AM		
9:40 AM		
10:00 AM		
10:20 AM		
10:40 AM		
	Break	
11:00 AM	SESSION 10 Kodiak Archaeology (continued) 11:00 am - 12 n	
11:20 AM		
11:40 AM		
12:00 PM		
12:20 PM	Luncheon in Cuddy Hall Julia Christensen "We cannot have home without self-determination": housing, home and Indigenous self-governance in Denendeh, Northwest Territories, Canada 12 n - 1:30 pm	
12:40 PM		
1:00 PM		
1:20 PM		
1:40 PM		
2:00 PM		
2:20 PM	SESSION 11 Insights from the Northwest Coast. 2:00 - 3:20 pm	
2:40 PM		
3:00 PM		
3:20 PM		
3:40 PM		
4:00 PM		
4:20 PM		
4:40 PM		
5:00 PM	Belzoni Meeting 5-7pm, The Blue Fox Cocktail Lounge 3461 E Tudor Rd	
6:00 PM		

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday Morning

WORKSHOP 1

Flintknapping Workshop - Guest Instructor Randy Tedor

Tuesday/Wednesday (March 11/12) 9:00am - 5:00pm, Room 124, Beatrice McDonald Hall

WORKSHOP 2

Seal Bone Identification Workshop - Guest Instructor Christyann Darwent

Wednesday (March 12) 9:00am - 5:00pm, Beatrice McDonald Hall, Room 119

Hosted by the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists (ACZ)

WORKSHOP 3

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) Workshop - Instructor Jeffrey Weinberger

1:30-3:00pm, Beatrice McDonald Hall, Room 116

Hosted by the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology

PANEL

Professional Transitions: Life After Graduation, Continuing Education, Employment, Fieldwork, and Perspectives; and Interdisciplinary Panel

9:00am-12:00 am, Beatrice McDonald Hall, Room 116

Hosted by University of Alaska Anchorage Anthropology Club.

Panelists: Ryan Harrod (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Geography, University of Alaska Anchorage), Petra Banks (Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks), and MaHogani Magnetik (Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks).

Break room will be in Beatrice McDonald Hall study area.

Wednesday Evening

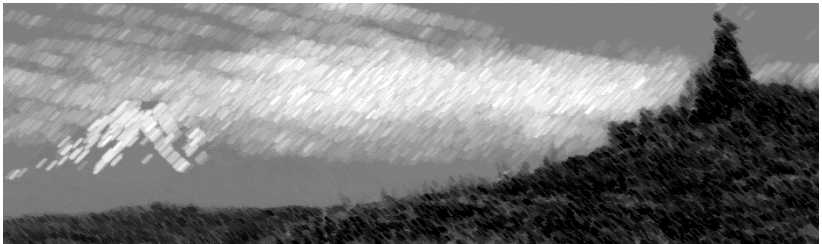
Public presentation by Dr. Iain McKechnie at the Wilda Marston Theater (Ground Floor), Loussac Library 6pm - 7pm

“Ancient dogs raised for Wool, Weaving, and Protection along the Pacific Northwest Coast.”

Indigenous peoples have an incredibly long history of raising and breeding domestic dogs in North America. This presentation considers archaeological records and anthropological accounts of dog husbandry along the Pacific Northwest Coast, from southeast Alaska to southern Oregon. I discuss zooarchaeological evidence for selective dog breeding and feeding practices and highlight the practice of producing ceremonially important woven textiles from ‘woolly’ dog hair.

Opening Reception and Registration

The reception is the official start of the 52nd annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. It will be held at the Learning Commons (4th Floor) of the Loussac Library start after the public presentation at 7pm and end at 9pm. The reception is catered by Turkish Delight.



THURSDAY

Thursday Morning

Session 1 - Anthropological Approaches to Subarctic Archaeology (Rasmuson Hall 101, 8:20am - 12n)

Chairs: Gerad Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage) and Ben Potter (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

This session focuses on recent research in the subarctic regions of Alaska and Canada. The session highlights new field research, techniques, technology, and theoretical insights into understanding the anthropogenic past.

8:20 am - Evelyn Combs (Healy Lake Village Council), Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.), and Crystal Glassburn (Healy Lake Village Council)

Equitable Peer Review, How Do We Encourage Inclusivity?

8:40 am - Brooke Fisher (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

Customary Trade and Barter along the Yukon River as Part of a Continuum of Exchange Practices

9:00 am - Evelyn Combs (Healy Lake Village Council) and Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.)

Where's the Beef?

9:20 am - Tammy Buonasera, Wyatt Rowe, Wei Liu, Alexis McKnight, and Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Preliminary Study on Use and Manufacture of Late Precontact Athabaskan Pottery

9:40 am - Arian S. Brown (University of Nevada Reno)

The Carpenter Site: A Student's Introduction to Archaeology through Salvage Work

10:00 am - BREAK, Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall

10:20 am - Ben A. Potter (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Mammoth hunting and the Peopling of Beringia and the Americas

10:40 am - Gerad M. Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Inventorizing the Material Culture of Shaw Creek, Tanana Valley, Alaska: What else is out there?

11:00 am - Heather Smith (Texas State University), Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.), Elaine Chu (Texas State University), Evelyn Combs (Healy Lake Village Council), Kelly Graf (University of Kansas), and Ted Goebel (University of Kansas)

Examining Variation in Chindadn Point Shape Using Elliptical Fourier Analysis

11:20 am - James Kari (Alaska Native Languages Center)
Time perspective argumentation and the Dene-Yeniseian Hypothesis (2024)

11:40 am - James Kari (Alaska Native Languages Center)
Summary of Eurasian Congress of Linguists Round-Table in Moscow

12:00 pm - Lunch, Food Trucks are available in front of the Cuddy Hall from 11:30 am - 1pm. Today we have Papaya Tree and Yeti Dogs. You may eat in the Cuddy Cafeteria. Next talks begin at 1:40 and 2:00pm.

Session 2 - Alaska Housing Design Storytelling (Rasmuson Hall 110, 8:20 - 10am)

Chairs: Todd Nicewonger (Virginia Tech.) and Stacey Fritz (Alaska Adaptable Housing LLC)

This session explores housing design storytelling in Alaska as both a framework and a practice to address housing insecurity in the North. The urgent need for accessible, healthy housing is widely acknowledged, with estimates indicating that construction must increase by 90% to address the severe overcrowding prevalent in many remote Alaska communities. These communities, often located off the road system, have historically received homes designed in the lower 48, with little consideration for ways of living or extreme weather conditions. Rising sea levels, flooding, rapid permafrost degradation, and erosion present formidable challenges for coastal and interior communities but focusing solely on disaster risk overlooks the resilience and ingenuity of communities that have thrived in these environments for thousands of years. Stories have the power to convey meaning on multiple levels, capturing complexity in ways that transcend both relational and analytical frameworks. By thinking about Alaska housing design through storytelling, we can extend this narrative power to a host of sociopolitical debates with real-life implications for Alaskans. This session invites researchers and practitioners to share stories highlighting innovative housing methodologies. Together, these stories will foster a dialogue that rethinks housing as a collaborative, situated, and adaptive practice.

8:20 am - Todd Nicewonger (Virginia Tech.)
Activating the Creative Power of Sharing Housing Design Stories in the North

8:40 am - Todd Nicewonger (Virginia Tech.) and Tracy Pleasant (City of Quinhagak)
Northerly Stories on Housing Design, Repair, and Maintenance

9:00 am - Meghan Holtan (University at Buffalo)
What good is energy efficiency? A circus arts residency as research method

- 9:20 am - Stacey Fritz and Ryan Tinsley (Alaska Adaptable Housing)
Yurts in the Arctic - A culturally-rich cold-climate building science story
- 9:40 am - Gundie Cloud and Todd Nicewonger (Virginia Tech.)
 Housing, Relocation Planning, and Mold Stories
- 10:00 am - BREAK, Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall**

Session 3 - Alaska Anthropology (Rasmuson Hall 110, 10:20 - 12 n)
 Chair: D. Roy Mitchell, IV

The four fields of anthropology are represented in this session on Alaska-focused research.

- 10:20 am - D. Roy Mitchell, IV
Recognizing 23 Alaska Native Languages: a brief overview of how we name and count Alaska's Indigenous Languages
- 10:40 am - Michael Iqyaġ Livingston (Alaska Pacific University & University of Alaska Anchorage)
Alaska's Flag designer Benny Benson: Victim of Crime?
- 11:00 am - Hiroko Ikuta (Kyushu University)
Maġlak: Gift-Exchange among Humans, Animals, and God in Kivgiq (Messenger Feast)
- 11: 20 am - Lucyna Książek (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland)
The Legacy of Ipiutak in Arctic Art Studies: A Comparative Perspective
- 11:40 am - Daniel Grafton (University of California, Santa Barbara), Amy Quandt (San Diego State University), and Vena Chu (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Arctic Cinematic Cartography
- 12:00 pm – Shawna Rider (Jacobs)
A History of Brooks Camp, Katmai National Park
- 12:20 pm - Lunch, Food Trucks are available in front of the Cuddy Hall from 11:30 am - 1pm. Today we have Papaya Tree and Yeti Dogs. You may eat in the Cuddy Cafeteria. Next talks begin at 1:40 and 2:00pm.**

Thursday Afternoon

Session 4 - Anthropological Research in the Dena'ina Region (Rasmuson Hall 101, 2:00 pm - 4:20 pm)

Chair: Margan Grover (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)

- 2:00 pm - Will D. Norton (University of Texas) and Kaylee A. Bearheart (Kenai Peninsula College)
Love in the Good Land: Dena'ina Q'ak'eli as Linguistic, Historical, and Emotional Record
- 2:20 pm - Margan Grover (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Liz Ortiz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Morgan Blanchard (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska), and John Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska)
JBER as a protected cultural landscape: An update
- 2:40 pm - Liz Ortiz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Margan Grover (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Angie Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), Morgan Blanchard (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska), and John Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska)
Do we have walkers or swimmers? and other questions we're asking the dirt on. Preliminary Results from ANC-00837
- 3:00 pm - Sean Teeter (HDR, Inc.) and Nancy Bigelow (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
The Chronology of KEN-00092, a Prehistoric Site Located Near the Confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers, Alaska
- 3:20 pm - Aidan Barlow-Diemer and Tamara Holman (HDR, Inc.)
Cultural Material of KEN-00215: Agate Stones and Mineral Pigment Processing within the Sqilantnu Archaeological District
- 3:40 pm end of session - the next event is the Business meeting in Room 101 at 4:20pm, then a public talk by Dr. Julia Christensen at 6pm at the Loussac Library, *Housing, Homelessness and Social Policy in Northern Canada***

Session 5 - Indigenous Oral Narratives and Methodologies (Rasmuson Hall 110, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Chair: Yoko Kugo (University of Alaska, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies)

This session invites students, researchers, and writers who engage with Indigenous oral narratives. The idea of the session originated from the recently taught class, *Indigenous Oral Narratives and Methodologies*, offered by the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies at UAF. This course examines oral narratives and methodologies using decolonial oral history approaches. The presenters will demonstrate how their journey (re-searching) of exploring written and verbal narratives from Indigenous perspectives expand in holistic ways, while engaging with storytellers and comprehending narrators' Indigenous worldviews. Our lessons continue.

1:45pm –Yoko Kugo - *Introduction*

2:00 pm - Lisa Pajot (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Travelling through Siberian Yupik and Unangas Oral Narratives

2:20 pm - Michael Koskey (University of Alaska, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies)

Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Rural Alaska: An Assessment of Current Trends with Recommendations

2:40 pm - MoHagani Magnetek (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Who Made the Gumbo: An Autoethnographic Exploration of African American Gastronomic Practices in the Alaska

3:00 pm - BREAK, Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall

3:20 pm - Itzel Zagal (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The impact of the exhibition "Abya Yala: Latino Indigenous Roots in Alaska" on Latinx identity in Anchorage, Alaska

3:40 pm - Gabriela Olmos Rosas (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

From the Ground Up: Latino Work, Identity, and Purpose in Alaska

4:00 pm - Discussion

4:00 pm end of session - the next event is the Business meeting in Room 101 at 4:20pm, then a public talk by Dr. Julia Christensen at 6pm at the Loussac Library, *Housing, Homelessness and Social Policy in Northern Canada*

Thursday Posters

Thursday Posters (on display in Rasmuson Hall, 10am - 4pm).

Poster presenters will be available from 1 - 2pm, during the lunch hour.

Brooks Lawler (MS Eielson AFB)

Gray is Gold: Renovations to a Cultural Resource Program Using Gray Literature

Caroline Metcalf and Catherine West (Boston University)

Where Two Lives Become Intertwined

Catherine West (Boston University), Hanna Agasuuq Sholl (Alutiiq Museum), Courtney Hofman (University of Oklahoma), and Peter Sudmant (University of California Berkeley)

Coloring Iqalluut

Jessica Buckley and Catherine West (Boston University)

Ancestral Subsistence on Chirikof Island: Shellfish Analysis

H. Mackay (Durham University), A.C.G Henderson (Newcastle University), I.D. Bull (University of Bristol), H.L. Whelton (University of Bristol), N.H. Bigelow (University of Alaska Fairbanks), M.E. Edwards (University of Southampton), J.D. Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks), B.A. Potter (University of Alaska Fairbanks, E.A. Baldwin (Durham University), , R. Mayfield (University of Nottingham), K.L. Davies (Bath Spa University), and M. van Hardenbroek (Newcastle University)

Evaluating the potential and challenges of lacustrine faecal lipid biomarkers for tracing human presence in Alaskan landscapes

Megan A. Partlow (Central Washington University)

Vertebrate Remains from 2020 Test Excavations of Mangartuliq (KOD-1362)

Megan Behnke, Memphis Hill, Brandi Kamermans, Richard Lader Jr, Eduard Zdor, Erica Hill, Larry Hinzman, and Jeffrey Libby (University of Alaska) *Arctic Leadership Initiative*

Morgan R. Blanchard and John R. Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

Testing Some Methods for Removing Rust from Cans and Other Ferrous Artifacts

Roxanna J. King, Shannon Medlock, J Bruce Crow, Erika Holden, Elena N. Kuo, Melissa Merrick, Troy Wolcuff, Kiatcha Palmer, Julie Richards, and Jennifer Shaw (Southcentral Foundation; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Center for Alaska Native Health Research; Kaiser Permanent Washington Health Research Institute)

Emerging Themes on Firearm Suicide Prevention in an Alaska Tribal Health Setting

- Sasha Addison and Diane Hirshberg (University of Alaska Anchorage)
2024 Convening on Outmigration: ISER, AFN, FAI, and Representative Peltola's Office
- Savannah Hay, Kristine G. Beaty, Kale Bruner, Justin Tackney, Christopher Barrett, Ruairidh Macleod, Mark Thomas, Dennis O'Rourke, Jennifer Raff (Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas; Museum of the Aleutians; Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London)
New Paleogenomic Data from the Central and Western Aleutian Islands
- Steve Lanford (Bureau of Land Management)
Gilt Edge Brand: A Second Tall-Square Butter Can
- Blog Root (University of Alaska Fairbanks and National Park Service)
Ecological Grief and Loss of Lands in Indigenous Communities

Thursday Evening

Business meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association

4:20 pm until completed, Beatrice McDonald Hall, Room 101

Members are encouraged to attend

Public presentation by Dr. Julia Christensen at the Wilda Marston Theater (Ground Floor), Loussac Library 6pm - 7pm

“Housing, Homelessness and Social Policy in Northern Canada.”

Market housing has long been promoted as the end goal of housing in northern Canada. However, in a housing landscape where the public sector is the primary housing provider, the narrow focus on market tools for solving the housing crisis has only perpetuated problems of chronic housing need. Crisis is evident across the housing spectrum, with a growing number of northerners relying upon emergency shelters or transitional housing for long-term stays due to a dearth of accessible, affordable and supportive housing options.

Indigenous self-governments and the non-profit sector are actively engaged in attempting to alleviate housing need through community-led measures that respond to cultural needs and contextual realities. As part of the northern housing university-community partnership I lead, At Home in the North, we have developed a Northern Housing Ecosystem approach to understanding challenges and opportunities with respect to northern housing. In this public talk, I draw on the Northern Housing Ecosystem to suggest that the only sustainable way out of the northern housing crisis is one that places a sense of home as the end goal of housing policy in the North. To do so necessitates an intergovernmental, interagency approach to address diverse housing needs by centering community-identified housing priorities and responding to the realities of the northern housing landscape.

FRIDAY

Friday Morning

Session 6 - Current Research in Aleutian Archaeology (Rasmuson Hall 101, 8:20 am - 12:20 pm)

Chair: Ariel Tavalkoski (University of Alaska Anchorage)

The 69 islands of the Aleutian archipelago stretch over 6,800 miles and were occupied by the ancestral Unangaꝰ for over 9000 years. Archaeology along the chain has been sporadic both spatially and temporally. Recent research projects have broadened our understanding of the dynamic and complex lifeways throughout the archipelago. This session will highlight current research themes and projects within the Aleutian Islands.

8:40am - Aubrey Morrison (Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC.)

Memoriam for Hollis Reddington

8:50 am - Debra Corbett (Nanutset Heritage)

Bone Artifacts from XSI-007, Chernabura Island, Alaska

9:20 am - Aren M. Rosholt (DOWL)

Unangaꝰ Subsistence and Productivity in the Shumagin Islands: Zooarchaeological Analysis of XSI-00007, Chernabura Island, Alaska

9:40 am - Benjamin Miller, Emily Canessa, Yetrib Hathout, Laure Spake, Matthew Emery (University at Buffalo)

Investigating Unangaꝰ Whaling in the Aleutian Island Using Stable Isotopes, ZooMS, and Ancient DNA Techniques

10:00 am - Break Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall

10:20 am - Michael A. Etnier (University of Washington), Catherine F. West (Boston University), and Lillian D. Parker (University of Oklahoma)
Reassessment of ice-adapted taxa in Unalaska assemblages

10:40 am - Ariel Taivalkoski (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Avian Paleopathology from the Unalaska Sea Ice Project

11:00 am - Caroline Funk (University at Buffalo), Nicole Misarti (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Majolein Admiraal (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Lorrie D. Rea (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Julie P. Avery (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Wrapping up the Aleutian Mercury Dynamics (AMD) Project: mercury and the north Pacific food web in the past 5000 years

11:20 am - Jason Rogers (National Park Service) and Gerad Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage)

A Story of Three Boats: WWII Shipwrecks and Vessel Remains on Tanaga Island, Central Aleutians

- 11:40 am - Ben A. Potter (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Anna Berge (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Jason Rogers (National Park Service)
A Model of the Origins and Development of Unangam Tunuu (Aleut)
- 12:00 pm - Anna Berge (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
The Genesis of Unangam Tunuu (Aleut): Ancient Language Contact with Dene
- 12:20 pm - Lunch, Food Trucks are available in front of the Cuddy Hall from 11:30 am - 1pm. Today we have *Papaya Tree* and *Trendy Eats*. You may eat in the Cuddy Cafeteria. Next talks begin at 2:00pm.**

Session 7 - Cultural Resource Management (Rasmuson Hall 110, 9:00 am - 12:00 n)

Chair: Sarah Meitl (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)

- 8:40 am - Sarah Meitl (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)
Positioned for Change, A CRM Perspective
- 9:00 am - Ryo Kubota (Oita University, Japan)
A Profile of an Alaska Native Corporation — An Analysis of Annual Reports and the Reconstruction of Business History
- 9:20 am - Rita A. Miraglia (R.A. Miraglia Consulting Services)
When is a Picnic Really No Picnic?
- 9:40 am - Melissa Shaginoff (National Museum of the American Indian)
Tea with Collections
- 10:00 am - Lynn Walker (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
Constructing an Institutional Identity: Alaskan Museums and Semiotic Landscape Analysis
- 10:20 am - Break Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall**
- 10:40 am - Nick Schmuck (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)
The beginnings of a statewide predictive model for archaeological sensitivity
- 11:00 am - Toru Yamada (Meiji University)
Repatriating the Remains across the Pacific: Tokyo to Point Hope
- 11:20 am - Molly A Herron (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)
Zooarchaeological Collections, what are they, and how do we care for them? - Methods for Identifying and Preserving Fragmentary Collagenic Specimens
- 11:40 - Adam Brinkman (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)
"Hard Times and Good Times": Redocumenting Flat in 2024
- 12:00 n - Lunch, Food Trucks are available in front of the Cuddy Hall from 11:30 am - 1pm. Today we have *Papaya Tree* and *Trendy Eats*. You may eat in the Cuddy Cafeteria. Next talks begin at 2:00pm.**

Friday Afternoon

Session 8 - Destination Katmai (Rasmuson Hall 101, 2:00 pm - 4:20 pm)

Chairs: Evguenia (Jenya) Anichtchenko and Sebastian Wetherbee (National Park Service)

Katmai National Park and Preserve and the broader northern Alaska Peninsula represents a region of cultural diversity and exchange across at least 9,000 years of human presence. It encompasses a swathe of land from Lake Iliamna in the North, to Aniakchak National Monument and its affiliated communities in the South. The region is a melting pot of Yup'ik, Alutiiq, Unangan, and Na-Dene people, alongside more recent Russian and Anglo-American immigrants. This session aims to bring together researchers in cultural anthropology, archaeology, and history working on the northern peninsula to foster increased academic interest in these lands - both those administered by Katmai National Park and Preserve, as well as the surrounding lands and affiliated communities.

2:00 pm - Patricia H. Partnow (Partnow Consulting)

Fieldwork and Feedback

2:20 pm - Dillon Patterson (National Park Service)

Catching Caribou in a Changing Climate: Subsistence Management of Resident Caribou in Katmai National Preserve

2:40 pm - Sebastian Wetherbee, Jason Rogers, Kathryn Myers, and Evguenia Anichtchenko (National Park Service)

A New Chronology of Kukak Village: An Ancestral Alutiiq Settlement along the Shelikof Strait

3:00 pm - Evguenia (Jenya) Anichtchenko (National Park Service)

Across the "Real Ocean": traditional water routes of Katmai coast

3:20 pm - Jeff Rasic, Kathryn Myers, Evguenia Anichtchenko, and Sebastian Wetherbee (National Park Service)

Overview of Obsidian Provenance Research on the Northern Alaska Peninsula

3:40pm - end of session. The next event is the Banquet and Awards Ceremony at 6pm in the Cuddy Hall. The banquet speaker is Iain McKechnie who will be presenting Hunting for Fur, Hair, Pelts, and Textiles across four corners of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Session 9 - Public, Community, and Indigenous Engagement with the Past (Rasmuson Hall Rm 110, 2:00 - 4:40 pm)

Chairs: Emily Fletcher and N. Buster Landin (Purdue University)

This session will present a variety of approaches to engaging various publics with the past. Community-based knowledge production presents many challenges, which are further complicated when working with historically marginalized communities, including Alaska Natives. Recent multi-modal strategies have demonstrated success by engaging with youth, building lasting relationships with community members, and challenging colonial forms of knowledge production. This session will engage with the discourse surrounding these practices and present various strategies that have successfully engaged communities with a vested interest in the outcomes of their ancestors' past.

- 2:00 pm - Isabel Beach (Boston University), Amanda Althoff (Columbia University), and Miranda LaZar (University of Arizona)
It's XTRATUF: Creating a Community Space and Resource Network for Graduate Students in Alaskan Archaeology
- 2:20 pm - H. Kory Cooper (Purdue University)
Community Copper-Working
- 2:40 pm - Emily Fletcher (Purdue University) and M. Starr Knighten (Ahtna, Inc.)
Collaborative Archaeology of the Gulkana Site
- 3:00 pm - Mark Liliya and Eduard Zdor (University of Alaska Museum of the North)
Chukchi perspective on the Gondatti collection in the Munich Museum
- 3:20 pm - Break, Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall**
- 3:40 pm - Nils "Buster" Landin (Purdue University)
Tlingit Cultural Values in a High School STEAM Camp.
- 4:00 pm - Kathryn E. Krasinski (Adelphi University), Angela Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), and Norma Johnson (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)
The Talkeetna Mountain Dene Trail System: Interconnections and Collaborations
- 4:20 pm - Caroline Funk (Museum of the Aleutians), Virginia Hatfield (Museum of the Aleutians), Heather Lackos (Museum of the Aleutians), Karen Macke (Museum of the Aleutians), Anfesia Tutiakoff (Qawalangin Tribe), Douglas Veltre (University of Alaska Anchorage)
Sharing Voices at Taachi̋
- 4:40 pm pm - end of session. The next event is the Banquet and Awards Ceremony at 6pm in the Cuddy Hall. The banquet speaker is Iain McKechnie who will be presenting Hunting for Fur, Hair, Pelts, and Textiles across four corners of the Pacific Northwest Coast.**

Friday Posters

Friday Posters (on display in Rasmuson Hall, 10am - 4pm).

Poster presenters will be available from 1 - 2pm, during the lunch hour.

Angela Wade (Chickaloon Native Village), John Jangala (Bureau of Land Management), Caroline Ketron (Bureau of Land Management), Marco Sugamiele (Chickaloon Native Village), Kathryn E. Krasinski (Adelphi University), and Brian T. Wygal (Adelphi University)

Chickaloon Community Archaeology at Old Man Lake, Alaska: Ahtna Chief Andres' Matanuska Village Site Visited by Lt. Castner in 1898

James Kari (Alaska Native Language Center) and Crystal L. Glassburn (Bureau of Land Management)

Advances in Ahtna Ethnogeography of the Upper Susitna River (2014)

Jeff Rasic (National Park Service), Norma Johnson (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Museum of the North), Gerad Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage), and Angela Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Volcanic Glass Everywhere, but not a Flake to Spare: Geoarchaeological Reconnaissance in the Vicinity of Glass Creek, Talkeetna Mountains

Josie Oliva, Liam Hodgson (HDR Inc., Alaska)

Rhode Well Traveled: Cecil and Helen Rhode, their cabin, and their influence on the Cooper Landing Area

Lillian Barber (Adelphi University), Brian T. Wygal (Adelphi University), Kathryn E. Krasinski (Adelphi University), Charles E. Holmes (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Barbara A. Crass (Museum of the North)

Late Pleistocene and Middle Holocene Lithic Components at the Holzman Site, Alaska

Lori R. Hansen and Thomas C. Allen (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

Livengood Dome: Data Gaps and Research Potential

Margan Grover and Liz Ortiz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)

Honestly, JBER does some really cool stuff in Archaeology, Historic Preservation, Outreach and Education

Mindona Grunin, Kate Yeske, Rob Bowman, Miranda Jackovich, and Lindsay Simmons (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

VAL-00185: An At-Risk Site that Changes the Current Understanding of Dene Tradition in the Copper River Valley

MoHagani Magnetek (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Justin Cramb, (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Holly McKinney (Department of Transportation and Facilities)

Alaska Highway Historical Archaeology Field School 2025 and 2026: African American Soldiers World War II Winter Encampment Site

Wei Liu (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Alexis McKnight (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Tammy Buonasera (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Joshua Reuther (Museum of the North)

Microstructure of Alaska Interior Pottery Sherds

Wyatt Rowe, Tammy Buonasera, Matthew Wooller, Timothy Howe, Sambit Ghosh, Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Stable Isotopic Evidence for Pottery Uses in Interior Alaska

A Jepsen (University of Wyoming)

Population Dynamics in Interior Alaska and Yukon: Demographic Reconstruction with a Regional Taphonomic Correction

Friday Evening

Banquet and Awards Ceremony
Cuddy Hall, 6pm – 9pm

Association award to members, recognition for accomplishments and a good meal are all served at the banquet. At the end our guest speaker will provide a scintillating talk and everybody is invited to listen in. If you have not paid for the banquet but you would like to hear the presentation, pull up a chair in the back, join the rest, and listen in.

Presentation by Iain McKechnie (University of Victoria)

Hunting for Fur, Hair, Pelts, and Textiles across four corners of the Pacific Northwest Coast

The historic ‘maritime fur trade’ between Indigenous chiefs and visiting Russian, Spanish, British, French, and American ship captains is recognized as geopolitically and ecologically consequential. However, the subsequent half century of Indigenous-enabled Northern Fur Sealing has received less scholarly attention despite its historic importance to coastal economies in Canada and the US. In this presentation, I contrast recent history with ancient archaeological data spanning millennia of Indigenous hunting traditions and technologies across what is now coastal British Columbia (i.e., Canada) and southeast Alaska. Leaning on 70+ years of zooarchaeological research effort across 350 excavation projects, I document geographically distinct patterning in terrestrial and marine mammal use in four corners of the Northwest Coast based on the abundance of four mammal species (sea otters and northern fur seals, mountain goats, and domestic dogs). I argue this millennial-scale patterning illuminates enduring cultural production and circulation of socially significant ceremonial regalia and a larger than anticipated non-nutritional role for mammal in a region lacking terrestrial agriculture and domestic livestock.

SATURDAY

Saturday Morning

Session 10 - Exploring Current Questions in the Kodiak Archipelago (Rasmuson Rm 101, 9:00 am - 12n)

Chairs: Trevor Lamb (Boston University) and Sarah Simeonoff University of Colorado Boulder

Professional anthropologists have worked across the Kodiak Archipelago for almost a century, and the region continues to be a locus of research in anthropology and related disciplines. This symposium brings together current researchers to highlight the range of anthropological work currently underway on the archipelago. Three major trends are driving new insights on deep-time relationships between people and place: (1) new site sampling strategies, (2) collaborative, interdisciplinary, and community-based work, and (3) the application of new archaeological methods and the broadened perspective of established ones. By bringing together archaeologists, anthropologists, museum professionals, and others, this session emphasizes the breadth and depth of Kodiak research and provides a consolidated place for updates about research presented at past annual meetings.

9:00 am - Chris Wooley (Tangirnaq Native Village) and Robert Bowman
(Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

*"The People Buried There Are Kind" Woody Island Cemetery and
Unmarked Graves Location Project*

9:20 am - Trevor Lamb (Boston University)

*Identifying Chocolate Lillies (Fritillaria camschatcensis) in Alaska's
Archaeological Record*

9:40 am - Sarah Simeonoff (University of Colorado Boulder)

Assessing Site Conditions on Kodiak: A Preliminary Study

10:00 am - Patrick Saltonstall and Molly Odell (Alutiiq Museum)

The Archaeology of Kiliuda Bay

10:20 am - Gabrielle Perry (University of Colorado Boulder)

*Archaeological Predictive Model for Ocean Bay sites on Kodiak Island,
AK*

10:40 am - Break, Coffee and refreshments in the Cuddy Hall

11:00 am - Hollis K. Miller (State University of New York, Cortland and Ben
Fitzhugh (University of Washington)

*The Little Ice Age and Colonialism: An Analysis of Co-Crises for Coastal
Alaska Native Communities in the 18th and 19th Centuries*

11:20 am - Molly Odell and Patrick Saltonstall (Alutiiq Museum)

Shuyak Island: Archaeological Survey on a Rebounding Landform

11:40 am - Catherine F. West (Boston University), Kristine M. Bovy (University of Rhode Island), Megan A. Partlow (Central Washington University), Michael A. Etnier (University of Washington), Jessica Buckley (Boston University), and Caroline Metcalf (Boston University)

The Foggy Isle: Life on Chirikof Island

12:00 pm - Lunch on your own or Conference Luncheon with Speaker Julia Christensen

Afternoon papers will start at 2:00pm

Saturday Luncheon

Cuddy Hall, 12n – 2pm

At the end of your meal, Julia Christensen (Queen’s University) will present the luncheon talk. Again, even if you have not paid for the lunch you are invited to come in at the end of the meal and listen.

“We cannot have home without self-determination”: housing, home and Indigenous self-governance in Denendeh, Northwest Territories, Canada

The colonial geographies of northern and Indigenous housing have long been the focus of research attention, particularly the transformative and destructive role the assimilative power of social welfare has played in State interventions into Indigenous lives at the bodily, familial, community and national scales. Recent literature in the areas of northern and Indigenous housing geographies has underscored the need for increased community self-determination over housing in order to uproot structures of colonial domination and attend to specific cultural and contextual realities, visions and needs—necessary for the sustainable alleviation of a longstanding “housing crisis” in northern Canada. This paper examines differing discourses of Indigenous self-determination through recent efforts by Indigenous communities and self-governments in Denendeh and the territorial and federal governments to promote Indigenous self-governance of housing. Drawing on critical analyses of self-determination led by Indigenous scholars, and engaging a series of qualitative interviews with Indigenous and Settler policymakers and housing administrators at the community, territorial and federal levels, we examine how differing Indigenous and Settler conceptualizations of the self-determination of housing are evident in critical barriers presented by the governance of land and the “compartmentalization” of home. Ultimately, we argue that full self-determination of Indigenous home through housing is fundamentally impeded by current housing governance processes, though the multiscale nature of Indigenous home simultaneously challenges the capitalist, settler-colonial structures holding up these processes, and also cultivates the everyday, place-based resistance of the individual, family and community by creating space to imagine housing through Indigenous epistemologies.

Saturday Afternoon

Session 11 - Stories of Land and Sea: Archaeological and Anthropological Insights from the Northwest Coast (Rasmuson Rm 101, 2:00 pm - 4:00pm)

Chairs: Kelly Monteleone (Sealaska Heritage Institute) and Karen Grosskreutz (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The Northwest Coast of North America is a region renowned for its cultural and environmental richness, offering unparalleled opportunities to explore the intersection of archaeology and anthropology. This session invites papers examining the region's deep histories and living traditions, showcasing innovative research, partnerships, and interdisciplinary approaches. Together, we will illuminate the interconnectedness of past and present, amplify Indigenous voices and research, and celebrate the diverse exploration embodied by this geographic and cultural area.

By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, this session aims to foster dialogue, challenge assumptions, and expand our understanding of the Northwest Coast's archaeological and anthropological landscapes. Join us as we uncover stories etched into the land and sea, offering new insights into the resilience, adaptability, and creativity of Northwest Coast communities, past and present. Or simply come share pictures of what you did last summer in this extraordinary region!

- 2:00 pm - Maddi Tolmie (University of Victoria)
Examining Coast Salish Prairies (Garry Oak Ecosystems) as Indigenous Archaeological Landscapes
- 2:20 pm - Kelly Monteleone (Sealaska Heritage Institute)
Black Seaweed as a Cultural Keystone Species for Indigenous Southeast Alaska People
- 2:40 pm - Karen L. Grosskreutz (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
How can observations from Indigenous and Western salmon enhancement in Alaska inform the development of commercial mariculture cultivation?
- 3:00 pm - Buck Santistevan (Canyon Consultants and Portland State University)
The Use of Small Drones for Enhancing Archaeological Survey Data: A Case Study from southeast Alaska

3:20 pm - end of session. Next event Belzoni Society meeting 5pm - Blue Fox

Belzoni Society Annual Meeting

Saturday Evening

5pm -7pm, The Blue Fox Cocktail Lounge, 3461 E Tudor Rd

This is the anti-conference named after famed Italian strongman and archaeological free-wheeling acquisitions agent for the British Museum. Awards, readings from his diary, and a chance to start your own grapevine in the gossip farm. For information contact Margan Grover, Gerad Smith, or Liz Ortiz as you see them around the sessions. Otherwise, show up at the 44th annual assembly of the Belzoni Society. This is not an affiliate of, nor is it endorsed by the Alaska Anthropological Association. It just happens.



PAPER & POSTER ABSTRACTS

Addison, Sasha, and Diane Hirshberg (University of Alaska Anchorage)
2024 Convening on Outmigration: ISER, AFN, FAI, and Representative Peltola's Office

Thursday Poster

On September 5-6, 2024, the Institute of Social and Economic Research co-hosted with Representative. Mary Peltola, the Alaska Federation of Natives, and the First Alaskans Institute a statewide convening on outmigration issues in Alaska. The first day began with an overview of data on trends in outmigration, exploring both rural-to-urban and out-of-the-state population shifts. On day two, attendees participated in breakout groups where they explored topics including public safety, energy, education, private industry development, and more, to create actionable solutions to address outmigration issues related to each sector. This poster will explore the processes and the reasoning behind the creation of the event, as well as show preliminary findings and actions from the various break-out sessions created on day two.

Anichtchenko, Evguenia (Jenya) (National Park Service)

Across the "Real Ocean": traditional water routes of Katmai coast

Session 8

Water routes are among the most important and most elusive heritage sites. They encompass millennia of human migration, trading and subsistence activities while seemingly lacking tangible or visual features. Yet, much like land routes, they often exhibit consistency of use over hundreds or even thousands of years. Can juxtaposition of historic sources on kayak voyaging and coastal archaeology help reconstruct traditional water routes? This paper seeks to answer this question by reviewing available data on kayak crossing of Imarpiaq, the "real ocean," aka Shelikof Strait, and on the Indigenous seafaring along the Alaska Peninsula.

Barber, Lillian (Adelphi University), Brian T. Wygal (Adelphi University), Kathryn E. Krasinski (Adelphi University), Charles E. Holmes (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Barbara A. Crass (Museum of the North)
Late Pleistocene and Middle Holocene Lithic Components at the Holzman Site, Alaska

Friday Posters

The Holzman archaeological site lies along the west bank of Shaw Creek, a northern tributary of the middle Tanana River in interior Alaska. Archaeological excavations have yielded an expedient stone technology alongside well-preserved hearths, avifauna and large mammal remains including abundant mammoth ivory in deeply buried deposits. Evidence of food preparation and ivory tool manufacture dated by hearth charcoal and fauna between 13,700 and 14,000 cal BP making the Holzman site one of the earliest in the Americas. This poster presents an analysis of the lithic assemblages including refit studies from the oldest components with evidence of local quartz tool production for ivory reduction and blank manufacturing activities.

Barlow-Diemer, Aidan, and Tamara Holman (HDR, Inc.)
Cultural Material of KEN-00215: Agate Stones and Mineral Pigment Processing within the Sqilantnu Archaeological District

Session 4

In 2023, during data recovery efforts for the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 project, HDR archaeologists and Kenaitze Indian Tribe Cultural Observers recovered evidence of possible mineral pigment processing at site KEN-00215 of the Sqilantnu Archaeological District. The subsurface assemblage included agate stones (n=2) found in association with a large grinding slab; and worked pigments, flaked stones, and coarse sand. Radiocarbon dates completed thus far for KEN-00215 suggest a late prehistoric occupation. Thus, through these radiocarbon dates and ethnographic historical research, this presentation explores prehistoric and possibly early historic practices of mineral pigment processing of the Dena'ina. By relating this site to ethnographic records, this study aims to expand upon what we think we know of these cultural practices and apply it to our understanding of the late prehistoric and early historic cultural material of the Sqilantnu District.

Beach, Isabel (Boston University), Amanda Althoff (Columbia University), and Miranda LaZar (University of Arizona)

It's XTRATUF: Creating a Community Space and Resource Network for Graduate Students in Alaskan Archaeology

Session 9

Here we discuss the creation of the Alaska Archaeology Graduate Community (AAGC) as a first step towards addressing challenges and highlighting the potentialities of graduate student research in Alaska. Graduate students are at the forefront of learning about new modes of conducting community-centered research in archaeology. However, at the same time, we may lack the means and resources to fully enact what we see as 'good archaeology' in our own projects. We also recognize that community-centered archaeology in Alaska poses challenges beyond those shared with 'the lower-48.' We see the need for a more organized and accessible graduate support network that goes beyond personal connections and brings the community experienced in the field to our academic sphere. We are thus in the process of developing the Alaska Archaeology Graduate Community (AAGC). We envision that the AAGC will rest on the principles of community-based research, fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, stories, and experiences, and offering support when we are back at our respective institutions. A website will serve as a point of contact, both providing resources and inviting participation from graduate students working in Alaska. Most importantly, we hope to encourage graduate students to feel excited and prepared for archaeology in Alaska.

Behnke, Megan, Memphis Hill, Brandi Kamermans, Richard Lader Jr, Eduard Zdor, Erica Hill, Larry Hinzman, and Jeffrey Libby (University of Alaska)

Arctic Leadership Initiative

Thursday Poster

The University of Alaska Arctic Leadership Initiative (ALI) aims to develop a powerful network of leaders, advocates, and scholars who can help Alaska drive its own future in the Arctic. Initiative participants will shape the Arctic's future, influencing policy, research, entrepreneurship, and rural development. The project will support student progress, recruit young faculty and researchers, and promote Alaska's Arctic experiences and opportunities. External partners play a critical role in the ALI by bringing Arctic issues and opportunities to the

table, supporting student work, offering internships and site visits, and extending to the circumpolar North. ALI networking and leadership growth will be facilitated through internships and exchanges that will deepen Arctic knowledge and provide opportunities for professional development. Cohorts of early-career faculty and researchers will accelerate UA's research, education, and innovation. Multi-disciplinary learning will provide student cohorts, faculty, and partners a holistic framework to address Arctic needs and opportunities. Outcomes: professional networks; leadership growth; Arctic lens; Alaskans well-equipped for leadership roles; and innovative solutions. Expected impact up to 20 years: Strengthened partnerships with governments, communities, and businesses; amplified Alaska Native voices in national and international Arctic policy development; University of Alaska's universities recognized as centers of Arctic expertise throughout the world.

Berge, Anna (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The Genesis of Unangam Tunuu (Aleut): Ancient Language Contact with Dene

Session 6

Unangam Tunuu (Aleut) is linguistically distant from all other languages in the Eskaleut language family. Its divergence was long thought to be a result of internal development, but increasingly, the evidence suggests that Unangam Tunuu developed as a result of intensive language contact with Dene (Athabaskan). The linguistic evidence includes early lexical borrowings from Dene into Unangam Tunuu (Berge 2024) and extensive grammatical similarities (Berge 2016). Until recently, the nature of this contact remained speculative, with no known time or mechanism of language contact between the two language groups. Berge et al. (2024a, 2024b) have now established the plausibility, timing, and location of prehistoric language contact to ca. 4000 BP in Southwest Alaska. Language contact lasted several hundred years, a short time in historical terms, but long in sociolinguistic terms, and the amount and nature of the contact effects traditionally suggest extensive bilingualism—but this hides a different and more likely explanation. In this paper, I reconstruct the social context, and I show that the most likely scenario is one in which a group of Dene were assimilated into a larger Proto-Eskaleut group. This contact event led to the genesis of the Unanga language.

Blanchard, Morgan R., and John R. Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

Testing Some Methods for Removing Rust from Cans and Other Ferrous Artifacts

Thursday Poster

Cans and other ferrous artifacts commonly bear lithography and other markings obscured by rust. Current collection policies discourage the collection, processing, and curation of commonly encountered mass-produced historic artifacts, particularly cans. However, removing the rust from artifacts with lithography, embossing, and other markings can dramatically increase the amount of information available to researchers. This poster examines the effectiveness of several readily available rust removal methods that could allow historical archaeologists to gather more accurate data from commonly encountered mass-produced historic artifacts without collection.

Brinkman, Adam (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)

"Hard Times and Good Times": Redocumenting Flat in 2024

Session 7

The discovery of gold on Otter Creek in 1908 sparked a gold rush along this tributary of the Iditarod River, nestled between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. This boom led to the establishment of the historic mining towns of Flat and Iditarod. In 1993 and again in 2024, the Office of History and Archaeology Survey Unit documented Flat, providing a rare opportunity to assess both its preservation and deterioration over time. This presentation explores new historical insights into Flat, examines challenges in preserving its heritage, and considers the broader impact of climate change on historic mining communities across Alaska.

Brown, Aria S. (University of Nevada Reno)

The Carpenter Site: A Student's Introduction to Archaeology through Salvage Work

Session 1

The Carpenter Site, located in the middle Tanana Valley, Alaska boasts a history of 13,000 years of human visitation. Located in the Carpenter Rock Quarry, initial excavation began in 2022 with permission from the quarry's owner, with an expedited timeline of one month. During this month, material was excavated systematically, but upon the deadline the excavation was not completed, this led to the gross physical removal of the once stratified deposits into nine mounds of sediment, labeled 'Upper', 'Middle', and 'Lower' - indicating the relative stratigraphic position of each mound. The crew was given permission to return in following years to salvage any remaining material that may shed light on the site's long history of human activity. I compared the materials previously excavated from their in situ context to materials recovered during the salvage stages to gain inferences about the site. The work I conducted at the Carpenter Site was my first introduction to archaeological fieldwork. In addition to reviewing my findings, this paper relates my introduction to archaeology through salvage work and the lessons I learned along the way.

Buckley, Jessica, and Catherine West (Boston University)

Ancestral Subsistence on Chirikof Island: Shellfish Analysis

Thursday Poster

The Chirikof Island Project aims to assess long-term ecological changes, understand ancestral subsistence, and inform contemporary island land management on Chirikof Island. This project contributes through analysis of presence and role of shellfish in ancient diets. The island was occupied by Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Unanga/Aleut ancestors from at least 4,500 years ago until the 19th century. I analyzed shell material excavated from four sites ranging in age from 2,000 to 300 years old. The results show extremely varied proportions of mussels (Mytilidae), periwinkles (Littorinidae), limpet snails (Lottiidae), and chiton (Mopaliidae). This research contributes to the broader study of

subsistence on this island, where very little is known about the daily lives of past peoples, their diet, and how they used the environment.

Buonasera, Tammy, Wyatt Rowe, Wei Liu, Alexis McKnight, and Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Preliminary Study on Use and Manufacture of Late Precontact Athabaskan Pottery

Session 1

Pottery has been observed at several late precontact Athabaskan sites in interior Alaska (post 500 BP). This pottery tradition is poorly understood in relation to Norton and Thule pottery traditions from coastal settings. To learn more about the use and manufacture of precontact Athabaskan pottery, we conducted molecular, isotopic, and low-powered microscopic analyses on absorbed organic residues and food crusts from 12 pottery sherds from four late precontact interior sites (Hayfield Site 1, MED-005; Old Fish Camp, NUL-010; Tochak McGrath Site, MCG-070; Nenana River Gorge Site, HEA-062). Molecular and isotopic analyses indicate an emphasis on processing freshwater aquatic resources in pottery from three of these sites, while pottery residues from the fourth site, HEA-062 (Nenana River Gorge site) are consistent with a combination of caribou fats and aquatic resources. Examination under low-power microscopy indicated that most pottery utilized feather temper, which could provide clues about where and when pottery manufacture fit into seasonal movements.

Cloud, Gundie, and Todd Nicewonger (Virginia Tech.)

Housing, Relocation Planning, and Mold Stories

Session 2

Mold in homes poses significant health risks, particularly in remote Alaska communities where many Alaska Natives live in mold-affected homes. These issues arise from poorly designed building envelopes, substandard construction practices, and specific social and environmental factors. This presentation stems from an ongoing

research collaboration focused on gathering and analyzing "mold stories" from homes, often described as "sick homes." The presentation delves into three distinct modes of storytelling that the presenters are actively exploring to enhance understanding and foster collaboration between community members in remote Alaska and researchers and designers. These storytelling approaches aim to uncover how shared narratives can inspire innovative, community-driven partnerships, inform new policies, and shape practices to address the health impacts of mold. By sharing these stories, the presenters emphasize the role of storytelling as both an intervention tool and a catalyst for advancing community-centered science in housing design and relocation planning.

Combs, Evelyn (Healy Lake Village Council), and Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.)

Where's the Beef?

Session 1

Bison within the interior of Alaska have long been extinct, yet confusion remains as to their use as a food source within the last couple hundred years. The primary data examined includes ethnographic information referenced by the article by Stephenson et al. (2001), paleo-fauna and environmental frameworks from Glassburn (2015), and modern DNA analysis of living bison populations. This data was collected to construct a narrative about the role of bison as a food source in Alaska before colonial contact and to investigate the potential causes of their extinction. The findings indicate that bison have not been a traditional food source for the interior Dene people for many generations. In the 1900s, bison were introduced into the interior by colonists and subsequently left to roam freely; understandably, these bison were hunted. Post-contact Westerners interpreted these events as "traditional" hunting practices and have perpetuated this incorrect claim, which has negatively impacted food security and sovereignty.

Combs, Evelyn (Healy Lake Village Council), Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.), and Crystal Glassburn (Healy Lake Village Council)

Equitable Peer Review, How Do We Encourage Inclusivity?

Session 1

Anonymous peer review is a necessary component of the scientific process to ensure quality and rigor in academic publication, unfortunately, the practice also restricts the emic framing of indigenous knowledge in anthropological narratives. The process has become part of systematically enforced cultural erasure and inhibits community engagement. The study groups presented in this paper comprise perspectives from non-indigenous researchers, Native anthropologists, and allied anthropologists who have first-hand experience in being pressured to remove sections of Indigenous knowledge or face rejection by reviewers. Despite anthropologists wanting to make the field more inclusive and accessible, we participate and reinforce the exclusion of indigenous people once they begin using their language or implement concepts contrary to a Western interpretation of the narrative. This paper seeks to bring attention to this issue, so we can continue to collaborate equitably.

Cooper, H. Kory (Purdue University)

Community Copper-Working

Session 9

Since 2014 my graduate students and I have organized several copper-working workshops in Indigenous descendant communities with historic ties to the use of native copper in Alaska, Yukon, Yellowknife, and Nunavut. The use of native copper in the western and central Arctic and Subarctic is well-documented archaeologically and through oral history. Additionally, the use of native copper persisted into the late 19th and 20th century in some places. This presentation provides an overview of these workshops and discusses the role of these events in shaping our thinking about community and experimental archaeology.

Corbett, Debra (Nanutset Heritage)

Bone Artifacts from XSI-007, Chernabura Island, Alaska

Session 6

I recently analyzed bone artifacts from excavations at the Periwinkle Mound during the 1980's. This is the largest collection of materials from the Shumagin Islands to be examined. Bone artifacts are generally similar to those from the Aleutian Islands but show intriguing and important differences.

Etnier, Michael A. (University of Washington), Catherine F. West (Boston University), and Lillian D. Parker (University of Oklahoma)

Reassessment of ice-adapted taxa in Unalaska assemblages

Session 6

We systematically reexamined mammal remains from three Unalaska Island archaeological sites that have been central to the hypothesis that the Eastern Aleutians experienced extensive sea ice conditions during the Neoglacial climate phase. This reanalysis confirms the presence of pagophilic (ice-adapted) taxa, but the interpretation that that equates with sustained presence of sea ice is more nuanced than a direct relationship. Morphological, chemical, and molecular analysis of the bear bones indicates that a wide range of age classes of both polar and brown are represented, indicating local harvest rather than distant transport. Ringed seal and bearded seal are actually more prevalent in Margaret Bay than initially reported, and both species persist into the Amaknak Spit assemblage, during a time that the climate was much more temperate. All age classes of ringed seal are present, whereas only juvenile bearded seal were identified. Finally, fur seals of all age and sex classes are present throughout the sequence but it is still an open question as to whether they represent individuals migrating from the Pribilof Islands, local breeding colonies, or a complex mix of both.

Fisher, Brooke (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)
*Customary Trade and Barter along the Yukon River as Part of a
Continuum of Exchange Practices*

Session 1

The Yukon River is home to one of Alaska's largest subsistence salmon fisheries and contributes to the socioeconomic makeup of communities throughout the Yukon River drainage. However, declining Chinook and chum salmon returns and increasingly conservative management approaches designed to protect diminishing stocks have had an indisputable impact on the economies and culture in communities throughout the Yukon River drainage. As communities struggle to adapt during this time of dramatic change, the exchange of wild foods is a testament to their continued resiliency.

Indigenous Alaskans have traditionally shared and exchanged salmon and other subsistence resources to supplement their diets and fulfill social or cultural obligations. The introduction of cash into subsistence economies was quickly incorporated by residents as an extension of other resources; today, subsistence resources continue to be exchanged for small amounts of cash. Customary trade, the legal term for this practice, occurs throughout the drainage. Contemporary exchange practices are subject to cultural, economic, and ecological influences while sharing, barter, and customary trade can only be understood in relation to one another. This poster provides the first overview of exchange practices as a means of resilience in communities of the Yukon River within the context of the salmon declines.

Fletcher, Emily (Purdue University), and M. Starr Knighten (Ahtna, Inc.)
Collaborative Archaeology of the Gulkana Site

Session 9

New research at the Gulkana Site (a home to Ahtna ancestors a millennium ago) is attempting to increase the site's academic and local relevance. Guided by collaboration between researchers and Ahtna leaders, opportunities for community benefit are built into each stage of the project. At the request of Ahtna leadership, youth engagement is emphasized through internships hosted by Ahtna, Inc. and courses held annually through the Copper River School District. Digital records

associated with the Gulkana Site are the focus of both activities, presenting an opportunity for youth to practice technological skills while simultaneously engaging with cultural and historical materials. In this presentation, we will summarize our approach to collaboration and share preliminary results in hopes that our experiences may be valuable to other researchers and community leaders.

Fritz, Stacey, and Ryan Tinsley (Alaska Adaptable Housing)

Yurts in the Arctic – A culturally-rich cold-climate building science story

Session 2

Although we advocate for prefabricated, site-assembled, and movable building systems to address the housing crisis in remote Alaska Native villages, we did not love the yurt that came with our property in Fairbanks - even though yurts meet those criteria. Obsessing over R-value, air tightness, and fuel costs, we were troubled to see people putting them up in colder and colder areas of the North. Then, a small yurt repair project morphed into a year-long outlet for artistic free-form finish carpentry and a serious and innovative cold climate energy efficiency experiment. Tracking efforts in Mongolia to retrofit traditional gers and efforts among Yurt Life fans in North America to adapt gers to various non-desert climates has deepened our investment into yurt building science. In telling the story of our year of yurt improvement and begrudging appreciation, we explore various people's love of yurts and yurts' relevance for housing security in the North.

Funk, Caroline (Museum of the Aleutians), Virginia Hatfield (Museum of the Aleutians), Heather Lackos (Museum of the Aleutians), Karen Macke (Museum of the Aleutians), Anfesia Tutiakoff (Qawalangin Tribe), and Douglas Veltre (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Sharing Voices at Taachiĭ

Session 9

The Unalaska Archaeology and History Project excavated the ancestral Unangaĭ village site Taachiĭ (a.k.a. Reese Bay, UNL-063) from 1984 to 1990, uncovering valuable insights into Unangaĭ heritage. Now, a recent award to Museum of the Aleutians from the National Endowment for the Humanities American Tapestry initiative, "Sharing

Voices: Making the Taachi̱ Collection Accessible Through Unanga̱ and Academic Collaboration,” provides funding to curate and catalog the artifacts while presenting the story of Taachi̱ site through multiple perspectives. The Sharing Voices project has two primary objectives: to expand the diversity of voices contributing to the history of Taachi̱; and to enhance access to the site’s histories and archaeological materials. These efforts aim to support active participation in research, education, and cultural stewardship among Unanga̱ communities, researchers, and educators. This paper presents the progress achieved during the first six months of the project, outlines opportunities for community and scholarly involvement, and reintroduces Taachi̱ site as a significant site to both the Unanga̱ and United States history.

Funk, Caroline (University at Buffalo), Nicole Misarti (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Majolein Admiraal (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Lorrie D. Rea (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Julie P. Avery (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Wrapping up the Aleutian Mercury Dynamics (AMD) Project: mercury and the north Pacific food web in the past 5000 years

Session 6

The AMD project aimed to identify changes in mercury in the southern Bering Sea and north Pacific Ocean by way of Pacific cod, Steller sea lion, and Northern fur seal faunal remains. We are reporting on the full data set, complex process of consultation and permitting, outreach products, and general results of the isotope and mercury analyses. We worked with 2,500 Pacific cod and otariid bone samples from every island group in the Aleutian Islands. The samples were from ancestral village middens up to 5,000 years old and from modern specimens. Our large number of cod samples allowed for isotopic analyses through time and across the archipelago at specific points in time, showing cod's long-term adaptations to different oceanographic conditions. Compound-specific isotope analysis of the amino acids show pronounced differences in isotopic baselines and trophic positions of cod between the past and present. Fluctuations in ecosystem mercury were observed across space and time. This has been an epically complex and large-scale project, requiring the combined efforts of more than 30 people.

Grafton, Daniel (University of California, Santa Barbara), Amy Quandt (San Diego State University), and Vena Chu (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Arctic Cinematic Cartography

Session 3

Qualitative GIS remains underutilized by the broader geographic discipline with particular opportunities in cinematic cartography to investigate how films are depicting tourism and climate change, and the interconnections between the two, in peripheral Arctic destinations. Utqiagvik is the economic and tourist hub of the North Slope region of Alaska and increasingly impacted by the effects of climate change. Archival research was carried out at the Alaska Film Archives housed at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in January/February 2024. Sixty-three documentary films were considered set either entirely or partially in Utqiagvik spanning from 1972 to 2012. Documentarians took strong positions on climate change in the region, while Iñupiaq people were frequently depicted in problematic ways. Spatial data was gathered from these films to establish an historical GIS database. The resulting database linked these spatial data points to qualitative data such as what was depicted at that location in a film, who was depicted in the film, fetishisms and abjections of subjects, and whose gaze directed the making of that scene. Thematic maps from this historical GIS database revealed spatial patterns, such as the recurrent focus on the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL), generating new questions to be answered by further research.

Grosskreutz, Karen L. (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

How can observations from Indigenous and Western salmon enhancement in Alaska inform the development of commercial mariculture cultivation?

Session 11

Indigenous fish weirs and traps have been used by Alaska Native Peoples since Pacific salmon repopulated streams following the Ice Age. Northwest Coastal Peoples relocate salmon eggs and practice

respectful harvest based on Indigenous Sciences. Commercial salmon enhancement practiced by Euro-Americans in the United States started in 1872. Before the first cohort of Pacific salmon could return, hatcheries were declared a success. In the 1970s, the State of Alaska introduced the use of hatcheries in response to a widespread crash in commercial salmon fisheries. Economic development has led to the establishment of more hatcheries and the release of more juvenile salmon for production as a global market commodity. Commercial enhancement, allocation, and management have had varied and sometimes negative consequences across user groups, particularly for Alaska Native subsistence users. Mariculture cultivation (seaweeds and shellfish) is being developed for economic and workforce development in Alaska. What lessons can Alaska's growing mariculture industry learn from Indigenous and Western salmon enhancement and management? We will approach this question broadly from socio-cultural, management, and biophysical perspectives.

Grover, Margan (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Liz Ortiz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Morgan Blanchard (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska), and John Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska)

JBER as a protected cultural landscape: An update
Session 4

Southcentral Alaska has seen a great deal of development that obscures the span and diversity of the region's past, particularly in the Anchorage Bowl. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson includes tens of thousands of acres of undeveloped, undisturbed land with the potential to reveal more about the complexities of the area's past. This paper provides an update on the late 19th and early 20th century cultural landscape of JBER – a period in which Dene people shared their homeland with newly arrived colonists and government agencies.

Grover, Margan, and Liz Ortiz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson)
*Honestly, JBER does some really cool stuff in Archaeology, Historic
Preservation, Outreach and Education*

Friday Posters

An overview of the cultural resources investigated on the installation over the last five years, to include the JBER Storymap, Dena'ina place names and land acknowledgements, squadron insignia designs, Ancestral Tree studies, archaeology in the alpine, pre-colonial sites and archaeological districts, homesteads, the Iditarod Trail, World War II historic districts, and the Fort Richardson Pet Cemetery.

Grunin, Mindona, Kate Yeske, Rob Bowman, Miranda Jackovich, and Lindsay Simmons (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)
*VAL-00185: An At-Risk Site that Changes the Current Understanding of
Dene Tradition in the Copper River Valley*

Friday Posters

During a collaborative effort with the Native Village of Chitina (NVC) and Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC), NLURA discovered a stratigraphic rarity at a previously documented site along the Copper River (VAL-00185): a house pit floor with three distinct layers of occupation and two copper artifacts. With the permission of the Native Village of Chitina and the landowner (Chitina Native Corporation), NLURA collected charcoal samples from VAL-00185. The resulting radiocarbon dates extend the use of Native copper at least 100 years earlier than previously cited, since the charcoal level associated with the copper artifacts was dated to AD 1260-1390. Further research at this site has the potential to reveal more about the use of Native copper in the Chitina area as well as draw stronger connections to the broader village district and traditional cultural properties along the Copper River and beyond. However, this site is quickly eroding into the river, which stresses the urgency and importance of collecting this data before it is lost.

Hansen, Lori R., and Thomas C. Allen (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

Livengood Dome: Data Gaps and Research Potential

Friday Posters

The Livengood Dome Chert formation located 86 miles (139 kilometers) north of Fairbanks, Alaska, contains approximately 100 recorded archaeological sites within its locality. This includes Rosebud Knob Archaeological District (LIV-00284), and prehistoric sites present within the Livengood Mining Historic District (LIV-00503). The sites in this area can provide insight into lithic procurement behavior in the Yukon Tanana Uplands. However, data gaps in past research and missing data restrict research potential, limiting our understanding of land use and regional technological organization. These data gaps also limit our ability to update the status of the Rosebud Knob Archaeological District and nominate potential new archaeological districts in the area. In August and September 2024, Northern Land Use Research Alaska (NLURA) conducted Phase III data recovery fieldwork at LIV-00456, a prehistoric primary lithic tool production site on Livengood Dome. While performing background research for data recovery and reporting, NLURA encountered challenges due to limited previous documentation and missing data. The authors present identified data gaps, potential site impacts, a case study, data potential from identified and extensively excavated sites, and suggestions for how we can address these issues.

Hay, Savannah, Kristine G. Beaty, Kale Bruner, Justin Tackney, Christopher Barrett, Ruairidh Macleod, Mark Thomas, Dennis O'Rourke, and Jennifer Raff (Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas; Museum of the Aleutians; Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London)

New Paleogenomic Data from the Central and Western Aleutian Islands

Thursday Poster

The Near Island group in the Aleutian Archipelago was first settled between 3,000 and 2,500 years ago by the ancestors of modern Unanga, the last islands to be reached in their westward expansion

across the archipelago c. 6,000 years ago. New paleogenomic data from six individuals from Agattu and one from Amchitka reveal genetic continuity with modern and ancient Unanga throughout the Aleutians, providing additional support to a population history model of shared origins and cultural continuity across a large geographic area. Mitochondrial and Y-Chromosome haplogroups of these seven individuals demonstrates the relationship of Unanga to other Arctic groups and to the First Peoples' founding paternal lineage and expands our understanding of the complex population history which characterizes ancestral Unanga.

Herron, Molly A. (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)
Zooarchaeological Collections, what are they, and how do we care for them? - Methods for Identifying and Preserving Fragmentary Collagenic Specimens
Session 7

This presentation discusses a nondestructive method of identifying fragmentary pieces of collagenic—bone, ivory, antler, and horn—specimens using low-powered microscopy. This study focuses on zooarchaeological collections, as various depositional environments can significantly affect the distinctive morphological characteristics of each collagenic type. Additionally, because of the fragility of zooarchaeological collections, many specimens have a heightened risk for continued desiccation and decay in labs and repositories. This presentation will finish by discussing how to use archival materials to conserve and preserve these important collections.

Holtan, Meghan (University at Buffalo)
What good is energy efficiency? A circus arts residency as research method
Session 2

Residential weatherization and energy efficiency technologies such as vapor barriers, heat recovery ventilators, and insulation offer multiple benefits for a changing climate. They benefit the homeowner through reduced energy costs and improved indoor air quality. They benefit the community by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering the

energy load on community power grids during extreme heat or cold events. But is energy efficiency always good?

I answer this question through the story of a mini circus arts residency that weaves theater of the oppressed, critical science and technology studies, and quantitative social science. I share my findings in three forms: 1) a juggling projection installation in a net zero energy demonstration home, 2) an energy policy analysis, and 3) a Donna Haraway style implosion of energy efficiency strategies and measurement. There is a gap in the theories driving energy efficiency policy and the practice of human uses of space. These policies incentivize the consumption of more things through new materials and new buildings rather than working with the life within them. This research changes the questions I ask: What “good” does energy efficiency produce, for whom, how and where?

Ikuta, Hiroko (Kyushu University)

Maḡlak: Gift-Exchange among Humans, Animals, and God in Kivgiq (Messenger Feast)

Session 3

In 1988, Iñupiat on the North Slope revived Kivgiq after a 70-year hiatus. The festival, celebrated for centuries, was historically held after successful hunting and whaling seasons. During Kivgiq, a whaling captain would invite neighboring villages to a “Great Trade Feast,” which centered around gift-giving, feasting, dancing, and singing. It served to strengthen inter-village alliances. In contemporary Iñupiaq, the term, maḡlak, refers to ceremonial gift-giving through Iñupiaq style of dancing during Kivgiq. Some gift exchanges occur between whaling captains, and items are often related to whale or whaling. Through the lens of a whaling captain, maḡlak is understood as a reciprocal process in which gifts are given to others, with the belief that God ensures the return of those gifts through successful whaling. This suggests a spiritual connection among the gift (whaling equipment), the human (captain), and the animal (whale), mediated by divine forces. From an Iñupiaq perspective, animals give themselves to humans, and it is God who facilitates the circulation of these reciprocal exchanges. This paper explores how maḡlak embodies complex Iñupiaq social and spiritual values and relationships among humans, animals, and the divine, highlighting its role in sustaining subsistence practices and food sovereignty.

Jepsen, A (University of Wyoming)

Population Dynamics in Interior Alaska and Yukon: Demographic Reconstruction with a Regional Taphonomic Correction

Friday Posters

Northern Dene Athabascan areas of interior Alaska and Yukon Territory have some of the oldest evidence for human occupation in North America spanning up to 14,000 years ago. It is still unclear exactly what drives population fluctuation in this region as there were many environmental changes happening throughout time. This research uses radiocarbon dates from archaeological contexts from the Northern Dene Athabascan regions of Alaska and Yukon Territory as proxies for reconstructing past population estimates. The purpose is to interrogate how population changes in this region correlates with environmental changes and give insight into human-environment interaction throughout occupation. Additionally, global taphonomic corrections have been used to account for bias in taphonomy and loss in the archaeological record, but not on a regional scale. A regional taphonomic correction using geologic radiocarbon dates in this area is employed to more accurately account for taphonomic loss in the archaeological record. In doing so, this research interrogates population fluctuations spanning from over 14,000 years ago, and what may have caused those changes.

Kari, James, (Alaska Native Language Center) and Crystal L. Glassburn (Bureau of Land Management)

Advances in Ahtna Ethnogeography of the Upper Susitna River (2014)

Friday Posters

This poster from 2014 is important as a source on the Ahtna language, its elegant Dene Generative Geography as well as on Glacial Lake Atna. The map displays 1307 (out of of 2513) Ahtna places names that were presented in the final report for the defunct Susitna-Watana dam project. The projected SuWa dam and lakes are scored. Sidebars on the left summarize thirteen trail routes recorded by Jake Tansy. Jake's audio segments are 48:21 in length and likely could set world records as a set of elite travel narratives. One 48 sec. text called "Banazdleni

Vista" is presented with format/color contrasts for place names, directionals and landscape descriptors. Of note is the 1941 photo of eight Ahtna experts in Cantwell. Glacial Lake Atna is the only periglacial lake in the world with a documented network of fully analyzable place names in one family of Indigenous languages. This poster will be circulated at this Scholarworks link.

2014 Kari, James, and Gerard M. Smith. 2014 Ahtna Ethnogeography Phase, Susitna-Watana

Hydroelectric Project, C-Ahtna P. N. Surrounding SuWa project, D-Ethnogeographic Concepts; E-Western Ahtna Narratives Grouped by Genre. 216 pp.

UAF Scholar works. URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/11122/13019>.

Kari, James (Alaska Native Languages Center)

Summary of Eurasian Congress of Linguists Round-Table in Moscow

Session 1

Kari, James (Alaska Native Languages Center)

Time perspective argumentation and the Dene-Yeniseian Hypothesis (2024)

Session 1

Sapirian Time Perspective argumentation is well suited to discuss hypotheses that cross several scientific fields. The LTDD (Kari 2024) is a comprehensive record of this Dene language that integrates LT's cosmographic-environmental-grammatical concepts as well as LT's prolific mechanisms for Dene word formation. Several features of this Lexware band label dictionary promote research on Comparative Dene or Dene-Yeniseian.

Kari 2024, Append. H-2 provides evidence that at least seven Yeniseian ichthyonyms from the upper Yenisei Basin were brought into the middle Yukon River Basin and rearranged. Cognation within fish lexicon (also anatomical and landscape) implies a rapid initial movement of cohesive pre-Proto-(Na-) Dene bands in the late Pleistocene, without an intervening marine adaptation.

The search for ancient Eurasian hydronyms can include the proposed DY (Vajda 2022:229-230) *dejx^w Y. 'sandbar, shoal, river': westmost: Ob-Irtysh River Basin PY *-tes, des 'river'; eastmost: Canadian Shield PD *de'sh'. 'river'. Fig M-39 raises the question: were the Northern Dene

hydronymic districts invented in Siberia?

Kari 2019 presents "The Nen' Yese' Ensemble," a group of about twenty hydrologically informative rule-driven Ahtna/Dene place names that were coined by eyewitnesses to the Susitna R-to-Copper R drainage shift in the first half of the 11th millennium. Alaska Dene place names can be more than 10 millennia in age, yet can be reliably analyzed at underlying and surface levels. Glacial Lake Atna is the only periglacial lake in the world with a documented network of fully analyzable place names in one family of Indigenous languages.

Kari, James. 2019. The Resilience of Dene Generative Geography, Considering "the Nen' Yese' Ensemble." *Alaska Journal of Anthropology* vol. 17(1-2):44-76.

Kari, J. 2024 *Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary*. Fairbanks: ANLC, 912 pages.

King, Roxanna J. , Shannon Medlock, J. Bruce Crow, Erika Holden, Elena N. Kuo, Melissa Merrick, Troy Wolcuff, Kiatcha Palmer, Julie Richards, and Jennifer Shaw (Southcentral Foundation; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Center for Alaska Native Health Research; Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute)

Emerging Themes on Firearm Suicide Prevention in an Alaska Tribal Health Setting

Thursday Poster

Alaskans value guns for subsistence, ceremony, and protection. Most Alaskans own guns, and Alaska ranks 3rd nationally in gun ownership rates. Easy access to guns increases injury risk, particularly suicide. In 2020-2022 in Alaska, suicide accounted for ~74% of gun deaths and ~57% of suicides involved guns. Alaska Native communities were disproportionately affected. Most people who die by suicide seek healthcare in the prior year, making health systems opportune settings for firearm suicide prevention interventions. Safe gun storage practices are known to reduce suicide risk, yet little data exists to support intervention delivery and sustainment. This qualitative study aimed to develop strategies for firearm suicide prevention and delivery in a Tribal health system. Semi-structured interviews (n=40) with Southcentral Foundation customer-owners and providers-leaders were conducted and thematically analyzed to understand priorities,

preferences, and potential barriers regarding implementing interventions to reduce firearm suicide risk. Both groups endorsed offering safe storage resources, temporary out-of-home gun storage, firearm safety and suicide prevention trainings, and raising community-wide awareness of firearm suicide prevention. Barriers included system fatigue and stigma. These findings informed the co-creation of a firearm safe storage intervention and implementation strategies that will be piloted in the next phase of this study.

Koskey, Michael (University of Alaska, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies)
Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Rural Alaska: An Assessment of Current Trends with Recommendations

Session 5

Food security and food sovereignty in rural Alaska are pressing issues in the face of rapid climate change, further exacerbated by increasing economic dependencies created through globalization. This paper addresses larger regional issues of recognizing and dealing with threats to food security and sovereignty through the particular experiences of four Alaska Native communities, which characterize overall larger trends and patterns. In this research, partnerships were developed with the communities of Anaqtuuvak (Anaktuvuk Pass), Tikigaaq (Point Hope), Sivungaaq (Savoonga), and Sivuqaq (Gambell). This work and assessment was also performed alongside natural scientists to monitor physical conditions of the land and climate, and as cross-cultural social scientists we utilized community-based research to provide locally relevant and meaningful information for communities. This is achieved in part through assisting community planning for cultural revitalization in terms of food security, food sovereignty, and food “life-history.” These are assessed with recommendations for how rural Alaskan communities might be able to bring emerging dependencies within their control through the use of traditional food storage methods, coupled with today’s technologies, as locally preferred.

Krasinski, Kathryn E. (Adelphi University), Angela Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), and Norma Johnson (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

The Talkeetna Mountain Dene Trail System: Interconnections and Collaborations

Session 9

While Dene have been described as people of the forest and rivers, Dene ancestral lands are far more extensive. Ch'atanhtnu (Dena'ina)/Ts'etuunh Na' (Ahtna)/Matanuska River (English) translates to 'River from Which Trail Comes Out' (Kari and Fall 2016:289). The major trail intersects with additional Dene trails throughout the Talkeetna Mountains. Since 2017 oral history interviews followed by archaeological pedestrian survey, have identified previously unrecorded archaeological sites associated with the Dene trail system in the Talkeetna mountains. Subsurface testing has provided organic material appropriate for radiocarbon dating sites, most within the last 4,000 years. The distribution of sites, analysis of physical remains, and integration of oral history demonstrates vast geographic knowledge and interconnection of Dene peoples across villages, mountain ranges, and watersheds.

Książek, Lucyna (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland)

The Legacy of Ipiutak in Arctic Art Studies: A Comparative Perspective

Session 3

This presentation outlines the research plan for a doctoral project on the art of the Ipiutak culture, which thrived in northwestern Alaska between circa AD 400 and 900. Known for its elaborate eschatological beliefs and intriguing settlement remains, Ipiutak culture created unique decorated artifacts. This study will analyze their motifs and stylistic features to reassess pre-Inuit religious symbolism and cultural origins.

The project aims to combine different approaches. By examining stylistic consistency and tool marks, it will explore the technological aspects of creation of the artifacts. At the same time, it will investigate the origins and meanings of key motifs, considering broader cultural and religious influences.

Additionally, the research will re-evaluate Ipiutak's genesis and intercultural connections, possibly shedding some light on the aspects that seem to differentiate this group from other northern societies. A comparative analysis with the Dorset culture of the eastern Arctic—another pre-Inuit tradition known for its elaborate artistic expressions—will help contextualize Ipiutak art, revealing both contrasts and potential shared influences in symbolic representation and belief systems. Ultimately, this study aims to refine our understanding of symbolic representation, artistic production, and cultural interactions among the Pre-Inuit during the first millennium AD.

Kubota, Ryo (Oita University, Japan)

A Profile of an Alaska Native Corporation — An Analysis of Annual Reports and the Reconstruction of Business History

Session 7

The discovery of oil in Alaska led to federal negotiations over land claims with indigenous peoples, resulting in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. ANCSA created 13 regional corporations, granting them \$962.5 million and title to 44.1 million acres of land. Over the past five decades, these corporations have worked to enhance shareholder welfare while pursuing business growth through strategic asset management. Also they have engaged with federal agencies to secure support for its mission, further influencing its development trajectory. Among them, Calista Corporation, representing Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Athabascan shareholders, faced prolonged financial challenges in its early years, struggling to fulfill its mission of serving regional communities as some of corporations experienced. However, Calista has gradually improved its performance and now plays a significant role in large-scale natural resource development in southwestern Alaska. This presentation examines the business history and organizational evolution of Calista Corporation, analyzing annual reports and other data to identify key internal and external factors influencing its economic fluctuations. By highlighting Calista's transformation, this research sheds light on broader patterns of corporate governance, resource management, and indigenous economic development under ANCSA regime.

Kugo, Yoko (University of Alaska, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies)

Discussion

Session 5

Kugo, Yoko (University of Alaska, Center for Cross-Cultural Studies)

Introduction

Session 5

Lamb, Trevor (Boston University)

*Identifying Chocolate Lillies (Fritillaria camschatcensis) in Alaska's
Archaeological Record*

Session 10

Traditional knowledge and historic accounts demonstrate the importance of chocolate lily (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*) as a food source, especially in coastal communities from the Aleutian Islands, through the Kodiak Archipelago, and into southeast Alaska. However, archaeological evidence for the consumption of chocolate lilies is largely limited to indirect remains such as root picks. Here I present paleoethnobotanical criteria for identifying chocolate lilies as charred macrobotanical remains and starches. My sample includes modern plant specimens from Kodiak Island, charred archaeological fragments from sites around Kodiak's Karluk Lake, and starches from food crusts adhered to pottery from the Rolling Bay (KOD-101) site on Sitkalidak Island. The criteria presented here can be used to identify chocolate lilies in other contexts throughout the North Pacific.

Landin, Nils "Buster" (Purdue University)

Tlingit Cultural Values in a High School STEAM Camp.

Session 9

The intersection of the Tlingit core value of Haa Shuká (Our Ancestors) and the cultural concept of Haa Shagóon (Our Ancestors) creates a sequence of relationships between the past, present, and future.

Building lessons that encompass these cultural values reinforced with the idea of *at.oow* (clan-owned sacred objects) creates a robust, culturally relevant curriculum. Resulting in highlighting the agency and animacy of our ancestors as participants engage in practical Tlingit cultural lessons that focus on elements from the past found in the diverse landscape of Áak'w Kwáan and come to understand these lessons through the application of current geographic, anthropological, and archaeological practices and technology.

Lanford, Steve (Bureau of Land Management)

Gilt Edge Brand: A Second Tall-Square Butter Can

Thursday Poster

This brand of butter was a product from Portland, Oregon. It was sold by the W.B. Glafke Company.

Lawler, Brooks (MS Eielson AFB)

Gray is Gold: Renovations to a Cultural Resource Program Using Gray Literature

Thursday Poster

All DoD agencies were founded prior to the development of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 which largely dictate the procedures for federal cultural resource management today. In the last 68 years, DoD missions and priorities have changed along with cultural resource management practices and standards. As such, many installations maintain valuable gray literature and historic collections that may impact the historic context of the lands managed by DoD agencies and significant to interested parties. Installation cultural resource management programs have taken on digitization efforts, data analysis and reporting, and repatriation projects. This poster provides an of how the analysis of old data and literature in the DOD-CRM environment can provide new insights into historic building evaluation, National Register Nomination, and inform data gap analyses, as well as challenges and successes in the process of finding, interpreting, managing, talking about, or disseminating information on old collections and records.

Liliya, Mark, and Eduard Zdor (University of Alaska Museum of the North)

Chukchi perspective on the Gondatti collection in the Munich Museum

Session 9

In the summer of 2024, Liliya Zdor launched a study aimed at incorporating a Chukchi perspective into the Gondatti collection housed in the Munich Museum. Nikolai Gondatti, the head of the Anadyrskoi Okrug (Chukotka region) from 1895 to 1898, managed to make collections of cultural objects from several indigenous peoples of Chukotka, including the Chukchi. The research team invited elders from several settlements as consultants to provide a comparative analysis of the Chukchi perspective on collectibles. The linguistic part of the study was supported by Irina Gyrgolnaut, an expert of the Chukchi language. Despite complications caused by logistical and technical difficulties, the research team was nevertheless able to collect Chukchi knowledge about 18 items in one field season. Narratives of the studied objects were made in the Chukchi language and then documented in audio and video recordings. The most significant findings of the study were the identification of multi-purpose functions of the objects, such as utilitarian and spiritual, and the Chukchi language played an important role in understanding the functions of the objects. The research team hopes that the experience of this study will help establish a guiding template for incorporating an Indigenous perspective into museum collections.

Liu, Wei (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Alexis McKnight (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Tammy Buonasera (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Joshua Reuther (Museum of the North)

Microstructure of Alaska Interior Pottery Sherds

Friday Posters

Aside from brief mentions in several ethnographies, little is known about Athabaskan pottery traditions in Interior Alaska including how and where it was manufactured. To learn more about the manufacture of pottery recovered from late-precontact Interior sites, 12 pottery

sherds from four Interior archaeological sites were observed macroscopically and under low-power microscopy. All sherds were observed and photographed using a Leica M80 stereomicroscope (10X - 60X magnification) in the ADAPT laboratory of UAF. The exterior, interior and the profile of each sherd were observed for surface decorations, presence and composition of residues, type and proportion of tempers, firing core and overall internal structure. Results of these analyses are discussed and suggest a unique manufacturing tradition in the Alaska Interior. In particular, we note the presence of organic temper in all samples, with 11 of 12 sherds having feather temper.

Livingston, Michael Iqyaġ (Alaska Pacific University & University of Alaska Anchorage)

Alaska's Flag designer Benny Benson: Victim of Crime?

Session 3

Benny Benson is the 7th grade student who won the Alaska flag contest in 1927. Of the 50 state flags, only Alaska's flag is designed by a Native American. Benny came from at least three cultural backgrounds: Alaska Native, American, and Scandinavian (some sources say Sweden; some say Norway). In each of these cultures, there are mores, essential customs or community conventions, sometimes called rules, regulations, and laws. This paper will focus on customs within Benny's Alaska Native cultural heritage to try to determine if he was a victim of crime from an Indigenous perspective. In 1950 at age 38, Benny moved to Kodiak where he lived for 22 years. Benny passed away in 1972 at age 59, and is buried in Kodiak City Cemetery. For decades, it was assumed that Benny was Alutiiq, but recent extensive genealogical research revealed that his mother Tatiana and his maternal grandparents were born and raised in Unalaska Village in the Fox Islands of the Aleutian Islands. So Benny was Unangaġ, a member of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska. Thus, from an Unangaġ perspective, was young Benny a victim of broken customs before, during, and after the Alaska flag contest? Finally, had Benny been born in 2024 instead of 1912, might he have received better services for victims of crime? As we near July 9th, 2027, the 100-year anniversary of the raising of Benny's strong flag, gaining an appreciation of the transgressions he lived through may motivate Alaskans to uplift and honor a 14-year-old boy who won the flag contest despite the challenges.

Mackay, H. (Durham University), A.C.G Henderson (Newcastle University), I.D. Bull (University of Bristol), H.L. Whelton (University of Bristol), N.H. Bigelow (University of Alaska Fairbanks), M.E. Edwards (University of Southampton), J.D. Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks), B.A. Potter (University of Alaska Fairbanks), E.A. Baldwin (Durham University), R. Mayfield (University of Nottingham), K.L. Davies (Bath Spa University), and M. van Hardenbroek (Newcastle University)

Evaluating the potential and challenges of lacustrine faecal lipid biomarkers for tracing human presence in Alaskan landscapes

Thursday Poster

Faecal steroid biomarkers (5β -stanols and bile acids) preserved in lake-sediments are increasingly used to generate independent records of human occupation in past landscapes. Interpretations of faecal steroids rely on approaches developed in archaeological contexts since the 1970s, but the diffuse depositional environments of lake basins introduce methodological challenges, which are currently overlooked. This study evaluates the efficacy of lacustrine faecal biomarkers to trace human presence within the landscape using steroid records from Chisholm Lake in central Alaska, which are supported by independent records of human activities spanning the past 2,000 years in the region. Analyses of modern herbivore dung (bison, elk, moose, caribou) reveal that herbivore species can be differentiated by their steroid profiles and that diagnostic stanol ratios effectively identify faecal matter presence in discrete dung deposits. However, the archaeological stanol ratio thresholds for faecal identification and 5β -stanols concentration data are insufficient for conclusively characterising faecal input in lake sediments due to depositional processes such as in-situ stanol transformations. Our findings demonstrate that while faecal steroids in lake sediments provide valuable insight into reconstructing human presence, their reliability is limited without integration with archaeological evidence to account for species-specific differences in faecal deposition and the complexities of lake taphonomy.

Magnetek, MoHagani (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Who Made the Gumbo: An Autoethnographic Exploration of African American Gastronomic Practices in the Alaska

Session 5

This paper is a comprehensive analysis of the experiences and lifeways of diasporic African populations in the Arctic, specifically examining the intersection of African American ancestry, identity, and foodways within the distinctive context of Alaska. This paper critically investigates how individuals of African descent residing in Alaskan communities actively reconstruct their ancestral food systems, with a particular emphasis on gumbo, which serves as a multifaceted culinary emblem. In analyzing the engagement of African Americans in Alaska with gumbo, the paper explores both public and private culinary practices, assessing its representation on restaurant menus and its role within communal cultural events. It poses salient questions regarding the implications of food justice in the context of decolonizing Alaska's gastronomic landscape, prompting a critical examination of power dynamics and accessibility within food systems. Furthermore, the paper engages with how individuals of African descent conceptualize, prepare, and derive enjoyment from gumbo, illuminating the creative processes that emerge as they forge connections to their heritage and community in a geographic environment distant from their ancestral origins.

Magnetek, MoHagani (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Justin Cramb, (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Holly McKinney (Department of Transportation and Facilities)

Alaska Highway Historical Archaeology Field School 2025 and 2026: African American Soldiers World War II Winter Encampment Site
Friday Posters

Before Company B of the 97th Regiment of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deployed to Alaska, they helped build Eglin Air Force Base in Valparaiso, Florida, the training ground for the Tuskegee Airmen. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. mobilized over 10,000 troops, including 3,400 African American soldiers, to protect the Pacific Northwest. Construction of the Alaska Highway, which was initially

scheduled to take two years, was completed in just eight short months, finishing on October 25, 1942. The 97th Regiment was ordered to stay through the harsh winter to keep the infrastructure operational, enduring extreme cold, inadequate tents, unsuitable clothing, and severe food shortages. In collaboration with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, archaeologists from the University of Alaska Fairbanks are investigating the 97th Regiment's winter camp, located adjacent to the Robertson River Bridge along the Alaska Highway. The Alaska Highway Archaeological Field School will explore construction camps built in 1942 by the 97th Regiment. Students will stay in a temporary camp near the excavation site. Students will learn basic archaeological fieldwork skills while excavating and documenting historic structures, features, and artifacts.

Meitl, Sarah (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)

Positioned for Change, A CRM Perspective

Session 7

Cultural resource management (CRM) has evolved from data salvage in advance of destruction by infrastructure to a multi-faceted discipline with abundant regulations, guidance documents, and gray literature. Yet CRM professionals are increasingly pressed to complete cultural compliance with less time and fewer resources than ever before while our environment and legal framework continue to see dynamic changes. To stem overwhelm and build resiliency, this paper will discuss some tools and processes available to aid consideration of important historic places during decision-making by agencies, communities, and projects.

Metcalf, Caroline, and Catherine West (Boston University)

Where Two Lives Become Intertwined

Thursday Poster

This poster examines the evolving life of an ancestral Alutiiq whaling dart head from Kodiak Island, Alaska. The whaling dart blade (Smithsonian Institution #E127759-0) is a sentient object with an internal spirit that requires respectful care. It began its life as a hunting

tool, a ceremonial item, artwork, has become a symbol of ancestral traditions and connections, and is now part of a museum collection. A whaling blade in a museum collection may no longer be used in harvesting, but it may still function in other ways tied to its ancestral life. I use object biography informed by oral history, the archaeological record, and ethnographies to demonstrate how this whaling dart head has been transformed and its continuing, culturally-relevant role.

Miller, Benjamin, Emily Canessa, Yetrib Hathout, Laure Spake, and Matthew Emery (University at Buffalo)

Investigating Unanga's Whaling in the Aleutian Island Using Stable Isotopes, ZooMS, and Ancient DNA Techniques

Session 6

Zooarchaeological and ethnographic evidence suggests a rich history of whaling among the ancient Unanga of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. However, fragmented cetacean remains in zooarchaeological assemblages make it difficult to assess the diversity of whales that were scavenged and hunted for food, oil, and construction materials. We employed a combination of stable isotope analyses, Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS), and ancient DNA (aDNA) to identify 14 whale specimens at archaeological sites in the Aleutian Islands. We visualized BLASTn/p alignments using MEGAN6 and determined that a range of whale species were used by the Unanga. Ancient DNA and ZooMS concordance testing suggest that rorquals (Balaenopteridae) and toothed whales (Odontoceti) were primary targets. The stable carbon and nitrogen isotope data also suggests that a wide range of both baleen and toothed whales were scavenged or hunted for food, building materials, and other utilities. Our study highlights the importance of utilizing multiple analytical techniques to obtain taxonomic information from degraded zooarchaeological assemblages. It also highlights the challenges of obtaining ancient DNA from environments with high-temperature fluctuations and acidic soils and the difficulties in deriving taxonomic profiles from shallow NGS shotgun libraries.

Miller, Hollis K. (State University of New York, Cortland), and Ben Fitzhugh (University of Washington)

The Little Ice Age and Colonialism: An Analysis of Co-Crises for Coastal Alaska Native Communities in the 18th and 19th Centuries

Session 10

The Little Ice Age (LIA; ca. CE 1350-1850) was a global period of colder temperatures and unpredictable environmental conditions, although its impacts were felt variably across different regions. In the Gulf of Alaska, the effects of the LIA were at times amplified or minimized by the region's sensitivity to volcanic activity and decadal scale climate fluctuations. Previous paleoclimatological work in the Gulf of Alaska (Wiles et al. 2004) suggests that the coldest period in this region was from ca. CE 1750-1830, which coincides with the height of Russian colonialism in Alaska. Alaska Native communities, already creatively adapting to climate-driven environmental variability, now also had to face the social, political, and economic challenges of Russian colonialism. In this article, we synthesize the archaeological, paleoecological, and Indigenous studies literatures of the late-18th to early-19th century Gulf of Alaska region to explore how coastal Alaska Native communities perpetuated their continued survivance in the face of the co-crises of climate change and colonialism.

Miraglia, Rita A. (R.A. Miraglia Consulting Services)

When is a Picnic Really No Picnic?

Session 7

Vultures Picnic is a book by Greg Palast, which was published in 2013. It is sub-titled "In Pursuit of Petroleum Pigs, Power Pirates, and High-Finance Carnivores", and purports to tell the story behind the story of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound. Unfortunately, the book is full of inaccuracies, as well as what appear to be outright fabrications, some of which are harmful to Chugach Native individuals, families, and communities. The author has worked extensively with these communities, and worked on the both the response to, and research on the Exxon Valdez oil spill. This raised the question, what is the responsibility of the Anthropologist? Do we have a responsibility to

correct the record when we see inaccuracies and even lies in print?
This paper will analyze the contents of the book and attempt to answer that question.

Mitchell, D. Roy

Recognizing 23 Alaska Native Languages: a brief overview of how we name and count Alaska's Indigenous Languages

Session 3

The number of Alaska Native languages as enumerated by the late Dr. Michael Krauss in the early 1970s was 20; he also adopted, adapted, or invented English names for each of these languages while he was founding Director of the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska. Since then, it has become clear that 20 was an undercount for 20th century languages, in two cases because closely related languages had been prematurely lumped together under the same language name. Additionally, there has been a growing movement over the last 30 years to encourage the use of Alaska Native language names for the Alaska Native languages, rather than simply the conventional English name. I provide historic perspective from the late 19th century up to the present, both in counting the number of Alaska Native languages and in how these languages have been named in English and in individual Alaska Native languages.

Monteleone, Kelly (Sealaska Heritage Institute)

Black Seaweed as a Cultural Keystone Species for Indigenous Southeast Alaska People

Session 11

Black seaweed is one of the favorite foods of the Lingít (Tlingít), Xaadas (Haida), and Ts'msyen (Tsimshian) people of Southeast Alaska. Each year harvesters eagerly await the arrival of spring when black seaweed is gathered, dried, and then distributed widely throughout the villages. Black seaweed (*laa k'ásk* in Tlingít, *sgíw* in Haida, and *hla'ashg* in Tsimshian) is a highly valued food source and plays a critical role in the cultural and ceremonial life of Southeast Alaska Native People.

Garibaldi and Turner (2004) identify six elements to determine if a

species qualifies as a cultural keystone species. We are starting an ethnographic review of black seaweed (*Pyropia abbotiae*). We are exploring if the cultural keystone species concept is appropriate for black seaweed.

Morrison, Aubrey (Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC.)

Hollis Reddington Memoriam

Session 6

Nicewonger, Todd (Virginia Tech.), and Tracy Pleasant (City of Quinhagak)

Northerly Stories on Housing Design, Repair, and Maintenance

Session 2

This presentation examines residents' experiences in a remote Alaska Native community facing climate change threats like flooding, erosion, and permafrost degradation. As the community debates whether to defend in place or relocate, they must also address urgent challenges in maintaining and repairing their housing stock. Drawing on home maintenance and repair stories, the presentation explores the complexities of family life in overcrowded homes, the difficulties of securing funding to retrofit houses deemed not worth replacing by external agencies, and the bureaucratic barriers to addressing poorly designed structures. Using design anthropology methodologies, the presentation highlights the community's ongoing discussions and decisions around housing insecurity. It also offers these stories to inspire collective reflection on the role of repair and maintenance, both in the present and as an important design consideration when developing relocation plans.

Nicewonger, Todd (Virginia Tech.)

Activating the Creative Power of Sharing Housing Design Stories in the North

Session 2

Drawing on anthropological research conducted since 2020 with cold-climate housing builders, engineers, designers, remote Alaska community members, and housing specialists affiliated with state and federal agencies, this presentation engages with the themes outlined in the session abstract. It examines how storytelling about housing design innovations in Alaska is being used to develop frameworks and practices that address housing insecurity in the North. The presentation highlights the importance of sharing these stories in dialogue with diverse audiences, focusing on the interplay of aesthetics, socio-environmental considerations, and the embodied knowledge of those working to improve housing security in Alaska. While storytelling may not produce immediate solutions or consensus, anthropologists studying storytelling emphasize its power to communicate complex phenomena and inspire change. Building on this perspective, the presentation reflects on the creative approaches and challenges in addressing housing needs amid climatic changes—such as flooding, rising sea levels, and permafrost degradation—that are forcing communities to consider moving, alongside sociopolitical debates over housing equity. Examples will illustrate how cold-climate builders and designers in Alaska draw on personal experiences with housing projects to navigate and bridge diverse world systems.

Norton, Will D. (University of Texas), and Kaylee A. Bearheart (Kenai Peninsula College)

Love in the Good Land: Dena'ina Q'ak'eli as Linguistic, Historical, and Emotional Record

Session 4

In Dena'ina culture songs are passed down as an oral tradition, sharing historical events and serving as lessons. A subset of these songs, known as *q'ak'eli* ("love songs") constitute a unique musical genre centered on solo composers and performers. Typically composed by a particular individual, often out of romantic longing for someone the composer

had been separated from, *q'ak'eli*, along with the stories around their composition, spread widely and became popular in Dena'ina communities in the 19th and early 20th centuries, when romantic separations were often caused by colonial exploitation. Their longevity is rooted in the emotional experience, as well as the lessons some may provide. One of the earliest Dena'ina texts ever recorded, a duet composed by Nuitalna and Peter Tukniltishen and written down by Russian prospector Petr Pavlovich Doroshin circa 1850, bears clear hallmarks of this genre. We present what is, to our knowledge, the first English translation of Nuitalna and Tukniltishen's song, along with other, more recent examples of *q'ak'eli*. The study of these songs, we argue, allows Dena'ina learners to access not only a record of historical events in Dena'ina Country, but also the emotional weight these events carried for Dena'ina people, and the ways they expressed their feelings about them. Contemplation of these subtle techniques of self-expression can help to foster mentalities that not only contribute to the revitalization of language itself, but also deepen connections between learners, ancestors, and art.

Odell, Molly, and Patrick Saltonstall (Alutiiq Museum)

Shuyak Island: Archaeological Survey on a Rebounding Landform

Session 10

Shuyak Island lies at the northern tip of the Kodiak Archipelago. Its low-lying, thickly forested landscape with long, protected inner waterways is unique in the Kodiak Alutiiq/Sugpiaq homeland. Shuyak was home to several Alutiiq communities in the early Russian contact era, and was a departure point for sea otter hunting parties during the succeeding fur trade. Several archaeological surveys and excavations took place on Shuyak in the years following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, documenting numerous ancestral sites as well as a handful of twentieth-century mining ruins. In 2024, the Alutiiq Museum surveyed the west side of Shuyak, attempting to locate previously recorded sites, identify additional deposits, and record current site conditions. As Shuyak has been rebounding since the 1964 earthquake, many sites that were eroding in previous decades are stable today. While this can make it difficult to locate ancestral sites, it is also good news that many sites are no longer being damaged. Shuyak sees very few visitors each year and there is no on-going human damage to sites that is visible today.

The results from this survey will be incorporated into an updated archaeology display at the Shuyak State Park Big Bay Ranger Station.

Oliva, Josie, and Liam Hodgson (HDR Inc., Alaska)

Rhode Well Traveled: Cecil and Helen Rhode, their cabin, and their influence on the Cooper Landing Area

Friday Posters

Cecil and Helen Rhode's homesite in Cooper Landing, Alaska, serves as a hallmark of mid-century Homestead Act claimants on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as provides a fitting backdrop for their work as prominent wildlife filmmakers and photographers. Cecil Rhode came to Alaska in the 1930s, a move propelled by an interest in photography and the natural world. In 1937, he utilized the "homesite" amendment of the Alaska Homestead Act and built a cabin on the north shore of Kenai Lake. In the 1940s, Cecil temporarily left Alaska for Washington state, where he met his wife, Helen. Both Rhode's were accomplished photographers, and their work was used by Disney, National Geographic, and magazines such as *Outdoor Life*; this made 'wild' Alaska accessible to the average person. The Rhode's rise to acclaim happened from this cabin, which exemplifies the use of local materials from the Kenai peninsula and its growing development. Through HDR's recording of the buildings located on the homesite during archaeological survey, interviews with Cecil and Helen's son David, and research of available documents, the Rhode homesite was determined historically significant. This poster presents the results of HDR's documentation and eligibility evaluation.

Olmos Rosas, Gabriela (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

From the Ground Up: Latino Work, Identity, and Purpose in Alaska

Session 5

Latinos are proud to be hardworking people, and their contributions to Alaska's economy are a testament to this dedication. Today, Latinos own nearly 3,000 companies in Alaska and employ thousands of workers, contributing millions of dollars to the local economy. However, their stories of work and endurance remain largely hidden.

Through the testimonies of Latino workers in Anchorage, this paper will explore the meaning that work holds for them, examine how labor shapes their identities and lives, and investigate how it has given a sense of purpose to a whole community of resilient, determined individuals whose efforts continue to contribute to Alaska's future.

Ortiz, Liz (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Margan Grover (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson), Angie Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), Morgan Blanchard (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska), and John Hemmeter (Northern Land Use Research, Alaska)

Do we have walkers or swimmers? and other questions we're asking the dirt on. Preliminary Results from ANC-00837

Session 4

An archaeological site on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson includes a birch bark-lined cache with a radiometric date of 1026-1158 cal AD (conventional 960 ± 30 BP). Dene people in the region were skilled in subsistence in both marine and terrestrial environments. The site is along the shores of Knik Arm near the outlet of an anadromous stream with large and small terrestrial game habitat nearby. This location presents intriguing questions and possibilities about storage practices, food resources, and research design. Multiple methods developed with Tribal partners and stakeholders, will be applied at the site to identify what resources were stored there including stable isotopes and flotation.

Pajot, Lisa (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Travelling through Siberian Yupik and Unangas Oral Narratives

Session 5

Unangas and St. Lawrence Island Yupik have a long history of storytelling and their stories are and were ways to share knowledge, teach youth, and celebrate life. The knowledge held within these stories are context specific and relational. Although both these cultures are in Alaska and the people live with the Bering Sea and all its myriad life, their cultures are also unique and complex. This paper seeks to

explore how knowledge of birds in both cultures is relational and contextual and how different written translations can be read or misinterpreted. Two short stories will be looked at, one from each culture, to consider the importance of cultural knowledge and context. Several sentences taken from multiple different translations of one story from each culture will also be reviewed to illustrate possible misinterpretations and the variations that can occur with each translation. This paper is part of future knowledge seeking regarding bird knowledge in Unangas and St. Lawrence Island Yupik oral narratives and stories.

Partlow, Megan A. (Central Washington University)

Vertebrate Remains from 2020 Test Excavations of Mangartuliq (KOD-1362)

Thursday Poster

A total of 1,211 mammal, 328 bird, and 12,399 fish remains were analyzed by the author from six bulk samples and 14 field screened ($\frac{1}{4}$ " samples from the late prehistoric/early historic Mangartuliq (KOD-1362) site located on Cape Chiniak, Kodiak Island. This represents a partial sample of faunal remains recovered during 2020 excavations by the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository. The mammals are dominated by Northern fur seals (50%) and dolphin/porpoise (37%), the birds by shearwater (58%), puffin (15%), and albatross (10%), and the fish by sculpins (38%), cod (23%), and salmon (20%). Rarer taxa include harbor seal, Northern sea lion, sea otter, cormorant, duck, small gull, greenlings, halibut and capelin. The Mangartuliq faunal remains stand out from most other Kodiak Archipelago faunal assemblages in the abundance of fur seals, porpoise/dolphins, shearwaters, and sculpins and is best interpreted as the remains of a late spring/early summer hunting and fishing camp.

Partnow, Patricia H. (Partnow Consulting)

Fieldwork and Feedback

Session 8

In 2010 the National Park Service hired me to conduct a study of the ethnographic landscape of Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park and Preserve in cooperation with the Council of Katmai Descendants. I was to consider whether ethnographic values associated with Brooks Camp constituted an Ethnographic Landscape that rendered the locale eligible for addition to the National Register of Historic Places. I completed the study in December 2010, concluding that the area did constitute an ethnographic landscape.

The work was expanded in 2011 to encompass the publication of an ethnohistory of the people of Brooks Camp to be aimed at a general audience consisting primarily of two groups: the indigenous people of Brooks Camp and contemporary visitors to the locale.

This paper shares some results of the fieldwork for the project in the form of stories told and recorded. In addition, I share the process through which feedback was sought and obtained at various points during the project. I consider examples when the process was successful and those when it was not so. If there is time, I would welcome hearing experiences of others in the “feedback” stage of their research.

Patterson, Dillon (National Park Service)

Catching Caribou in a Changing Climate: Subsistence Management of Resident Caribou in Katmai National Preserve

Session 8

After its most recent peak in the 1990s, the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, declined from over 200,000 animals to less than 12,000. This decline led to a hunting moratorium across the Mulchatna Herd’s range, posing immense threats to subsistence lifeways in Southwest Alaska. Now, roughly five years into the moratorium, some subsistence communities question the inclusion of a few small resident caribou populations in Mulchatna Herd management. One such population inhabits the upland area surrounding Qukaqliq (Kukaklek Lake) in Katmai National Preserve. In 2023, Igiugig Village Council requested the Federal

Subsistence Board recognize Katmai's resident caribou as separate from the Mulchatna Herd and provide a local subsistence harvest opportunity. Partnering with the two communities closest to the preserve, Igiugig and Kokhanok, the National Park Service documented local and Indigenous knowledge to help inform the regulatory process. In this talk, I will discuss the regulatory outcomes of our work as well as broader subsistence management implications as climate change continues to threaten caribou populations throughout Alaska.

Perry, Gabrielle (University of Colorado Boulder)

Archaeological Predictive Model for Ocean Bay sites on Kodiak Island,

AK

Session 10

The Ocean Bay (OB) tradition (6,000-2,000 BCE) provides the oldest evidence of human occupation in the Kodiak archipelago. OB components have been found at 48 sites, most of which are located within one kilometer of the modern shoreline. This paper presents preliminary predictive rasters using geomorphic and other remotely sensed attributes to hypothesize where new OB archaeological material might be found. Data was sourced from USGS EarthExplorer, the Kodiak Island Borough data portal, and the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs). Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) were used to derive elevation, slope, and aspect. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) was calculated using Landsat 8 data. Distances to modern shoreline and relict beach ridges were calculated using a shoreline polygon and DEMs. This information was the input of a random forest analysis in R (version 4.2.1; R Core Team 2022) which simulated geospatial characteristics found in areas where OB sites are located. Predictive rasters for site locations were created in ArcGIS Pro 3.4.0 (ESRI 2024) and R. This analysis identified many coastal locations in areas with low relief and prograding shorelines as suitable for OB occupation. Proposed model improvements include the addition of new variables and further analysis of seasonal NDVI values.

Potter, Ben A. (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Mammoth hunting and the Peopling of Beringia and the Americas

Session 1

Recent research on Early Paleoindian diets at the southern end of the Ice-Free Corridor indicate heavy predation of mammoth. This, along with recent investigations in Siberia and new finds in Beringia (Subarctic Alaska), necessitates a re-evaluation of human-mammoth interactions as part of the adaptive systems of early Native American ancestors. These data also indicate human hunting of mammoth, a keystone Late Pleistocene species, has implications for broader biogeographic changes at the end of the last Ice Age.

Potter, Ben A. (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Anna Berge (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Jason Rogers (National Park Service)

A Model of the Origins and Development of Unangam Tunuu (Aleut)

Session 6

It has long been thought that Unangam Tunuu (Aleut) underwent substantial language contact at some point, given its divergent lexicon and features seemingly shared with Dene languages. To date, however, the nature of prehistoric language contact event(s) has remained unclear. Collaboration between the authors has resulted in a cohesive model of language contact mechanisms, together with the timing and geographical location of these contacts, allowing us to make sense of previously unexplained developments in the history and prehistory of Unangam Tunuu. We here develop an integrated archaeogenetic model consistent with existing data on archaeological and genetic patterning among northern populations to evaluate the prehistoric development of Unangam Tunuu and related languages.

Rasic, Jeff (National Park Service), Norma Johnson (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council), Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Museum of the North), Gerad Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage), and Angela Wade (Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

Volcanic Glass Everywhere, but not a Flake to Spare: Geoarchaeological Reconnaissance in the Vicinity of Glass Creek, Talkeetna Mountains
Friday Posters

Obsidian, a glassy volcanic rock, is common in archaeological sites in interior Alaska and studies show that people were familiar with multiple sources. While some geological sources have been documented, many others remain unknown, and efforts to rediscover them are ongoing. Extensive deposits of volcanic glass have been reported in the Talkeetna Mountains near Glass Creek since the 1950s, making it a potential toolstone source area. However, only limited exploration had been conducted before 2024, when an intensive survey was carried out on Glass Creek and nearby Mazama and Caribou creeks. Despite the widespread presence of volcanic glass across about 15 square km, no tool-quality raw material was found, nor was evidence of quarrying or flaking debris observed. Geochemical characterization of geological samples from Glass Creek revealed multiple distinct types, but not a single artifact from an archaeological context in Alaska is similar. While not an apparent source of obsidian, Glass Creek does contain a variety of geological materials suitable for flaking and other uses, and its well-developed trail network reflects the area's long history of cultural significance.

Rasic, Jeff, Kathryn Myers, Evguenia Anichtchenko, and Sebastian Wetherbee (National Park Service)

Overview of Obsidian Provenance Research on the Northern Alaska Peninsula
Session 8

This paper provides an overview of obsidian provenance research on the northern Alaska Peninsula--one lens through which to view this cultural crossroads and mixing pot through time. The Peninsula is volcanically active and multiple local obsidian sources are known, while other local sources are hinted at through archaeological finds yet so far

remain undocumented from a geological standpoint. Also evident are examples of very long-distance transport of obsidian from both the Aleutian Islands (Okmok caldera) and northern interior Alaska (Batza Tena), which illustrate the extensive nature of past social and economic interactions.

Rider, Shawna (Jacobs)

A History of Brooks Camp, Katmai National Park

Session 3

Johanna (Walatka) Bouker grew up at Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park. Her father was a partner in building the lodge as a fly-in fly-fishing destination in 1950 and she divided her time between the three lodges that her father built. Johanna had a 50-year long friendship with Don Dumond and helped facilitate much of his work at Brooks Camp during the lodge expansion and went on to establish several programs at the lodge, including an elder hostel program that lasted twenty years. Upon completion of the elder hostel program at Brooks Camp, Johanna and family started a tradition of visiting the camp every year in June, before it opens to the public. This presentation will go over early days at Brooks Camp as well as the work that took place over the past 75 years in conjunction with the camp, led primarily by Don Dumond.

Rogers, Jason (National Park Service), and Gerad Smith (University of Alaska Anchorage)

A Story of Three Boats: WWII Shipwrecks and Vessel Remains on Tanaga Island, Central Aleutians

Session 6

During recent environmental remediation and monitoring activities, archaeologists investigated and documented the remains of three WWII-period shipwreck remains on Tanaga Island, in the central Aleutian chain. Further research has revealed the fascinating histories and interconnected stories of these wrecked and abandoned vessels. Wartime shipwrecks and other maritime remains offer compelling stories and physical reminders of significant historic events.

Root, Blog (University of Alaska Fairbanks and National Park Service)
Ecological Grief and Loss of Lands in Indigenous Communities
Thursday Poster

This poster explores a current, UAF-student research project focused on ecological grief and its profound effects on Alaska Native and Indigenous communities along with how environmental changes threaten cultural continuity and identity. This literature review project contributes to National Park Service – Alaska Region cultural resources work. It hopes to show the mental health crises related to ecological loss by adding a focus on psychology, with a lens of grief and trauma, to cultural resources work that often focuses on archaeology and anthropology. For example, Albrecht's (2006) concept of solastalgia frames the psychological distress caused by environmental shifts, while Cunsolo and Ellis (2018) position ecological grief as a growing mental health response to climate-related losses. Such studies hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of the emotional dimensions of ecological loss, the poster will highlight the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge and resilience to mitigate ecological grief and honor cultural connections to the natural world by foregrounding Indigenous voices.

Rosholt, Aren M. (DOWL)

*Unanga's Subsistence and Productivity in the Shumagin Islands:
Zooarchaeological Analysis of XSI-00007, Chernabura Island, Alaska*
Session 6

This zooarchaeological analysis explores Unanga's subsistence and lifeways during the intensive period of occupation (2380 ± 130 BP and 1880 ± 110 BP) at XSI-00007 on Chernabura Island in the Shumagin Islands. The materials used for this study were collected by Dr. Lucy Johnson, during the 1980s, as part of a Vassar College archaeological field school.

Fish, bird, and mammal remains were analyzed to understand subsistence practices, seasonality, and site use. The relative abundance of the exploited taxa was used to identify potential resource preferences targeted by the inhabitants of XSI-00007. Pacific cod and Irish lord specimens dominate the assemblage, a wide range of bird

taxa were exploited, and mammals are predominantly represented by sea otter and arctic ground squirrel. Cut mark frequencies on sea otter, alcid, and cormorant specimens indicate that they were selected for meat or skin and pelt resources, supporting an interpretation of the importance of garment production at the site. The data from this analysis increase our understanding of resource use by Unanga ancestors in the Shumagin Islands and provides a baseline for future zooarchaeological research in the archipelago.

Rowe, Wyatt, Tammy Buonasera, Matthew Wooller, Timothy Howe, Sambit Ghosh, and Joshua Reuther (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Stable Isotopic Evidence for Pottery Uses in Interior Alaska

Friday Posters

The uses of pottery in Interior Alaska are less understood than the Norton and Thule pottery traditions in northwestern Alaska. As part of a broader project exploring the uses of pottery in Interior Alaska by UAF's Ancient Diets and Archaeological Proteomics (ADAPt) Lab, we examined 12 sherds from four different prehistoric archaeological sites within the Interior. To achieve this, we employed bulk $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ analyses of residue and ceramic samples of each sherd and compound-specific $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ isotope analysis (CSIA) on extracted lipids. The bulk $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ isotope data was interpreted using a two-end mixing model, which indicated that neither exclusively aquatic resources nor exclusively terrestrial resources were processed in these vessels; instead, results point to a mixture of resource types, aquatic-sources (e.g. fish and waterbirds) and likely terrestrial fauna and floral resources. Combining $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ bulk data with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ CSIA results provides additional insight and allows for applying a three end-member model. The combined data strongly indicates residues dominated by freshwater (e.g. fish and possibly waterbirds) fats in sherds from three of the four sites and caribou fats mixed with aquatic fats in sherds from a fourth site.

Saltonstall, Patrick, and Molly Odell (Alutiiq Museum)

The Archaeology of Kiliuda Bay

Session 10

Kiliuda Bay is a large productive bay on Kodiak Island's northeast shore. In recent years, Alutiiq Museum archaeologists have surveyed the shoreline of the entire bay and excavated four sites to study Alutiiq/Sugpiaq history and document modern threats to the archaeological record. While most sites are stable, erosion is the most common threat to site integrity. Sites occur on both the modern shoreline and on paleo beach ridges far from the current shore. While over the long term Kiliuda Bay appears to be rising out of the sea, excavations have uncovered evidence of episodic erosion over the past 7,500 years. The bay holds some of the oldest sites in the region despite its erosional history. The study of Kiliuda Bay demonstrates the value of combining targeted excavations with survey data to confirm surface interpretations, uncover older components not visible on the surface, understand the history and extent of paleo erosion, and shed light on ancestral life in the distant past.

Santistevan, Buck (Canyon Consultants and Portland State University)

The Use of Small Drones for Enhancing Archaeological Survey Data: A Case Study from southeast Alaska

Session 11

Southeast Alaska's steep, forested terrain poses unique challenges to traditional archaeological survey methods. This study explores the use of mini drones equipped with LiDAR, photogrammetry, and high definition 4K imaging to enhance identification of cultural resources particularly in areas where steep terrain and dense vegetation make traditional pedestrian surveys impractical. Compared to traditional methods, drone-based surveys significantly reduced field time, improved data accuracy, minimized environmental impacts, and enhanced crew safety. Aerial LiDAR can effectively penetrate dense canopies, allowing archaeologists to detect subtle modifications in the terrain and verify findings through targeted ground inspections. LiDAR data can also be used to quickly model surveyed environments and natural and archaeological features within them.

This case study highlights the growing role of drones in cultural resource management, offering a cost-effective, scalable approach for surveying remote heritage sites. By integrating UAV technology with traditional methods, archaeologists can enhance data gathering efforts with a new level of detail that was previously unattainable and generate a new data set that can help preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

Schmuck, Nick (Alaska Office of History and Archaeology)

The beginnings of a statewide predictive model for archaeological sensitivity

Session 7

The OHA has begun development of an archaeological predictive model that will eventually cover the entire state of Alaska. The model will serve primarily as a tool for internal project review, to help OHA staff quickly evaluate the level of effort proposed for field surveys. The OHA is also looking at future applications overlaying archaeological sensitivity layers with datasets for climate and environmental change, eventually enabling systematic review of risks posed to heritage by erosion, permafrost melt, increased fire activity, etc. Using an initial case study of the southcentral region, this paper will review weaknesses common to the predictive models used regularly in cultural resource management, limitations of ArcGIS, and useful datasets that will be of interest to the cultural resource management community. The search for patterns in archaeological data at this scale highlights gaps in survey coverage and the absence of particular datasets that would be useful for site location prediction.

Shaginoff, Melissa (National Museum of the American Indian)

Tea with Collections

Session 7

It has been 15 years since the Sharing Our Heritage exhibition opened at the Anchorage Museum. In a groundbreaking, long-term loan, the Anchorage Museum exhibited 600 cultural belongings from the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of

Natural History. This exhibition was created with the spirit of bringing cultural belongings closer to home and closer to their makers, the Alaska Native people. The exhibition also marked the collaborative partnership between the three institutions as their work within the exhibition guided the direction of NMAI's and the Arctic Studies Center current collaborative projects.

In 2024, NMAI created a new position, the Alaska Specialist, that would serve Alaska Native people and NMAI and would be stationed in Alaska at the Anchorage Museum. Within this position NMAI recognizes the importance of sharing the exhibition's research done around cultural belonging as well as the Indigenous community's direction of engagement. In a monthly community visit with the cultural belongings, Tea with Collections, is a programmatic listening session inviting Indigenous people to visit the collections to look close, to share hopes, and to honor their cultural belongings in both new and old ways.

This session will share the preliminary findings of the listening sessions as well as ways NMAI is creating fellowship and internships, suggesting changes and additions to collections records, and finding pathways of return and shared stewardship of cultural belongings.

Simeonoff, Sarah (University of Colorado Boulder)

Assessing Site Conditions on Kodiak: A Preliminary Study

Session 10

Numerous factors (erosion, animal damage, infrastructure, uplift, etc.) impact site conditions on Kodiak but the complex interplay of these is not completely understood. To assess the risk to sites across the archipelago without expending additional resources, this paper uses existing archaeological data, community observations, and environmental data (e.g., sediment type, geographic feature, distance from coastline/braided stream, elevation, distance to modern villages/infrastructure) to determine which factors are correlated with higher site risk. The results of this analysis will serve as a first step in understanding risk to archaeological sites across the archipelago with the future aim of creating a predictive model for site conditions that are not readily accessible for routine condition assessments.

Smith, Gerard M. (University of Alaska Anchorage)

*Inventorying the Material Culture of Shaw Creek, Tanana Valley, Alaska:
What else is out there?*

Session 1

For almost 35 years, the Shaw Creek Valley has been the target of extensive academic archaeological investigations and mitigative cultural resource management surveys. Peer-reviewed publications have focused on the Terminal Pleistocene investigations of the basin, while later-dated components tend to be described only in local gray literature reports. This paper will provide an overview and synthesis of the additional cultural resources in the area and their importance to the region as a whole.

Smith, Heather (Texas State University), Angela Younie (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.), Elaine Chu (Texas State University), Evelyn Combs (Healy Lake Village Council), Kelly Graf (University of Kansas), and Ted Goebel (University of Kansas)

Examining Variation in Chindadn Point Shape Using Elliptical Fourier Analysis

Session 1

First defined by John Cook in 1976 as the hallmark of the Chindadn Complex at Healy Lake, Chindadn points have recently been associated with a shorter chronology represented in the earliest levels of sites in the Tanana and Nenana River valleys and found to include variation organized by three forms. We attempted analysis using geometric morphometrics (GM), a useful tool to explore significant patterns in the shape of projectile points and statistically evaluate factors that could explain variation, but found that the nature of Chindadn point shape makes it a poor candidate for traditional landmark approaches to GM. Here we present an analysis of Chindadn point shape using Elliptical Fourier analysis as an alternative to landmark GM and test if chronological, geographical, and technological factors influence variation in an assemblage including points from the

Tanana and Nenana River valleys. We also address whether Chindadn points should be considered a point type, in the traditional sense of other Paleoindian types like Northern Fluted, Folsom, and Clovis.

Taivalkoski, Ariel (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Avian Paleopathology from the Unalaska Sea Ice Project

Session 6

Avian archaeological assemblages are shaped by both cultural practices and environmental conditions. Analyses of archaeological assemblages from three ancestral Unanga sites (UNL-048, UNL-050, and UNL-055) revealed a prevalence of avian osteoarthritis during the Neoglacial. This prevalence is likely due to adverse climatic conditions during the periods of site occupations which forced these birds to fly further and dive deeper for their food. Alongside this prevalence of pathology during the Neoglacial, population abundances fluctuated throughout the occupation periods of all three sites. These fluctuations in some cases align with likely climatic influences. In other cases, they indicate continued reliance on certain avian species despite population declines due to climatic conditions. Considering the environmental factors that contribute to instances of animal pathology allows for a more contextual interpretation of the cultural processes that occurred at archaeological sites.

Teeter, Sean (HDR, Inc.), and Nancy Bigelow (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The Chronology of KEN-00092, a Prehistoric Site Located Near the Confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers, Alaska

Session 4

Site KEN-00092 sits on the north bank of a remnant channel of the Kenai River, near the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers in the north-central Kenai Peninsula. Three seasons of data recovery at the site resulted in the identification of numerous archaeological contexts suitable for radiocarbon dating. A geoarchaeological assessment of periods of river activation and abandonment in the remnant channel

provide insight into the Dena'ina site chronology and allows for interpretation of settlement patterns in the area. Geoarchaeological analysis shows the site occupation coincides with periods of river activation. Radiocarbon dating of periods of peat deposition also allows the elimination of old wood dates, and more precise interpretation of multiple-intercept dates. Furthermore, archaeological fieldwork resulted in the identification of an earlier component at the site dating from 3000 – 4000 cal BP, a poorly understood timeframe in the broader Cook Inlet Region

Tolmie, Maddi (University of Victoria)

Examining Coast Salish Prairies (Garry Oak Ecosystems) as Indigenous Archaeological Landscapes

Session 11

Garry oak ecosystems (GOEs) are spaces of Indigenous eco-cultural heritage, historically found expanding across Vancouver Island and parts of the southwestern mainland of BC, down into the United States. Due to urbanization and loss of habitat, garry oaks and their associated ecosystems/biota are recognized to be endangered or critically at risk; with GOE stands on Vancouver Island decreasing in area by 95% since the 1800s. It is well recorded that these coastal prairies were managed by lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Women, and are home to Strait Salish food systems, medicines, and spirituality. Indigenous fire management and the stewardship of traditional rootfoods, such as blue camas, played a key role in the creation and maintenance of these coastal prairies. Within the archaeological literature, however, there has been little consideration of these spaces as landscapes with testable potential. While the recorded legacies of landscape burning and camas cultivation are key aspects of Indigenous histories, these are unlikely to be the only archaeological indicators of Indigenous presence and relation within GOEs. Through a series of archaeological investigations within a remaining intact historic GOE, supplemented by the ethnographic record and recorded site data, I argue that GOEs can be reconceptualized as Indigenous archaeological landscapes.

Wade, Angela (Chickaloon Native Village), John Jangala (Bureau of Land Management), Caroline Ketron (Bureau of Land Management), Marco Sugamiele (Chickaloon Native Village), Kathryn E. Krasinski (Adelphi University), and Brian T. Wygal (Adelphi University)

Chickaloon Community Archaeology at Old Man Lake, Alaska: Ahtna Chief Andres' Matanuska Village Site Visited by Lt. Castner in 1898

Friday Posters

The AHRS site GUL-00036 was originally reported by Fredrica de Laguna as an Ahtna village and home to Chief Andre, the possible location described by Lt. Castner in his 1898 expedition. However, the site location was approximate based on ethnographic interviews and its location never verified. In 2023, a BLM and Chickaloon Traditional Village Council (CTVC) archaeological survey of an 80-acre parcel along the east bank of Old Man Lake in southcentral Alaska inadvertently located a multicomponent cabin site on State of Alaska land. A substantial site with prehistoric, proto-historic, and historic era components was located in the vicinity of the reported "Indian" village visited by Lt. Castner. The oral history of the area links descendants of the Chickaloon Native Village to the site location where generations of Ahtna lived at Old Man Lake near the outlet of Mendeltna Creek including Balasculya Nicolai who moved there from Chitna. Balasculya and her husband Frank Nicolai had 11 children including Annie, Olga, and Mary (born circa 1902-1907 at Old Man Lake). The reported location of the Frank and Balasculya Nicolai cabin and Chief Andre's village at Old Man Lake matches the site reported here.

Walker, Lynn (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

Constructing an Institutional Identity: Alaskan Museums and Semiotic Landscape Analysis

Session 7

How does a museum, with its various departments, programs, and numerous employees, create a single institutional identity? To answer this question, this presentation applies semiotic landscape analysis to four Alaskan museums at different stages of decolonization. Semiotic landscape analysis, which grew out of linguistic landscape studies,

examines how meaning is made and how identities are constructed in an area; it has not been widely applied to the museum institution. This presentation, by combining anthropological and sociolinguistic methods, uses staff interviews, catalog records, and exhibits to determine how each museum constructs an institutional “we” identity within the situated landscape of a museum.

West, Catherine (Boston University), Hanna Agasuuq Sholl (Alutiiq Museum), Courtney Hofman (University of Oklahoma), and Peter Sudmant (University of California Berkeley)

Coloring Iqalluut

Thursday Poster

As part of a larger North Pacific Research Board research project (Genomic Resources for Alaska Rockfish Sustainability and Management), we have collaborated with the Alutiiq Museum and Alutiiq artist Hanna Sholl to create *Coloring Iqalluut - Fishing*, an innovative coloring book that illustrates the cultural, linguistic, and ecological importance of fish to the Alutiiq people of the Kodiak archipelago. This coloring book draws on biological, linguistic, ethnographic, and archaeological data to inspire illustrations of individual fish, underwater landscapes, and Alutiiq fishing gear. The coloring book written in English and translated into the Alutiiq language, and it has reached a wide public across coastal Alaska and beyond, and serves as a unique resource for both biological and cultural information that now resides with the local community in Kodiak.

West, Catherine F. (Boston University), Kristine M. Bovy (University of Rhode Island), Megan A. Partlow (Central Washington University), Michael A. Etnier (University of Washington), Jessica Buckley (Boston University), and Caroline Metcalf (Boston Univer

The Foggy Isle: Life on Chirikof Island

Session 10

Chirikof Island sits 100 miles to the southwest of the Kodiak archipelago, where it is known for its large population of introduced cattle and rapidly eroding landscape. Previous researchers have speculated that Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Aleut/Unanga̋ people traveled to this isolated place to hunt sea otters or to harvest squirrels, and that occupations were intermittent. We explore these ideas using the rich zooarchaeological record and recent survey data, and suggest that Alutiiq ancestors likely traveled here to harvest squirrels and birds for making clothing.

Wetherbee, Sebastian, Jason Rogers, Kathryn Myers, and Evguenia Anichtchenko (National Park Service)

A New Chronology of Kukak Village: An Ancestral Alutiiq Settlement along the Shelikof Strait

Session 8

Kukak Village (XMK-00006, XMK-00006A) is a multicomponent settlement located on the North shore of Kukak Bay on Katmai National Park and Preserve's Pacific coastline. The site contains 89 mapped house depressions along the shore of a sheltered lagoon, and initially produced six radiocarbon dates from multiple years of extensive excavation. These dates and associated evidence pointed to at least six occupations between 5830 ± 120 BP to recent historic times. However, these dates were collected and processed more than 50 years ago, and many details of the excavators' methods and results were never published. This paper aims to synthesize historic excavation notes and other unpublished materials, and to report the results of nine new AMS radiocarbon dates to refine and expand the original site chronology. Initial results suggest an early occupation by 6,622-6,410 cal BP, with at least seven occupations likely representing only a sample of the site's full record.

Wooley, Chris (Tangirnaq Native Village) and Robert Bowman (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC)

"The People Buried There Are Kind" Woody Island Cemetery and Unmarked Graves Location Project

Session 10

The Tangirnaq Native Village (Woody Island) has long promoted awareness of its members' Suqpiaq culture and respect for Woody Island's extensive history. This has been accomplished through oral traditions and storytelling, written histories and genealogies, tribal gatherings featuring multi-generational workshops, repatriating the remains of tribal members, and cultural resource management including listing the Woody Island Historic District on the National Register. A recent GPR investigation of District cemetery sites and adjacent areas resulted in many hundreds of potential coffin signatures and other anomalies. We present a synthesis of the GPR data, historic photos, archival records and interview accounts to shed light on the identity of the individuals and discuss cultural resource management planning strategies to protect the sites.

Yamada, Toru (Meiji University)

Repatriating the Remains across the Pacific: Tokyo to Point Hope

Session 7

Based on the repatriation of human remains from Japan to Point Hope, this paper analyzes the pragmatic issues of engaging in international repatriation. As it requires border crossing, international repatriation of human remains needs interpersonal, linguistic, and legal arrangements which are often different from domestic repatriation. These differences – such as the acquisition background of the remains, the common languages in a descendant community and the academic institution, and the laws of two (or more) nations – have significant influence over the logistical details of repatriation. Without proper legal information, repatriation can stall at any stage. Also, when the academic institution's common language differs from that of the descendant community, the institution needs to arrange translators who can properly facilitate the communication between the institution and the descendant community. Lastly but most importantly, repatriation – both international and domestic – requires an academic institution's efforts

to respectfully re-establish a communication channel with the descendant community. Without addressing the distrust from the descendant community and shifting it to the degree that collaboration is possible, international repatriation cannot start even if the institution clears the legal or linguistic issues.

Zagal, Itzel (University of Alaska Fairbanks)

The impact of the exhibition “Abya Yala: Latino Indigenous Roots in Alaska” on Latinx identity in Anchorage, Alaska.

Session 5

This paper will explore the insights from a Mexican American woman after her visit to the exhibition “Abya Yala: Latino Indigenous Roots in Alaska” to learn about the impact on her identity narrative. The Anchorage Museum is hosting an exhibition of Indigenous cultural belongings from various Abya Yalan Indigenous Nations from October 2024 to October 2025. The exhibition will showcase pre-contact pieces from the Museum of the North Fairbanks and the Anchorage Museum collections and pieces from Latinx living artists living in Alaska. The Abya Yalan diaspora in Alaska can attend the exhibition and reflect on three main topics: ancestral foodways, Indigenous epistemologies, and the sacred feminine relationship with textiles.