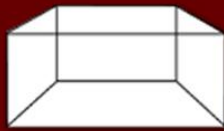


Alaska Historical Society



MUSEUMS  
ALASKA

# MUSEUMS ALASKA & ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018 CONFERENCE

*NOME, ALASKA*

**September 12-15, 2018**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### *Sponsors*

Bering Air  
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum  
City of Nome  
Katirvik Cultural Center  
Mushing Magazine  
Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation  
Q Trucking Company  
The Nome Nugget

### *Local Host Organization*

Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

Partners: UAF Northwest Campus, Kawerak Katirvik Cultural Center

### *Museums Alaska Board of Directors*

Molly Conley, President, Anchorage  
Hayley Chambers, Vice President, Ketchikan  
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## MAPS



## SHUTTLE

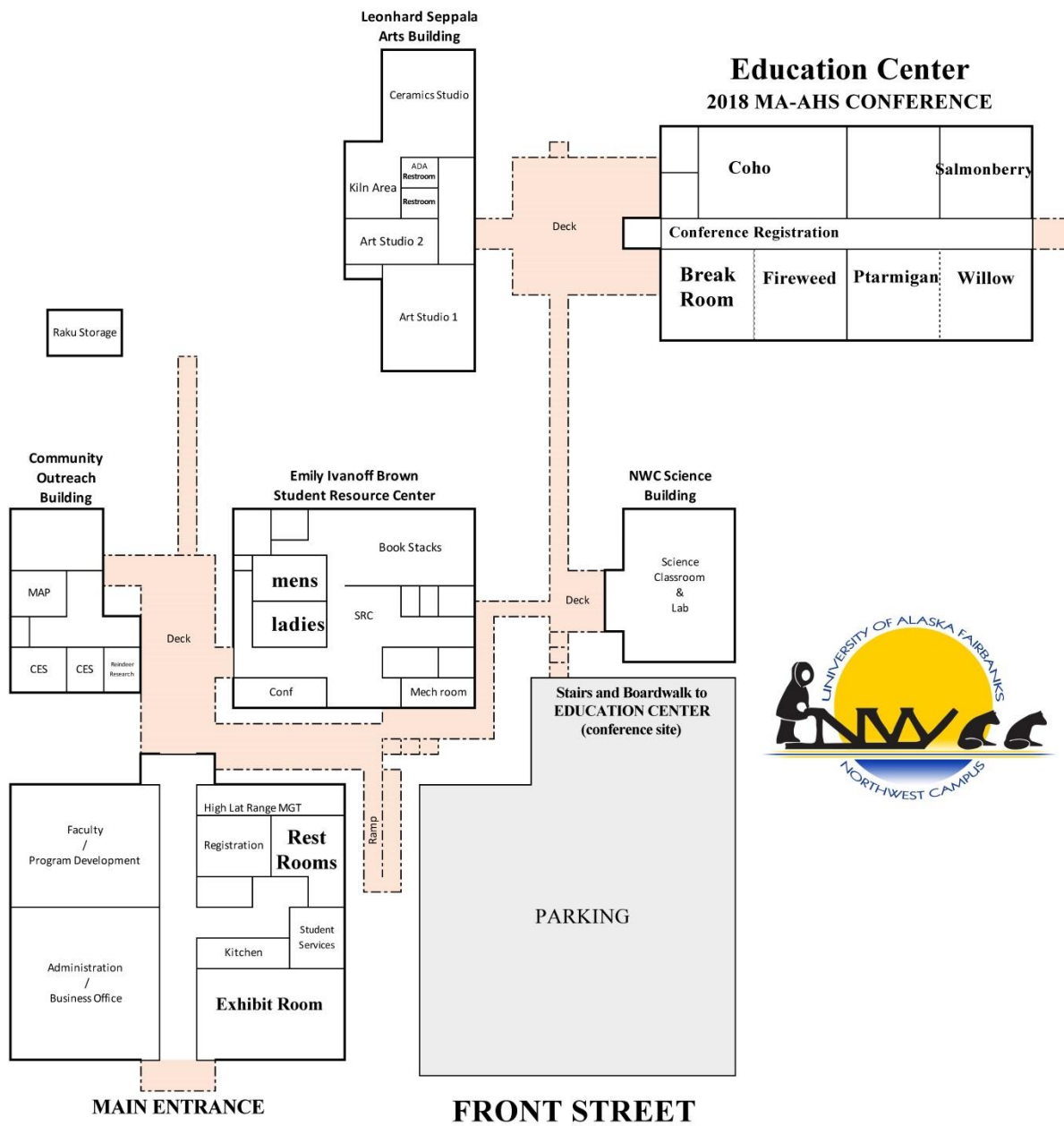
A complimentary shuttle service will be provided from the **airport** to hotels on: Wednesday, September 12 (Flight 151) and return service from hotels to the airport on: Saturday, September 15 (Flight 153).

Complimentary shuttle service will also be provided from hotels to the **Richard Foster Building** on: Wednesday, September 12, 6:30-7:30pm with return from 9pm-10pm.

## TAXIS

Checker Cab: 907-443-5211

Mr. Kab: 907-443-6000





## WELCOME

Welcome to Nome!

As Mayor of Nome, I am pleased to welcome attendees of the Museums Alaska - Alaska Historical Society conference to our town. We are very proud of the Richard Foster Building. We are proud of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum in the new home it shares with the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library and the Katirvik Cultural Center.

Museums reflect the history of a place, its people, its art, and its spirit. Our museum is a welcoming environment that allows visitors to enjoy not just the artifacts collected over many years, but also the sounds of the tundra and the hustle and bustle of Front Street. Children can feel sealskin and other materials that the original people of our region used in everyday life before contact.

Enjoy walking around Nome. Visit and get a photo of the famous Burled Arch under which some of the most courageous Alaskans and their dogs pass finishing the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Just to the right of the arch are several plaques and a bust of Roald Amundsen, the first explorer to navigate the Northwest Passage who 20 years later made essentially the same voyage in the dirigible Norge. Take time to visit the Visitor Center on Front Street.

Enjoy our restaurants and meet the people who live here. There will be opportunities for you to get out into the country, pick berries, and see our wonderful musk oxen. Walk on the beach and look for sea glass. Hear the story of the Lend Lease and the role Nome played in WWII. Admire one of the most intact DEW Lines (White Alice) remaining in the state today.

Welcome and enjoy your stay in Nome!

Richard Beneville  
Mayor, City of Nome





## **CITY OF NOME**

*There's No Place Like Nome*

# CARRIE M. MCLAIN — M E M O R I A L — MUSEUM



*Dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the culture, history,  
and artistry of Nome and the Bering Strait*

WELCOME 2018 MA-AHS  
CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS!

---

Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum  
PO Box 53 · 100 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Nome, AK 99762 · 907-443-6630







Dear 2018 Museums Alaska – Alaska Historical Society Conference Participants,

Welcome to the historic gold rush town of Nome, Alaska! It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as the host organization for this year's joint conference. Over 50 years ago, local historian Carrie M. McLain strove to capture the essence of early Nome for future generations. Her efforts, along with other Nome residents, resulted in a rich collection of historical records, photographs, and objects that formed the foundation of a museum on Front Street in 1967.

The museum soon outgrew its original location and for many years the community envisioned a larger space to protect and share the collection. The City of Nome received capital funding from the State of Alaska in 2010-2011 to create a new facility that, along with additional donor support, aided completion of the Richard Foster Building in 2016. The Richard Foster Building now houses the City of Nome's Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum and Kegoayah Kozga Public Library as well as Kawerak's Katirvik Cultural Center. The shared facility serves as a local resource for historical and cultural information, a creative space for hands-on learning experiences, and a vibrant center to synergize on community programming.

We are delighted to share the new Richard Foster Building with conference participants as well as the recently completed Education Center at the University of Alaska Northwest Campus. This year's conference features a diversity of workshops and special events, almost 30 sessions, and over 80 presenters. We are particularly excited by the number of local participants who will be offering colorful insight into the historical and cultural fabric of Nome. Heartfelt appreciation is due to our conference partners, generous sponsors, and local businesses that expanded their services to assist with conference activities.

While in Nome, we encourage you to carve out some time to explore the surrounding tundra, gather a few late blueberries, and comb our sandy beaches with stunning views of Norton Sound.

With best wishes for a visit that is full of discovery and inspiration,

Dr. Amy Phillips-Chan  
Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

## THEMES



### Relationships

Museums function within a complex network of relationships from individual work/life balance to staff and board relationships, and working with communities, stakeholders, funders, institutional collaborators, and more. How can we best maintain healthy and productive relationships on all of these levels? As museums adapt to shifting climates, audiences, and economics, how can we build and maintain resilient relationships for both immediate and long-term success? How do we stress resourcefulness, collaboration, and engagement in our museum relationships?

### Alaska Historical Society



### Tundra & Ice: History in Alaska's Arctic

Alaska's Arctic is fertile ground for historical inquiry. Northern topics abound like whaling in the Arctic Ocean, the gold stampedes to Nome and Kotzebue Sound, the Prudhoe Bay oil strike, and the rich history of Inupiaq and Yupik people and their contributions to environmental protection and civil rights in Alaska. This year we look northward and contemplate ways to preserve our histories and share them with the world.



# KATIRVIK CULTURAL CENTER



KAWERAK, INC.

## CONFERENCE EVENTS

### WORKSHOPS

#### *Museums Alaska Pre-Conference Workshop*

##### **Collections as Springboards for Community Conversations**

Megan Cacciola, Director of Public Programming, Alaska Humanities Forum

Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 am-12:00 pm, Katirvik Cultural Center

Every object, every film, every work of art in a museum can act as a springboard for meaningful community conversation in which participants discover personal connections to collections and to one another. This half-day workshop will allow participants to partake in a model conversation and learn the important design elements for satisfying community conversation.

#### *Museums Alaska Pre-Conference Workshop*

##### **Care of Clothing and Textiles**

Sarah Owens, Conservator, Anchorage Museum

Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

This workshop provides an opportunity to meet with a Textile Conservator and discuss how to identify damage and prevent its future occurrence. The first half of the workshop will include: materials and structure of textiles, fiber identification, agents of deterioration, documentation and handling. Methods for the care and stabilization of textiles will be shared including cleaning and stitched support. Each workshop participant will get to make their own sampler of textile conservation stitches (basic knowledge of sewing is desirable but not essential). The second half of the workshop will focus on the storage and display of textiles and clothing, and the use of archival materials. The workshop participants will get the opportunity to make their own padded hangers and 'sausages' for storage; 'soft' mounts for internal support of accessories, padded boards for display of flat textiles, and learn more about mannequin modifications for the display of 3-dimensional clothing.



## MEETINGS

### *Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB)*

Wednesday, September 12, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, NWC Fireweed

### *Museums Alaska Board Meeting*

Wednesday, September 12, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm, NWC Salmonberry

### *Alaska Historical Society Board Meeting*

Wednesday, September 12, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm, NWC Fireweed

### *Museums Alaska Annual Meeting*

Thursday, September 13, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, NWC Coho

### *Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska Joint Board Meeting*

Thursday, September 13, 5:00 pm-6:00 pm, NWC Coho

### *Alaska Historical Society Annual Meeting*

Friday, September 14, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, NWC Willow

### *Museums Alaska Board Meeting*

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 am-9:00 am, NWC Coho

### *Alaska Historical Society Board Meeting*

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 am-9:00 am, NWC Willow



Miners pose on top of the No. 2 Dredge of the Flodin Gold Mining and Dredging Company as it operates on the Solomon River. Nome, c. 1910. Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, *NMP-82-25-9*

## TOURS

### **Nome Discovery Tour**

Wednesday, September 12 and Saturday, September 15, 2:00 pm-4:30 pm

*Tickets must be purchased on Eventbrite by 9/10.*

*Sign up for your preferred tour time at the registration desk.*

A 2.5 hour tour of the Nome area with dog mushing, gold panning, wildlife viewing, and historical city highlights. The tour will be led by the Mayor of Nome.

### **Safety Roadhouse**

Thursday, September 13, 6:00 pm-10:00 pm

*Tickets must be purchased on Eventbrite by 9/10.*

*Sign up for the shuttle to Safety Roadhouse at the registration desk.*

Road trip to Safety Roadhouse, historic checkpoint of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. BBQ chicken dinner, outdoor games, beachcombing, and transportation included.

### **Helicopter Tour**

Saturday, September 15, departures at 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm

*Tickets must be purchased on Eventbrite by 9/10.*

*Sign up for your preferred time at the registration desk.*

A one-hour helicopter tour provided by Bering Air with unparalleled views of the windswept coast, rolling tundra, rocky mountain slopes, and sheltered lagoons of the Seward Peninsula.

### **Nome See-it-Paint-It Workshop**

Saturday, September 15, 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

*Tickets must be purchased on Eventbrite by 9/10.*

*Meet at the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum at 2:00 pm.*

Join local artist Michael Burnett out on the tundra for a See-it-Paint-it workshop highlighting the splendid autumnal colors of Nome. Participants will go home with a beautiful painted memory of Nome. Canvas, paints, and brushes will be supplied.

# Eat like a local!

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation and Norton Sound Seafood Products are happy to welcome Museums Alaska and the Alaska Historical Society to Nome! While enjoying Nome's unique cultures, history and landscape, be sure to sample some of finest seafood available, harvested by hard-working Norton Sound fishermen. Better yet, take some home with you as a delicious souvenir! We can package orders for flights home or have it shipped to your door. Visit our plant in Nome, find us at [NortonSoundSeafood.com](http://NortonSoundSeafood.com) or give us a call at 855-443-2304.



[NortonSoundSeafood.com](http://NortonSoundSeafood.com)



[nsedc.com](http://nsedc.com)





## OPENING RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, Richard Foster Building

- 7:00pm      Welcome (Lobby)  
              Richard Beneville, Mayor of Nome  
              Amy Phillips-Chan, Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum  
              Bob Metcalf, Director, University of Alaska Northwest Campus  
              Lisa Ellanna, Director, Kawerak Katirvik Cultural Center
- 7:30pm      King Island Native Dance Group (Lobby)
- 7:45pm      Refreshments (Richard Foster Room)
- 8:00pm      Landbridge Tollbooth (Lobby)
- 8:00pm-9:00pm      Open House (Museum, Library, Cultural Center)



Richard Foster Building, Nome, AK

## KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

### Alaska Historical Society

#### Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lorraine McConaghy

Thursday, September 13, 8:30 am – 10:00 am, Old St. Joe's Hall



#### *Thinking Together About Public History*

Everyone does history; human life itself is about remembering. And we are in the midst of dramatic transformation of public history, finding both new questions and new answers, new ways of remembering. Historical research and interpretation were long restricted by the narrow perspective of practitioners, the limited audience which the practitioners addressed, and the elitist archival collections on which they based their work. Archival collections have grown to include oral histories, personal narratives, and many digitized sources from newspapers to public documents that have encouraged new narratives. Participation in public history has widened as the Web has opened up access and conversation about historical topics and research methods. New digital approaches to storytelling in museum galleries, in programs and on the Web have engaged new historians in the interpretation of the past.

Against this context, Dr. Lorraine McConaghy will review some touchpoints in her public history career. When she began in 1975, historical museums mounted exhibit shrines to a founding white pioneer whose wife “gave birth to the first baby born west of the Rockies.” As recently as the 1980s, Seattle’s major historical museum did not mention organized labor, people of color, or religion in its exhibit text. No gallery discussed slavery in Washington State or pro-Confederate, Ku Klux Klan, or John Birch Society sympathies there. Native people were faceless, cardboard, colorless characters in a drama starring pioneer heroes and heroines; they were interesting only for their culture, which was ruthlessly looted. Are things better? Yes. Have we finished? No. McConaghy will present one set of public history stories, to inspire thinking about the next set.

#### About the Speaker

Dr. Lorraine McConaghy is a public historian at Seattle’s Museum of History & Industry and Washington State History Museum. She has many years of experience wrangling with questions of whose stories are told and how we tell them.



## Museums Alaska

### Keynote Speaker: Marieke Van Damme

Friday, September 14, 8:30 am – 10:00 am, Old St. Joe's Hall



#### *The Joy In Our Work*

We museum workers know (and studies confirm) that our institutions directly contribute to the well-being of a community. We provide education, but we also give opportunities for social interaction, beauty, understanding, and so much more. There is great joy in our work.

Unfortunately, while the product the public sees is inspiring, behind the scenes the work can be grueling. Many issues haunt some in our field: perpetually under-resourced staff, no professional human resources department, low pay with poor benefits, and more. The result is often burn out and high turnover. How can we get our joy back? Join Marieke Van Damme, founder of the Joyful Museums project, for a look at the role we all play in promoting positive workplace culture in our museums.

#### About the Speaker

Marieke Van Damme has worked in non-profits for over fifteen years, starting as an Americorps VISTA volunteer in Alaska right out of college. She worked in collections management for the National Park Service in Sitka, Alaska, and in Salem, Massachusetts; managed an 18th-century historic site in Peabody, Massachusetts; and served as Deputy Director at the Bostonian Society/Old State House. She is currently the executive director for the Cambridge Historical Society in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 2014, Marieke launched Joyful Museums, a project studying workplace culture in museums, and in 2017 was a co-founder of GEMM (Gender Equity in Museum Movement). She proudly serves as a member of the New England Museum Association board.

## STATE OF THE STATE LUNCH

Thursday, September 13, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm, Old St. Joe's Hall

### **SPEAKERS**

Representative Neal Foster, State of Alaska

Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Alaska

Patience Frederickson, Director, Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museums

## AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, September 14, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Old St. Joe's Hall



*The Rotary Club of Nome welcomes  
Museums Alaska and the Alaska  
Historical Society to Nome and  
thanks them for holding their 2018  
Conference in our historic City.*



Old St. Joe's Hall, Nome, AK.  
Photograph by Leon Boardway

## POSTERS

NWC Education Center, Hallway

### AHS: Poster 1

#### *Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives New Online Portal*

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at University of Alaska Fairbanks is now able to provide detailed online access to unique collections from the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives (APRCA). This poster presentation will offer information about accessing the portal, items contained on the portal, plans for the portal, and will introduce the development team and cover technical development aspects. APRCA houses the world's most extensive collection of materials about Alaska and one of the leading collections on Polar Regions.

Angela Schmidt is a film archivist with the Alaska Film Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

### AHS: Poster 2

#### *Arctic Arts Summit, Harstad Norway, June 21-22, 2017*

Eight countries—the United States, Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia—inhabit the Arctic Circle and share similar concerns about global warming and retaining distinct Native cultures. As the only freelance journalist from Alaska, I had the privilege to report on this momentous event. One of the results of my experience was this poster, which was juried and displayed at College Art Association Conference, February 2018, in Los Angeles.

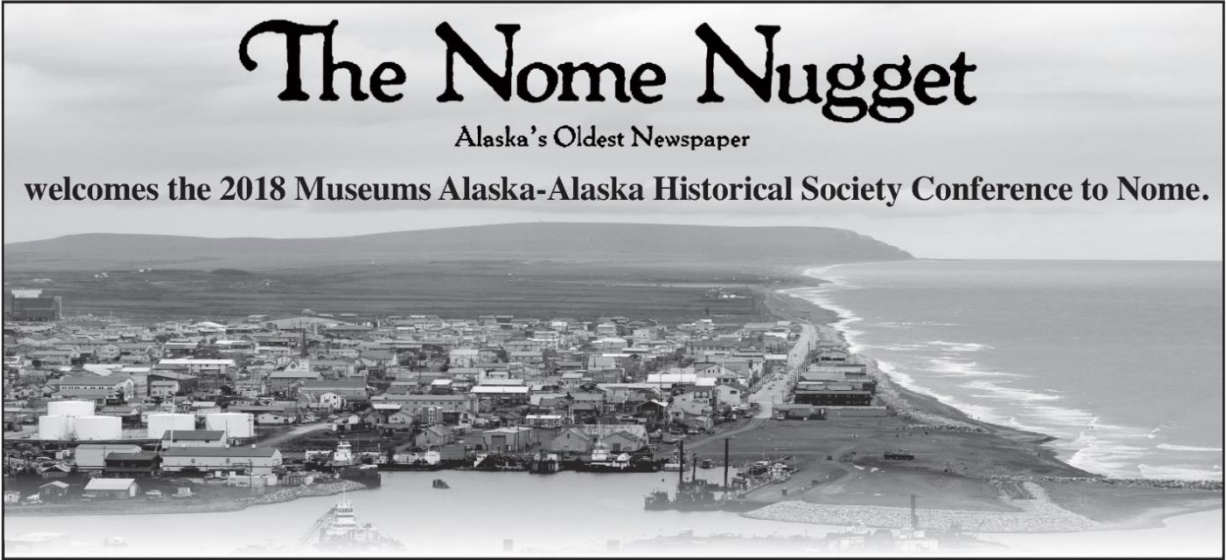
Jean Bundy is a writer/painter living in Anchorage, presently with The Anchorage Press. She serves on the board of the International Art Critics (AICA-International) and shows paintings at Pleiades Gallery, New York City.

## AHS: Poster 3

### *Celebrating the Success of Alaska's Digital Newspaper Project*

Since 2016, the Alaska State Library has been participating in the National Digital Newspaper Program. The program is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress designed to digitize and provide free access to historical newspapers from across the United States in Chronicling America, the text-searchable online database. By August 2018, the Alaska State Library will have digitized 100,000 pages of Alaskan historical newspapers from across the state ranging in date from 1898-1922. This poster will describe the hard work and dedication of Alaskans who recognize the power of newspapers as a history research tool.

Anastasia Tarmann is a librarian with the Alaska State Library's Alaska Historical Collections and has been instrumental in selecting and digitizing Alaska's historical newspapers.



**The Nome Nugget**  
Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

welcomes the 2018 Museums Alaska-Alaska Historical Society Conference to Nome.

We wish you a constructive and meaningful conference in Nome. As your conference motto is Relationships, we invite you to experience the past, present and future of Nome by delving in the weekly news that *The Nome Nugget*, Alaska's oldest newspaper has been offering since 1899.

Thank you for visiting Nome and enjoy your time here.

Don't leave Nome without a genuine souvenir from The Nome Nugget \* Hoodies and t-shirts available  
The Nome Nugget \* 222 Front Street \* Nome, Alaska 99762 \* [www.nomenugget.net](http://www.nomenugget.net)

## EXHIBIT ROOM

NWC Main Building, Conference Room

National Park Service

Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums (SLAM)

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

## MUG-UPS

Mug-ups were an important part of life for fishermen. They would gather and have a hearty meal and warm up whenever they could take a break. Today, this nautical expression still describes a gathering of people for a drink and meal.

Thursday, 10:00 am – 10:30 am, NWC Education Center, Break Room

Thursday, 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm, NWC Education Center, Break Room

Friday, 10:00 am – 10:30 am, NWC Education Center, Break Room

Friday, 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm, NWC Education Center, Break Room



A group of travelers pause to enjoy mugs of hot drinks and biscuits while sled reindeer graze nearby on moss. Shown standing are: Toutuk, Walter C. Shields, Alfred, and Henry. Seated are: Marcus, Charlie, and Dr. Daniel Neuman. Nome, c. 1915. Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, 2017.5





## ROUNDTABLES

### **MA: Breakfast Roundtables**

*Museums Alaska Grant Programs:  
Art Acquisition Fund & Collections Management Fund Changes in 2018*

Organizer: Della Hall, Director, Museums Alaska

Thursday, 7:00 am – 8:00 am, Polar Cafe

Friday, 7:00 am – 8:00 am, Bering Sea Bar and Grill

Saturday, 7:00 am – 8:00 am, Milano's

Three morning breakfast roundtables will be led by Museums Alaska on the changes to the Art Acquisition Fund and Collections Management Fund grant programs and application process.

### **SLAM: Breakfast Roundtable**

*SLAM Strategic Plan*

Organizer: Jacqueline F. Hamberg, Curator of Collections, Sheldon Jackson Museum

Thursday, 7:00 am – 8:00 am, Milano's

Learn about the new strategic plan for the Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museums and the search for community input and involvement.

### **MA: Lunch Roundtable 1**

*Constant Engagement - The Quest To Improve The Museum's Communications  
and Functions: What Is The Right Amount?*

Organizer: Michael Haller, Executive Director, Alaska Veterans Museum

Friday, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm, Husky's

Determining the 'right mix' of communications to the public, the staff, volunteers, partners, collaborators, funding groups and individuals is a relentless challenge. But there are many useful and effective methods that deserve conversation, exploration, and consideration. Adapting to changing environments and conditions is critical to the mission success of our museum(s).

## **MA: Lunch Roundtable 2**

### *Building Togetherness with Icebreakers*

Organizer: Sarah Harrington, Executive Director, Kodiak Historical Society

Friday, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm, Milano's

Icebreakers provide the perfect tool for Board, staff, and volunteers to create meaningful connections and inspire togetherness. Explore a collection of team-building icebreakers that work well in any situation to ensure everyone gets off on the right foot. Join this fun and engaging session to test new icebreakers that are quick and easy, that help a group relax, and a few more challenging examples to help bridge the distance.

## **AHS: Lunch Roundtable 1**

### *Addressing the Crisis in Alaska's Archives*

Friday, 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm, Polar Café



**mushing** mushing.com  
The magazine of dog powered adventure

**MUSHING MAGAZINE and [mushing.com](http://mushing.com)**

The magazine of dog-powered sports published in Nome, Alaska

**welcomes the participants of the**

**2018 Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Conference to Nome.**

Nome is the home of historical and modern day sled dog races and the finish line of the world famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

The history of Nome is inextricably intertwined with the lifestyle and sport of a living mushing culture, which Mushing Magazine strives to perpetuate with a mix of historical and modern day stories of sled dogs and dog men and women.

Welcome to Nome!

Mushing.com \* Nils Hahn and Diana Haecker (907) 434-1541

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# ***Bering Air***

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*Proudly Serving Western Alaska Since 1979*

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, September 12, 2018					
7:30am-4:30pm	Registration & Info Desk <i>NWC Education Center Entrance</i>				
8:30am-12:00pm	Pre-Conference Museums Alaska Workshop Collections as Springboards <i>Cultural Center</i>		Pre-Conference Museums Alaska Workshop Textile Conservation <i>Museum Lab</i>		
1:00pm-4:30pm	Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board (ASHRAB) Meeting 1pm-4pm <i>NWC Fireweed</i>				
2:00pm-4:30pm	Pre-Conference Tour: Nome Discovery <i>Depart NWC Main Entrance</i>				
5:00pm-6:30pm	Museums Alaska (MA) Board Meeting <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>				
	Alaska Historical Society (AHS) Board Meeting <i>NWC Fireweed</i>				
7:00pm-9:00pm	Opening Reception <i>Richard Foster Building</i>				
Thursday, September 13, 2018					
7:00am-8:00am	Breakfast Roundtable: Museums Alaska Grants <i>Polar Cafe</i>				
7:00am-8:00am	Breakfast Roundtable: SLAM Strategic Plan <i>Milano's</i>				
7:30am-5:00pm	Registration & Info Desk <i>NWC Education Center Entrance</i>				
7:30am	Silent Auction Opens <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
7:30am-8:30am	Continental Breakfast <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
8:30am-10:00am	Welcome & Alaska Historical Society Keynote Address: <i>Thinking Together about Public History</i> , Dr. Lorraine McConaghy <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
10:00am-10:30am	Morning "Mug Up" <i>NWC Break Room</i>				
10:30am-12:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	<i>Museums Alaska</i>		<i>Alaska Historical Society</i>		
	A Legacy for Posterity <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>	Incorporating Indigenous Languages into Alaskan Museums <i>NWC Coho</i>	Gold Rush in Alaska's Northwest <i>NWC Ptarmigan</i>	The Military in Alaska <i>NWC Willow</i>	General Session <i>NWC Fireweed</i>
		Do Museums Influence Communities or Communities Influence Museums? <i>NWC Coho</i>			
12:00pm-1:15pm	State of the State Lunch <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
1:30pm-3:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	<i>Museums Alaska</i>		<i>Alaska Historical Society</i>		
	Creating Exhibit Labels <i>NWC Coho</i>	Examining Our Strengths <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>	Missions and Legacies <i>NWC Fireweed</i>	Around the Campfire: Stories of Nome from Local Historians (panel) <i>NWC Willow</i>	
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon "Mug Up" <i>NWC Break Room</i>				
3:30pm-5:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	<i>Museums Alaska</i>		<i>Alaska Historical Society</i>		
	Museums Alaska Annual Meeting <i>NWC Coho</i>		Personal Experiences in the Cold War Era <i>NWC Ptarmigan</i>	Alaska History through the Eyes of Youth (panel) <i>NWC Willow</i>	Film Screening: <i>A Rose in Candle</i> <i>NWC Fireweed</i>
5:00pm-6:00pm	Alaska Historical Society and Museums Alaska Joint Board Meeting <i>NWC Coho</i>				
6:00pm-10:00pm	Safety Roadhouse Excursion and Dinner (ticket required) <i>Depart NWC Main Entrance</i>				
6:30pm-8:30pm	Salmon Shadows Community Conversation <i>Cultural Center</i>				

Friday, September 14, 2018					
7:00am-8:00am	Breakfast Roundtable: Museums Alaska Grants <i>Bering Sea Bar and Grill</i>				
7:30am-5:00pm	Registration & Info Desk <i>NWC Education Center Entrance</i>				
7:30am-8:30am	Continental Breakfast <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
8:30am-10:00am	Welcome & Museums Alaska Keynote Address: <i>The Joy in Our Work, Marieke Van Damme Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
10:00am-10:30am	Morning "Mug Up" <i>NWC Break Room</i>				
10:30am-12:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	Museums Alaska		Alaska Historical Society		
	Moving from Competition to Collaboration <i>NWC Coho</i>	Cannery Life <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>	Visions of Nome <i>NWC Willow</i>	Prohibition and the Flu Pandemic of 1918 <i>NWC Ptarmigan</i>	Film Screenings: <i>Sayeik and Melting the Ice: A History of Latter-Day Saints in Alaska NWC Fireweed</i>
12:00pm-1:15pm	MA Lunch Roundtable: Constant Engagement <i>Husky's</i>	MA Lunch Roundtable: Building Togetherness <i>Milano's</i>	AHS Lunch Roundtable: Addressing the Crisis in Alaska's Archives <i>Polar Cafe</i>	Lunch on your own	
1:30pm-3:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	Museums Alaska		Alaska Historical Society		
	Museums and Communities <i>NWC Coho</i>	I Love My Job, But... <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>	Lives in the Far North <i>NWC Ptarmigan</i>	Commerce and Empire <i>NWC Willow</i>	Film Screening: <i>When in Nome NWC Fireweed</i>
3:00pm-3:30pm	Afternoon "Mug Up" <i>NWC Break Room</i>				
3:30pm-5:00pm	Concurrent Sessions				
	Museums Alaska		Alaska Historical Society		
	Alaska History Day <i>NWC Coho</i>	Cross-disciplinary efforts at the Dick Proenneke Cabin Site <i>NWC Salmonberry</i> Nurture the Land and People <i>NWC Salmonberry</i>	Alaska Historical Society Annual Meeting <i>NWC Willow</i>		
5:30pm	Silent Auction Ends <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
6:00pm-9:00pm	Awards Banquet <i>Old St. Joe's Hall</i>				
Saturday, September 15, 2018					
7:00am-8:00am	Breakfast Roundtable: Museums Alaska Grants <i>Milano's</i>				
8:00am-1:00pm	Registration & Info Desk <i>NWC Education Center Entrance</i>				
8:00am-9:00am	Continental Breakfast <i>NWC Break Room</i>				
8:00am-9:00am	Museums Alaska Board Meeting <i>NWC Coho</i>				
9:30am-11:00am	Alaska Historical Society Board Meeting <i>NWC Willow</i>				
	Concurrent Sessions				
	Museums Alaska		Alaska Historical Society		
	Museum Q & A <i>NWC Coho</i>		Tourism and Representation <i>NWC Willow</i>	Politics and Nature <i>NWC Ptarmigan</i>	Historic Resource Use within the Seward Peninsula <i>NWC Fireweed</i>
11:00am-11:30am	Closing Comments <i>NWC Willow</i>				
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch on your own				
1:00pm-6:00pm	Post-Conference Tours				



## SESSIONS

### THURSDAY SESSIONS

#### **MA: Session 1**

*A Legacy for Posterity: Relationship building and deepening with the Veterans History Project*

Organizer: Monica Mohindra

Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, SALMONBERRY

An exploration of the ways to connect to content of and create inroads of participation with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) for museums, libraries, educators and cultural organizations. Discussion will include demonstration of practical implementation in a classroom or educational setting, as well as tips for connecting with communities to generate veterans' oral histories.

Monica Mohindra, Head of Program Coordination and Communication, Library of Congress Veterans History Project

Karen Lloyd, Director Library of Congress Veterans History Project

Bill Noomah, Educator, Homer, AK

#### **MA: Session 2**

*Incorporating Indigenous Language into Alaskan Museums*

Organizer: Aaron Leggett

Thursday, 10:30 am – 11:10 am, COHO

This session will highlight the Anchorage Museum's recent efforts to incorporate the indigenous language of its place into the overall branding and identity throughout the institution. This presentation will show how multiple areas of the museum have used Dena'ina as way to create a sense of place and encourage the use of language by visitors. Heather McClain will present on the Sealaska Heritage Institute's new exhibition based on a native place names inventory project.

Aaron Leggett, Curator of Alaska History and Culture, Anchorage Museum

Heather McLain, Sealaska Heritage Institute

### **MA: Session 3**

*Do Museums Influence Communities or Communities Influence Museums?  
How one museum experienced both.*

Organizer: Bethany Buckingham Follett

Thursday, 11:20 am – 12:00 pm, COHO

The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center created the Old Town Autumn Fest to fit a need in the community and was able to build partnerships with local businesses and non-profits for the event. Then a local business used the museum as a backdrop for two Alaskan Made movies and to celebrate, the museum changed a permanent exhibit to continue the experience. Listen to the nuts and bolts as to how a museum with two staff members continues to influence and be influenced by their community.

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center

Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant, Chickaloon Village Tribal Council

### **MA: Session 4**

*Creating Exhibit Labels*

Organizer: Sarah Asper-Smith

Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, COHO

This session focuses on the process of writing and designing clear, concise, and interesting exhibit labels. From developing content to the size of the font, there are many decisions that can help make the information in a museum relatable and legible. Bring your ideas, and our presenters will help you to best communicate the interesting stories of your museum to your visitors.

Sarah Asper-Smith, Owner/Exhibit Designer, ExhibitAK

Christine Carpenter, Exhibit Designer, ExhibitAK

Anjuli Grantham, Curator of Statewide Services, Alaska State Museum

## **MA: Session 5**

*Examining our Strengths: Is Our Museum up to the Challenge?*

Organizer: Michael Haller

Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, SALMONBERRY

Do we think we're in the 'Museum Business'? Are we possibly committed to an institutional standard(s) that are choking our life right out of us? A couple of nightmarish questions that should be considered (and there are more). Who do we consider the most important people in the life of our museum? How do we interact with them? This session will examine the critical need to know who we should be working with and for; and, will look at the key points to systematically improving our relationships.

Michael Haller, Executive Director, Alaska Veterans Museum

## **AHS: Session 1**

*Gold Rush in Alaska's Northwest*

Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, PTARMIGAN

*Duped by a Convict: How Lawmen Perished in the Kotzebue Gold Rush*

In 1897, George Stevens, prisoner at the Walla Walla Penitentiary, convinced the warden he could find gold in Kotzebue, Alaska. Prison warden James Addleman and his deputy, O.D. Butterfield, got Stevens released from prison. They bought the schooner *Loyal* and assembled a crew, including navigators, former policemen, Stevens, and his 14-year-old son. When they arrived in Kotzebue, battered by weather and conflict, they discovered the promise of gold was a cruel hoax. The men patched the ship, abandoned Stevens and his son in Alaska and headed home. Days later they were capsized in a fierce storm. No one on board survived.

Sharon L. Morris is a retired faculty member of the University of Washington, School of Public Health. Her writing ranges from adventure travel essays—many set in Alaska—to family histories, including the story of her great-grandfather, James F. Addleman, who was lost at sea during the gold rush.

### *Gold Camp Followers Make History: The Marriage of Kate and Charles J. Kennedy, 1902-1914*

In 1898, Spanish-American War veteran Charles J. Kennedy and 16-year-old Kate Kennedy hiked the Chilkoot Pass to the Klondike. Married in 1902, they traveled to Nome to be successful business partners. Their marriage was annulled in 1914. Kate moved to McCarthy, operating businesses for the lonely men seeking gold and copper. Charles mushed his dog team from Nome to Valdez, serving in the first Territorial Legislature. A controversial legislator, he was not re-elected, and there were allegations of election fraud. Charles died in the Nevada State Hospital for Mental Disease as an “indigent-insane” miner buried in a pauper’s grave.

Patt Garrett is a grandmother, retired clinical social worker, armchair historian, and ten-year volunteer docent at the McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum. She is working on a publication about gold camp follower Kate Kennedy.

### *The Discovery Saloon Building: A Link to Nome’s Gold Rush History*

Built in 1899 by one of Nome’s Lucky Swedes, the former Discovery Saloon is Nome’s oldest structure. When the building was converted into a home in 1917, a local newspaper called it “about the finest residence in Nome.” It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Though “of the flimsiest construction,” the building has survived storm, flood and fire to become one of the community’s most tangible links to its Gold Rush past. Come learn about the history of this unique building and challenges of maintaining such a structure in a remote sub-arctic community.

Carol Gales moved to Nome from the Midwest in 1996 “for one year” and hasn’t left. After purchasing the former Discovery Saloon in 2002, she did extensive research on the building to guide exterior restoration work supported by historic preservation grants.

## **AHS: Session 2**

### *The Military in Alaska*

Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, WILLOW

### *“A Shot in the Arm for Alaska:” Al Jolson’s Report of his USO tour of the Alaskan Home-Front and War Zone in 1942*

On June 3, 1942 Japanese planes attacked Dutch Harbor, Alaska. On June 1, Al Jolson prepared for his flight from Seattle to Alaska as part of a USO sponsored tour. Several grounded flights later as a result of the attack, he finally arrived in Juneau on June 12. This paper examines an extensive report of his tour, written by Jolson, one of the most famous entertainers of the era,

to consider Alaska as both home-front and war-zone during the early months of war in the Pacific. It reveals the conditions of soldiers and citizenry, the state of war preparations, and morale.

John W. Heaton is the Arthur T. Fathauer Chair in History and Chair of the University of Alaska Fairbanks History Department. His most recent publications have examined the Athabascans of the Alaska Interior.

*From the Alaska Highway to the Aleutians: Black Troops in Alaska and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement*

This paper highlights the World War II years and illustrates ways this global conflict shaped Alaska's black population and ushered in an era of civil rights. Black soldiers helped build the Alaska-Canadian Highway, served in the Aleutian campaign, and were stationed across the territory. They also faced discrimination—but in the face of mistreatment they served valiantly and with distinction. Consequently, the U.S. military would never be the same and neither would Alaska. This paper recasts Alaska as not only a critical staging ground for war but also an early battleground in the movement for civil rights.

Ian C. Hartman is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

*Copper River Landscapes and Indigenous Encounters: The Army Returns after 133 Years*

This presentation is a report on fieldwork along the Lower Copper River in April 2018 involving a collaborative effort between Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, BLM-Glennallen, the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Ahtna Incorporated, Chitina Native Corporation, Gulkana Village Council, and aviation assets from U.S. Army Alaska. The research was accomplished during the exact time of year when the 1885 expedition of Henry T. Allen ascended the lower Copper River on ice, mapping the landscape and recording Indigenous encounters and sites along the route from Cordova to McCarthy and from Chitina to Glennallen.

Russ Vander Lugt is an active duty Army Officer and doctoral student in the University of Alaska Fairbanks's Arctic and Northern Studies Program. His studies focus on Indigenous-military relationships from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

## AHS: Session 3

### *General Session*

Thursday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, FIREWEED

#### *Iliamna Lake Place Name Project from Local Perspectives*

This paper is a progress report on the Iliamna Lake Place Name Project in Southwest Alaska. While recording place name narratives involving locals from five Iliamna Lake communities, Elders recognized that some places possess multiple names because of the individuals' observations of the landscape and the cultural practices that occurred there. Before publishing the map data for future generations, the project team organized a workshop for local Elders to review the place names and their locations in May 2018. This place name map will demonstrate the history of Iliamna Lake from local perspectives.

Yoko is a doctoral student at University of Alaska Fairbanks in Arctic & Northern Studies Program. Her focus is the study of Central Yup'ik geographic knowledge including place names and oral histories in the Iliamna Lake area.

#### *The Spenard Divorce: Humor and Normalization of Domestic Violence*

An unexplored aspect of Anchorage folklore is the *Spenard divorce*, the purported manner for a disgruntled spouse to quickly and violently exit a marriage. The historical usage is light in tone, a jocular way of describing an imagined community of frontier justice and self-efficacy. In truth, the usage of *Spenard divorce* acknowledges the frequency of domestic violence in Alaska but downplays its significance. As such, the term is a local manifestation of a broader trend—humor as a means of normalizing crimes against women. This presentation tracks the origin, evolution, and context of the *Spenard divorce* within Alaska.

Dave Norton holds degrees in biology, but his career tracks have been more those of a generalist than a specialist. He may be unique in having served as a Research Associate at each of the three senior research institutes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (IAS, GI, IMS) and at the Museum of the North.

David Reamer is a public history graduate student at Southern New Hampshire University. His primary research interests are African-American history, homelessness, community histories, and baseball.

#### *'Scoundrels' in Regional History*

Do we Northerners have more than our share of reprobates in our history? The question inspired a seminar for members of Alaska's chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Nobody in 2014 foresaw how entertaining and



enlightening the pursuit of this question would prove to be. Over seven semesters, the seminar has discussed some 50 candidates for the designation of “scoundrel” with more suggested for future consideration. OLLI’s scoundrel candidates from several periods of Northern history illustrate how widely they differ from one another and how multi-dimensional their characters can be.

Dave Norton holds degrees in biology but his career tracks have been more those of a generalist than a specialist. He may be unique in having served as a Research Associate at each of the three senior research institutes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (IAS, GI, IMS) and at the Museum of the North.

## **AHS: Session 4**

### *Missions and Legacies*

Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, FIREWEED

#### *Grafton (Happy) and Clara Burke: Medical Missionaries at Fort Yukon*

For three decades in the early twentieth century, Episcopal missionaries Grafton and Clara Burke served the medical and spiritual needs of Athabascans from their base at Fort Yukon. In 1916, Burke and Episcopal Archdeacon Hudson Stuck opened St. Stephen’s hospital to serve Alaska Natives. Each summer Dr. Burke traveled on the mission boat, the *Pelican*, along the Yukon and its tributaries to tend people’s medical needs. The Burkes also raised many orphaned Native children at the mission. This paper will analyze Happy and Clara Burke’s service, considering their motivations, as well as Athabascans’ perspectives on their efforts and impact.

Mary F. Ehrlander directs the Arctic & Northern Studies Program and is Professor of History at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Hild Peters is the executive officer of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

#### *The Sitka Mission’s Early Days*

Presbyterian missionaries arrived in Sitka in 1878, and their school was initially welcomed by some Tlingit leaders. However, controversy and lawsuits soon roiled this small community, and resonated in Washington, D.C. This was a time of great change in Tlingit life, as leaders protested appropriation of their property and negotiated a place in the rapidly changing economy. I examine the words of missionaries, ethnologists, and officials, as well as the speeches of Tlingit leaders and writing by students to tease out the story of the Sitka mission and the ways it shaped the Alaska of today.

Rebecca Poulson is an artist in Sitka who has been exploring the history of the Sheldon Jackson School and College. She is the director of the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, is on the board of directors of the Alaska Historical Society, and is a member of the Alaska Historical Commission.

#### *The Latter-day Saints Bush Branch in Alaska*

This presentation will provide an overview of the history and development of the Latter-day Saints “Bush Branch.” This unusual church organization takes in over one-half-million square miles and is used to meet the needs of LDS members who are scattered throughout Alaska who are not connected to regular ecclesiastical units and do not have church buildings to meet in. It will describe ways of meeting individual needs via newsletters, phone communications and periodic visits from the 1960s to the present.

Fred E. Woods is a professor at Brigham Young University in the College of Religious Education. This year he completed a book and produced a documentary on Mormons in Alaska, both titled *Melting the Ice: A History of Latter-day Saints in Alaska*.

### **AHS: Session 5**

#### *Around the Campfire: Stories of Nome from Local Historians*

Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, WILLOW

Join us for an intimate look into Nome history and culture through the lens of local historians and knowledge bearers. Listen to stories of sled dogs and gold mining, hear how buildings and businesses have endured, and learn about the preservation and revitalization of cultural traditions. This panel takes the form of a campfire session with seven-minute stories shared from personal experiences followed by interactive audience discussion.

Organizer: Amy Phillips-Chan, Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

Storytellers: Charlie Lean, Long-time Nome Resident  
Annie Conger, Cultural Studies Teacher, Nome Public Schools  
Lew Tobin, Nome City Council  
Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Director, Kawerak Eskimo Heritage Program  
John Handeland, Manager, Nome Joint Utilities System  
Wilfred Anowlic, King Island Elder  
Richard Beneville, Mayor, City of Nome  
Kitty Scott, Long-time Nome Resident  
Howard Farley, Co-Founder of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race  
Kirsten Bey, President, Nome Kennel Club

## AHS: Session 6

### *Personal Experiences in the Cold War Era*

Thursday, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, PTARMIGAN

### *Hippies, Whales, and Bolsheviks across the Strait*

In the early 1980s, activists from the radical environmental organizations *Sea Shepherd* and *Greenpeace* launched their boats from Nome and sailed to the Siberian coast at Lorino where the Soviet Union operated a whaling station. As the activists had expected, the whales were not being used as food for the indigenous Chukchi people—despite Soviet declarations to the International Whaling Commission—but rather were being fed to foxes. The history of this campaign, with new information from the Russian archives, sheds interesting light on the final days of commercial whaling as well as the relationship between Siberia and Alaska.

Ryan T. Jones is the Ann Swindells Professor in Global Environmental History at the University of Oregon. He is also the author of *Empire of Extinction: Russians and the North Pacific's Strange Beasts of the Sea, 1742–1867*.

### *Thomas Merton's Alaska Journey: A Monk's Ceaseless Exploring*

America in 1968 was shattered by political chaos, but it was just the opposite for the young state of Alaska. Prudhoe Bay was announced, and the “backwards” outpost was suddenly celebrating its fortunes. This same year, the spiritual thinker and bestselling writer Thomas Merton visited the land of tundra and ice. After 27 years living as a Trappist monk, he ventured north for spiritual respite. Alaska had always drawn artists, writers, homesteaders, and hermits to its spacious wildlands and sublime mountains. Merton said the place “had more square miles to last any hermit until judgement day.” But as it turned out, Alaska was one of the last places on earth he saw.

Kathleen W. Tarr is a Thomas Merton scholar, a member of the Alaska Humanities Forum board, and the author of *We Are All Poets Here* (2018).

### *Lend-Lease: Alaska's Air Route to Support Russia in WWII*

The Lend-Lease program was a United States effort to defeat the Axis powers by delivering food, fuel, and, most importantly, war materiel to Russia and the rest of America's allies between 1941 and 1945. This presentation will detail how the program began, which nations were involved, the cost to the United States, and the ways in which Joseph Stalin opened Siberian air routes and offered pilots to ferry planes and their cargos through Alaska to the Eastern Front.

Peter Haggland, as a boy in Fairbanks, watched Lend-Lease planes coming and going. He began flying for Pan American Airways in 1957 and has been director of the Fairbanks Pioneer Air Museum since 2009.

## **AHS: Session 7**

*Alaska Grown: Alaska History through the Eyes of Youth*

Thursday, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, WILLOW

As Alaska's economy slows, many of our young people decide to leave Alaska for what they see as better prospects "Outside." How can we expect our best and brightest to stay and help build Alaska's future if they do not understand how they contribute to its past? This panel will explore ways Alaska history connects our youth and cultivates the next generation of Alaska leaders. Speakers will look at Alaska's young people as historic actors—keen adventurers and skilled athletes whose unique narratives help us to better understand work, play and subsistence activities in Alaska.

Katherine Ringsmuth teaches at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Erin Kirkland is the author of *Alaska on the Go: Exploring the 49th State with Children* (2014).

Vanessa Tahbone is a coach with the Native Youth Olympics and lives in Nome.

## **AHS: Session 8**

*Film Screening: A Rose in Candle*

Thursday, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, FIREWEED

*A Rose in Candle* is a recently-completed documentary produced by Russ Reno and Beverly Churchill. It tells the story of a Jewish family in Candle, Alaska, in the Nome area during the early 1900s. It is a story of Rose Robinson, a young Jewish-Romanian immigrant who left a career as a world-touring violinist, and married and moved to Candle. The story uses Rose's own words, personal photos, and materials from the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum.

Beverly Churchill is the granddaughter of Rose Robinson.

## **SALMON SHADOWS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

*Salmon Shadows: Equity and Sustainability in Alaska's Salmon System*

Thursday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Katirvik Cultural Center

Salmon Shadows uses art and writing to stimulate conversations about equity and sustainability within Alaska's salmon-people system.

Anjuli Grantham, Alaska Salmon Fellow, Curator of Statewide Services, Alaska State Museum

Kevin Maier, Alaska Salmon Fellow, Associate Professor of English, University of Alaska Southeast

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Alaska Salmon Fellow, Social Science Program Director, Kawerak



Nagaruk, Moore, Pederson and Jemewouk families seining on the Kwiniuk River.  
Photograph by Esther Pederson, 2014

## FRIDAY SESSIONS

### **MA: Session 1**

*Moving from Competition to Collaboration: Creating better partnerships in your region*

Organizer: Bethany Buckingham Follett

Friday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, COHO

This session will provide attendees a hands-on/group interaction on how to build relationships with other museums and non-profits in their regions based on the Valley Association for Local History and Culture (VALHC) model. This model was developed and used within the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Museums and Cultural Entities. Format will include power point presentations and panel discussion of how the Mat-Su Museums came together as an organization to work together for visitors to the area. Also a focus on how two museums used their relationship and resources to leverage funding opportunities for shared grants and projects. After presentations, the group will break out into smaller discussion groups based on government museums and non-profit relations, non-profit museums and local business relations, and non-profit museums with other non-profit organization relations and non-profit museums and cultural entity relations.

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center

Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant, Chickaloon Village Tribal Council

Sue Deyoe, Manager, Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum

Sherry Jackson, Director, Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry

### **MA: Session 2**

*Cannery Life: Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Rim, and Beyond*

Organizer: Katie Ringsmuth

Friday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, SALMONBERRY

This presentation will explore the people and cultures from around the world that became involved in cannery industry of Alaska. Through the decades, cannery work can be traced to the influences of laws and regulations, social and economic factors, and, of course, by natural resources. Through the NN Cannery History Project, former cannery workers share stories of



their cannery experience making it clear that although groups of common origins generally stuck together, cultures were not only shared, but embraced by each other. We will be sharing collected tales from the project archives, and engaging the audience and guests to join the conversation so we may all grow a greater understanding of how the long hours and strenuous labor of individuals and cultural groups coalesced into one larger common venture considered the cannery life.

Katie Ringsmuth, Project Director, NN Cannery History Project

### **MA: Session 3**

*Museums + Communities: Collaborative Exhibits and Reciprocal Relationships*

Organizers: Amy Phillips-Chan and Kirsten Anderson

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, COHO

Processes of engagement between museums and communities in Alaska are resulting in collaborative exhibits that offer new perspectives and alternative narratives, which give local knowledge and cultural self-representation greater validity within museum spaces. Fresh approaches to interpretative strategies including multi-media interactives, immersive experiences, and online platforms are providing avenues to share multiple stories, cultivate vibrant dialogue, and increase access to collections. This session explores recent exhibit developments in Alaska with a shared focus on collaborative meaning-making, intercultural communication, and reciprocal museum-community relationships.

Kirsten Anderson, Deputy Director, Anchorage Museum

Amy Phillips-Chan, Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

Sarah Asper-Smith, Owner, ExhibitAK

Lisa Ellanna, Director, Katirvik Cultural Center

### **MA: Session 4**

*I Love My Job, But...*

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, SALMONBERRY

Museums can be difficult workplaces. Come with your issues about workplace culture and share your stories in a safe setting. Together we will troubleshoot possible solutions you can use back at work on Monday.

Marieke Van Damme, Executive Director, Cambridge Historical Society

## **MA: Session 5**

*Alaska History Day: Connecting Students, Schools and Communities*

Organizer: Amanda Dale

Friday, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, COHO

This year the Alaska Humanities Forum has taken over coordination of the Alaska History Day program, which is a contest for students in grades 6-12. Students spend months creating and researching history projects and presenting them in one of five formats: exhibit, website, film, performance, or paper. Museums and historical societies, particularly those in smaller communities, can be a key partner with schools, teachers and community members in this long-running and growing program in a variety of ways, including visiting classrooms, inviting students to museum collections, proposing topics, hosting local contests, and assisting with judge recruitment and orientation. Come and learn about the program, hear about existing successful museum partnerships, and consider what your organization's role could be for Alaska History Day in your community.

Amanda Dale, Program Coordinator, Alaska Humanities Forum

## **MA: Session 6**

*Cross-disciplinary Collaboration: Efforts in Curation, Conservation, and Preservation at the Dick Proenneke Cabin Site*

Organizer: Nicole Peters

Friday, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, SALMONBERRY

The Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Complex is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, Alaska. The site is recognized nationally for its stature as an excellent example of an Alaska bush log cabin. The site is only accessible by float plane in the summer. Currently, efforts are being put forth by the NPS curatorial division, NPS preservationists, and conservators in order to develop a comprehensive preservation plan for the objects housed in this historic cabin and the

outbuildings. This has proven to be a complex project requiring cross-disciplinary collaboration due to the unique preservation issues of the backcountry environment and its effect on the historic cabin objects.

Katie Myers, Curator, Alagnak Wild River, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, National Park Service

Daniel Papke, Preservationist, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, National Park Service

Nicole Peters, Conservator, Peters Art Conservation Services

## **MA: Session 7**

*Nay' dini'aa Na' Hwt'aene Ugheldze' Xuk'anotta Nene' (Nurture the Land and People)*

Organizer: Bethany Buckingham Follett

Friday, 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm, SALMONBERRY

Presenters have been involved in a three year grant project with the Nay' dini'aa Na' Hwt'aene Ugheldze' Xuk'anotta Nene' (Nurture the Land and People) project. Partners have been assisting the Tribe in collecting information and artifacts, organizing and preserving cultural history and artifacts, training local tribal members in tourism and presentations, developing cultural resources, fostering local partnerships, and promoting community relations. Partners will discuss their organization and their contributions to the project and explain how other communities can create their own programs and build relationships.

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center

Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant, Chickaloon Village Tribal Council

## **AHS: Session 1**

*Visions of Nome*

Friday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, WILLOW

*Scooping up the Golden Sands: Ingenious Inventions and Jackass Machinery on the Nome Beach*

If the indelible image of the Klondike Stampede was the stream of men hiking Chilkoot Pass, the corresponding reflection of the 1900 Nome rush was the line of beach miners spread out along the shore of Norton Sound and the junk yard of “jackass machinery” with which they had hoped to mine the Bering Sea shore. “The contraptions,” one reporter wrote, “... are wonderful to behold.” This presentation explores the geology, economics, and history of beach mining on the Seward Peninsula from 1899 to the present and examines the continuing allure of Nome’s “golden sands” on the human imagination.

Terrence Cole is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a long-time contributor to the work of the Alaska Historical Society.

#### *From Nome to Seward, 1925: Frances Walker and Friends*

Mentions of the Jesse Lee Home at Seward most often begin with the transfer of children from the Unalaska facility in 1925 and proceed from there, with no discussion of the contingent from Nome who undertook a longer voyage at the same time. Jesse Lee is also most often referred to as an orphanage, which is largely inaccurate except for the children from Nome who were cared for at the Lavinia Wallace Young mission after the 1918-19 influenza pandemic. I hope to help amend the historical record by introducing Frances Walker and others at this year’s gathering.

Jackie Pels was born in Seward and reared mostly in coastal Alaska. As Hardscratch Press she has edited and published more than 30 books of personal and community history, and is the author of *Family After All: Alaska’s Jesse Lee Home / Vol. II, Seward, 1925-1965*.

#### *Historic Bars of Nome*

Beginning as tents on the beach and developing into opulent palaces along Front Street, the bars of Nome have a wild reputation and a storied past. Establishments with names like the Dexter, the Northern, and the Board of Trade thrived with the influx of men seeking their fortunes. The fire of 1934 destroyed all of the Front Street bars, and the subsequent realignment forever obscured their former locations. The presentation will provide a historical synopsis of some of the most famous bars of Nome from the pre- and post-prohibition years.

Doug Vandegraft is a former Alaskan and the author of *A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska*, now in its second edition. He is the former Chief of the Geospatial Services Division for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

## AHS: Session 2

### *Prohibition & the Flu Pandemic of 1918*

Friday, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, PTARMIGAN

#### *The 1918 Influenza Goes North to Alaska*

Called “Spanish Flu,” this pandemic killed more in a year than Black Death in a century and more in 24 months than AIDS in 24 years and more Americans than in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Annual influenzas kill old and young, the H1N1 virus killed 18-to-40 year olds. As WWI was ending October 1918, steamships delivered flu to Alaska; it put military fort soldiers in coffins and Alaska Natives in communal graves. Eighty years later, lungs of a Brevig woman buried with 72 villagers provided pathologists DNA to make antivirals and vaccines for 2009 flu.

Beverly Beeton lives in Seattle. She served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at two Universities of Alaska, and regularly speaks on subjects related to her research on the social history of Alaska around World War I.

#### *A Dena’ina Perspective on the 1918 Flu Epidemic*

For the Dena’ina of Southcentral Alaska the 1918 flu epidemic irreparably changed the traditional lifestyle as they would soon become the minority in their homeland. Although exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that in a two to three-year period half of the Dena’ina population succumbed to the illness. Using oral accounts from the Dena’ina and those living among them we are able to see the ravages that this terrible disease wrought and how it played a part in shaping Dena’ina identity today.

Aaron Leggett lives in Anchorage and is a member of the Native Village of Eklutna and currently serves as its president. He works as the Anchorage Museum’s Curator of Alaska History and Culture and was an integral part in the exhibition and catalog *Dena’inaq’ Huch’ulyeshi*.

#### *Enforcing the 1918 “Bone Dry” Law: A Nome Case Study*

In a 1916 referendum authorized by the Territorial legislature at the behest of temperance activists Alaskans voted 2-to-1 in favor of a “bone dry” law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of “intoxicating liquors.” Congress enacted legislation implementing these terms on January 1, 1918—two years before the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution imposed prohibition nationally. Enforcement proved controversial and difficult, especially given Alaska’s long and enthusiastic drinking history and greater threats to public health and safety that

loomed on horizon. Nome's experience with the "bone dry" law in the early years reveals both the zeal and ambivalence that characterized the short-lived prohibition experiment.

Barbara Hood lives in Anchorage. She served as an attorney in the public sector for many years and was a long-time member of the Alaska Bar Association's Historians Committee. She has edited and photographed photo-text exhibits on addiction recovery for RuralCap's Homeward Bound.

### **AHS: Session 3**

#### *Film Screening: Sayeik*

Friday, 10:30 am – 11:10 pm, FIREWEED

This documentary film discusses three aspects of Alaskan place names, or toponyms. It explores the historical process of recording and choosing toponyms during 19th and 20th century exploration of Alaska, the anthropological relevance of place names to language revitalization, and the contemporary political process of place naming and appeals in Alaska.

Forrester Holton is studying at the University of Alaska Southeast and is conducting research with funding from the Undergraduate Research, Experiential & Creative Activities Program.

#### *Film Screening: Melting the Ice: A History of Latter-day Saints in Alaska*

Friday, 11:20 am – 12:00 pm, FIREWEED

Notwithstanding the frigid circumstances, a genuine warmth emanates from the Alaskan Saints. The match that lit this internal flame was the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, first striking the Alaskan borders at the turn of the twentieth century. They have subtly shaped Alaskan society, although composing less than five percent of the state's population. Their influence on Alaskan communities can be seen through their family values, humanitarian service, community projects, and family history centers. This film tells the story of the rise and influence of Latter-day Saints as they joined hands on their journey of "melting the ice."

Fred E. Woods is a professor at Brigham Young University in the College of Religious Education. This year he completed a book and a documentary on Mormons in Alaska.



## AHS: Session 4

### *Lives in the Far North*

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, PTARMIGAN

#### *Excerpts from an Arctic Memoir*

My parents Sylvester and Gertrude Mazen came to Alaska to teach in 1926, first in Selawik then Wales. I was born in Teller in 1928 and raised in Shaktoolik and Nome. Enduring the Arctic's bitter cold was part and parcel of daily life, like the time mom and my 10-year-old sister Constance traveled across Norton Sound by dog team and the time my dad fell through the ice while traveling by dog team from Wales to Teller. I would love to share these family stories with slides, many of which are part of my memoir entitled *Kiyonuk* being published by Hardscratch Press this year.

Sylvester D. "Kiyonuk" Mazen was born in Teller in 1928, with his first home in Wales, followed by Shaktoolik and Nome. He left Alaska in 1952, and, after a career in education and family counseling and after sailing around the Pacific, returned in 1998 and settled in Homer.

#### *The Moore Journey: Alaska Through the Pocket Kodak*

This presentation will share the photographs of W.R.E. and Inez Moore took during their years in Alaska between 1922 and 1940. They first came to Alaska employed by the Department of the Interior to teach school and manage reindeer herding on the Lower Yukon and Kobuk rivers. They dabbled in mining, barge transportation, and managing a trading post at Ohogamute during the 1930s. They enjoyed keeping in touch via shortwave radio and taking photos with their Pocket Kodak camera.

Dorothy M. Moore is a retired social studies teacher and former Alaska Historical Society board member. She now enjoys organizing the photographs and papers of her grandmother who wrote under the pen name "Tugboat Inez of the Yukon."

#### *Michael Francis Kazingnuk and the Eskimo History Story*

This paper offers an overview of a manuscript written by Michael Francis Kazingnuk in the 1930s. Mr. Kazingnuk was from the Diomed Islands and documented many of his personal experiences as well as stories, songs and other information from his elders, relatives, and others. Kawerak, Inc.'s Social Science Program recently transcribed this document, which is available on our website and at the Alaska State Library.

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian is an anthropologist and director of Kawerak Inc.'s Social Science Program. She works with the tribes and communities of the Bering Strait region.

## **AHS: Session 5**

### *Commerce and Empire*

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, WILLOW

#### *The Argosy of the Alaska Commercial Company*

During the final decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Alaska Commercial Company operated the largest commercial fleet in Alaskan waters. Recently discovered material in a General Manager's Book comprehensively describes the entire fleet from Yukon River barges to ocean-hulled steamships. The details of each ship—sail, steam and paddlewheel—were cataloged with listings that included draft, keel length, year built, and capacity. The combined tonnage of the ships exceeded any other shipping company on the Pacific coast of the United States in 1901. This paper discusses the ships and their unique contributions to Alaska's economic development.

J. Penelope Goforth is a photojournalist and writer with a background in the fishing industry out of the Bering Sea and Southeast Alaska where she worked on crabbers and sailed. She has written numerous articles especially about Alaska's maritime history.

#### *Russian Colonization of Alaska: Continuing the Colonization of Siberia?*

The creation of the multinational Russian Empire is connected to the colonization of wide open spaces of the Eastern territories. After colonization of Siberia, Russian pioneers needed more than a century to muster their strength, cross the North Pacific and colonize a part of North America. The Russian claiming of Alaska chronologically coincides with the second era of Great Expansion of the Capitalist World-Economy (1730-1840s). World-system analysis allows a wide-perspective comparative analysis of the colonization of Alaska and Siberia as well as the colonization led by other European countries that was carried out at the same time.

Pavel Pimenov is studying history at Ural Federal University with a focus on Alaska history. His research has been presented at conferences in Budapest and St. Petersburg.

### *Across the Arctic by Air: Alaska's Role in Polar Exploration Flights*

When Roald Amundsen, Lincoln Ellsworth and Umberto Nobile landed their airship *Norge* in Teller, Alaska on May 14, 1926, they linked the Eastern and Western Hemispheres through the first crossing of the Arctic by air. Although the territory supported and received polar aviator-explorers throughout the 1920s, including those of Amundsen and Australian explorer Hubert Wilkins, Alaska thrust numerous challenges upon flyers seeking to conquer the Arctic. By comparing and contrasting these expeditions to those launched elsewhere, this research analyzes how Alaska both aided and challenged these efforts at polar flights.

Leanna P. Williams is a graduate student in the Arctic and Northern Studies Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and focuses on Arctic aviation history. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Fairbanks's Pioneer Air Museum.

## **AHS: Session 6**

*Film Screening: When in Nome...*

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, FIREWEED

The Alaska State Library Historical Collections in Juneau and the Alaska Film Archives at University of Alaska Fairbanks have teamed up to create a compilation of motion picture scenes showcasing Nome's rich history. In keeping with the theme of "History in Alaska's Arctic," and in the spirit of conferencing, the compilation of historical film and video clips will emphasize the myriad ways in which people have joined together for events and activities in Nome over the past 100 years.

Angela Schmidt is film archivist with the Alaska Film Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks. The Alaska Film Archives is celebrating its 25th year in 2018.

Damon Stuebner is with the Alaska State Library Historical Collections.

## SATURDAY SESSIONS

### **MA: Session 1**

#### *Museum Q+A*

Saturday, 9:30 am – 11:00 am, COHO

A session to stimulate discussion and questions among museum colleagues.

### **AHS: Session 1**

#### *Tourism and Representation*

Saturday, 9:30 am – 11:00 am, WILLOW

*Baranov Museum or Russian American Magazin:  
Sleuthing Its Early Histories and Effects on Modern Placard Story Themes*

Presumptions about some 18th and 19th century activities at the Baranov Museum or Russian American Magazin have clouded the modern placards' story themes which are desired in current museum exhibits. The presenter has tracked-down the origin and progression of these ersatz histories which revolve around the questionable usage of this National Historic Landmark as a fur warehouse under Baranov.

Dawn L. Black is the co-author/editor/co-translator of *Natalia Shelikhova: Russian Oligarch of Alaska Commerce* and is also co-author and co-translator of an online book about the Russian Orthodox priest Tikhon Shalamov and his book *Around the Mission*.

#### *Traces of the Industrial Sublime: Salmon Hatcheries and Tourism in Southeast Alaska*

Since the 1890s, the tourism industry has attempted to prove Alaska's scenery more valuable than gold. Paradoxically, natural resource extraction has also been of interest to scenery-seeking tourists. From the Treadwell Mine of the 1890s to salmon hatcheries today, tourists have been interested in gold, timber, and fish. Drawing on Robert Campbell's *In Darkest Alaska*, I suggest a contemporary Juneau hatchery tour's draw is similar to what brought tourists to Treadwell. Arguing that both tours present the technological illusion of producing wealth without labor, I maintain they also mask the ecological and social perils inherent to resource extraction.

Kevin Maier is Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Humanities Department at the University of Alaska Southeast. He is also an Alaska Salmon Fellow through the Alaska Humanities Forum and works as a fishing guide in Juneau during the summer.

### *When You Think Alaska—Think Alaska Steamship Company*

Chances are now, when the public imagines Alaska, they no longer think of the Alaska Steamship Company, but they should. One common agent united the territory of Alaska and packaged its quintessential Alaskan iconography between the early 1900s and the early 1950s. The Alaska Steamship Company's art and advertising both created and reinforced preexisting symbols of Alaskan culture that it disseminated amongst its passengers and which it solidified into a nationwide image of Alaska and, for locals, an Alaskan identity.

Pierce A. Bateman is a historian for Fort Wainwright and is also a graduate student in the Arctic and Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he is writing his thesis on the Alaska Steamship Company.

## **AHS: Session 2**

### *Politics and Nature*

Saturday, 9:30 am – 11:00 am, PTARMIGAN

### *Weirs Not Dams: A Historical Examination of Fish Agents and Tlingit Fish Weirs*

Waves of people headed north to Alaska for the Klondike and Nome gold rush but even more steadily made their way to Alaska each summer to work in the commercial fishing industry. By the mid-1890s federal fish agents began inspecting rivers and streams in Southeast Alaska and failed to realize that the Tlingit carefully managed their weirs for millennia. Over the course of the next decade the fish agents tore out Tlingit weirs and/or threatened fines and imprisonment if the traps were not removed.

Daniel Monteith is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast.

### *Historical Investigations of Indigenous Whale Harvesting in the North Pacific Ocean*

Whales represent an important food and materials source for Native communities in Alaska and along the West Coast of United States and Canada. Multiple species of whales have been hunted for centuries by Native peoples with rituals and techniques that vary across regions and are specific for a target species. This presentation examines a wide variety of historical sources

documenting not only whaling techniques and practices of Alaska Native groups but also the use, processing, and preservation of whale parts across the region.

Valentina Melica is a fisheries student with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Daniel Monteith is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast.

### **AHS: Session 3**

*Past Meets Present:*

*Historic Resource Use within the Seward Peninsula and Modern Resource Management*

Saturday, 9:30 am – 11:00 am, FIREWEED

The Seward Peninsula has a rich history of dependence on natural resources. The unique economic, social, geographical, and political contexts of the region have contributed to a long history of formal resource management. Hear from managers and users about past and current efforts of formal management strategies.

Jack Omelak, Education and Public Programs Coordinator, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum  
*Historic Resources Use within Northwest Alaska*

Nicole Braem, Social Scientist, National Park Service  
*Current Federal Management Strategies within the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*

Claudia Ihl, Researcher and Instructor, UAF Northwest Campus  
*Past and Current Reindeer Management within the Seward Peninsula*

Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources Director, Nome Eskimo Community, Member, Eskimo Walrus Commission  
*Eskimo Walrus Commission*

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Saturday, 11:00 am – 11:30 am, WILLOW



Crowds line Front Street to cheer for a parade of Nome Public School students waving flags during a Fourth of July celebration in 1901. Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, 97-59-1

## NOTES





Cover: Newly arrived prospectors to Nome crowd the shorefront as they disembark from lighters, look over supplies, and prepare to set up canvas tents. Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, 2006.21