

AINA NEWS

2006 Scholarship Winners

Jennie McLaren, a doctoral student in the Department of Botany at the University of British Columbia, is the 2006 winner of the Jennifer Robinson Scholarship. Jennie has spent several field seasons at AINA's Kluane Lake Research Station, where she is studying the effects of disturbance, particularly loss of biodiversity, on a grassland ecosystem.

Mark Edwards, a doctoral student in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta, is the 2006 recipient of the Lorraine Allison Scholarship. For his doctoral research, Mark is studying the ecology of grizzly bears in the Mackenzie Delta. His research will lead to the creation of an ecological database on grizzly bears that can be used to mitigate the effects of potential oil and gas pipeline development on bears living in the Delta.

Grant-in-Aid Program Recipients for 2006

Thirty-five applications for the Grant-in-Aid Award were submitted this year and sufficient funds were available to fund only seven. The committee wishes to congratulate the following successful applicants of this year's competition: Peter Evans, Cambridge University, is studying the transformations of indigenous resistance and identity in northern Labrador from 1947 to the present; Jennie McLaren, University of British Columbia, is researching the effects of plant functional groups on vegetation dynamics and ecosystem properties; Rob Lukens, Temple University, is looking at Arctic exploration and the making of modern America; Jessica Wu, University of Guelph, is examining dental enamel hypoplasia (DEH) in the 'bluenose' herds of barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*); Douglas Wacker, University of Washington, is investigating the range expansion and physiological and behavioral flexibility in the territoriality of male northern red fox sparrows in Arctic Alaska; B. Britten Harter, University of Manitoba, is studying the effects of global warming and the retreat of Arctic pack ice on the daily chick growth and breeding success of the black guillemot (*Cephus grylle*); and Lea Randall, University of Calgary, is researching the response of insectivorous mammals to insect infestation in the northern boreal forest. Congratulations to all!

This concludes our 12th year of awards, and we look forward to continuing this very rewarding function of AINA. All funds awarded over these years, totaling about \$74 000, represent annual contributions from the membership. All contributions are distributed directly to recipients; none are used for administrative purposes. In addition, the committee members, Stephen Braund, Erich Follmann, Peter Johnson, and Matthew Sturm, volunteer their time to participate in this valuable program.

Proposals for 2007 are due on 1 February. Please refer to the AINA website for information on applications, or

contact Dr. Erich H. Follmann, Institute of Arctic Biology, P.O. Box 757000, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7000, U.S.A. Phone: (907) 474-7338; Fax: (907) 474-6967; e-mail: ffehff@uaf.edu.

Clio Award to AINA Research Associate

AINA Research Associate William Barr was presented with a Clio Award by the Canadian Historical Association at its annual conference at York University, Toronto, on 30th May. This is a lifetime achievement award, in recognition of his contribution over the years to the historical literature on the Canadian North. Since 1979, Barr has published 12 books and 35 articles dealing partly or wholly with the Canadian North, in addition to numerous books and articles on other areas of the Arctic, especially the Russian Arctic. His most recent manuscript, provisionally entitled *Arctic Hell-Ship: The Voyage of HMS Enterprise, 1850-1855*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Alberta Press.



Bill Barr.

Devon Canada Supports ISR Database

Devon Canada Corporation has joined Shell Canada Limited in supporting the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Database that is produced by AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) and the Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees.

There is a pressing need for information about north-west Canada's Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). As hearings continue on the Mackenzie Gas Project, all levels of government, Inuvialuit organizations, and the private sector must plan for increased development and improved physical and social infrastructure in a region where traditional harvesting must be protected and where the impact of climate warming is expected to be the greatest in Canada. The ISR Database, which describes 8800 publications and research projects about the ISR, is helping to meet this need. The database is available at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/isr.

ASTIS and the Joint Secretariat wish to thank Shell Canada and Devon Canada for their support of this important project.

ASTIS Part of CIHR Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention

AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) will create a bibliographic database and provide server space for publications of interest to a team funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to work on circumpolar chronic disease prevention.

Northern populations in the circumpolar region have begun to experience the emergence of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, and the metabolic syndrome, which have occurred in other populations undergoing rapid social, cultural, and economic transition. The CIHR Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention is a five-year northern public health initiative led by Dr. Kue Young of the University of Toronto. With funding of up to \$7.7 million, it will create, develop, and sustain an international, collaborative research program to monitor the burden of emerging chronic diseases among northern peoples; investigate genetic, behavioral and environmental risk factors that may be unique to northern populations; and design and evaluate interventions in order to avert future epidemics.

EnCana Supports Canadian IPY Publications Database

EnCana Corporation has agreed to provide financial support for the Canadian IPY Publications Database, to be created by AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS).

The International Polar Year 2007–08 (IPY) will be an intensive burst of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary scientific research focused on the Earth's polar regions. The Government of Canada's IPY program will emphasize research on climate change impacts and adaptation; research on the health and well-being of northern communities; capacity building and training for young scientists and northern communities; and communications and outreach programs to northern communities and the general public.

The Canadian IPY Publications Database will be the Canadian component of the IPY Publications Database, which

will be created by an international consortium to identify and make accessible all of the research, education, outreach, and communication publications that result from the IPY. EnCana, one of North America's leading natural gas producers, will provide \$10,000 per year for five years, with the possibility of renewal for a second five-year term. EnCana's support for this crucial project is deeply appreciated.

2005 AINA Annual Report Now Available Online

The 2005 AINA Annual Report is now available in PDF format on the AINA website at http://www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/sections.php?sid=about&cid=annual_reports. For easier accessibility and cost-effectiveness, the annual report was not produced in print format, but mounted directly online. Production of the 2005 annual report was coordinated by Dr. Dawn Johnston, AINA's director of Communication and Education.

AINA Hosts Filmmaker John Houston

On 3 March 2006, the Arctic Institute of North America was pleased to host renowned Arctic filmmaker John Houston. Houston visited a group of Grade Two students at Dalhousie Elementary School in the morning, and in the afternoon, spoke to a group of 120 guests at the Calgary Zoo's Safari Lodge. Guests enjoyed Houston's short talk, along with a screening of the third film in his Arctic trilogy, entitled *Diet of Souls*. Following the screening and a short question-and-answer session, guests had the opportunity to chat with Houston during a cocktail reception.

The event was well covered by Calgary media. In addition to an appearance by Houston on the morning news, Global TV aired a feature story on Houston's school visit during its 6:00 pm newscast, and an article appeared in Saturday's *Calgary Herald*.

Houston's visit was organized and hosted by the Arctic Institute of North America, with the generous sponsorship of the Rozsa Foundation, Devon Canada, ATCO Frontec, Enbridge, the Calgary Zoo, City of Calgary Environmental Management, Mrs. Seena Garvey, and Canadian Western Bank.

More information on Houston, his films, and the Houston North Gallery in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is available at www.houston-north-gallery.ns.ca.

KLRS Newsletter Issue 2 Now Available

The Arctic Institute of North America is pleased to announce that the second issue of the Kluane Lake Research Station Newsletter is now available in PDF format on the AINA website at <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/aina/KLRSNews02.pdf>. This newsletter is intended to foster cross-disciplinary communication among researchers and to inform the public about the research being conducted at KLRS. AINA thanks Ryan Danby and David Hik of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, for producing this second issue of the newsletter.