

AINA NEWS

Meet AINA's New Executive Director

Effective July 1, 2013, Dr. Maribeth Murray takes on the position of AINA Executive Director. Dr. Murray, who comes to us from the International Arctic Research Center and Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, has worked in the Arctic and Subarctic for over 20 years. She holds a BA in Archaeology from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, an MA in Archaeology from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a PhD in Anthropology from McMaster University. In Fairbanks, Dr. Murray was Chair of the Department of Anthropology, director of the Human Dimensions of the Arctic System Core Office, and also held the position of executive director of the International Study of Arctic Change, initiated in 2003 by the International Arctic Science Committee and the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board. Dr. Murray's research interests focus on human and natural system dynamics in the North, marine ecosystem sustainability, and historical human ecology. We look forward to welcoming Maribeth to Calgary and to AINA!



Maribeth Murray appointed director of the Arctic Institute of North America. (Photo by Gemma Gerlach)

Special Thanks to our Acting Executive Directors

The AINA staff would like to extend a very special thank you to Ross Goodwin, Peter Dawson, and Shawn Marshall who have served as acting executive director of AINA for various lengths of time over the past two years. We are deeply grateful for their time and effort on our behalf and look forward to their continued association with the Institute.

New Offering in the Northern Lights Series

In March the University of Calgary Press and the Arctic Institute of North America co-published the 16th offering

in the Northern Lights Series: *Shipwreck at Cape Flora: The Expeditions of Benjamin Leigh Smith, England's Forgotten Arctic Explorer*, by Peter J. Capelotti. From 1871 to 1882, Leigh Smith led five expeditions to the Arctic, during which he mapped and named numerous islands in the Svalbard and Franz Josef Land archipelagoes. His last expedition to Franz Josef Land in 1881 resulted in the sinking of his private research vessel *Eira*, forcing Leigh Smith and his crew to overwinter at Cape Flora, Franz Josef Land, and endure an epic voyage in small boats the following summer until their rescue in Matochkin Strait, Novaya Zemlya, August 1882.

The author, an associate professor of anthropology at Penn State University, Abington College, has written over a dozen books and made several research trips to Svalbard and Franz Josef Land. *Shipwreck at Cape Flora* is available in print or at www.uofcpress.com as a free open access ebook.

ASTIS News

The Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) now contains 77 700 records describing publications and research projects about northern Canada and provides links to 21 200 online publications. ASTIS and its subset databases are available for free from the Arctic Institute of North America website at www.arctic.ucalgary.ca/databases. ASTIS specializes in the preparation of bibliographic databases about northern Canada that are made available from customized websites for contract clients. ASTIS is happy to develop new databases, add publications and documents to existing databases, or provide custom online searches for organizations with Arctic interests.

The Hydrocarbon Impacts Database (www.aina.ucalgary.ca/hi) now describes 8650 publications and research projects about the environmental impacts, socio-economic effects, and regulation of oil and gas exploration, development, and transportation in northern Canada. The database is funded by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. The Hydrocarbon Impacts Database includes publications from a variety of northern project reviews and research programs including the National Energy Board's Arctic Offshore Drilling Review, the Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment, and the Beaufort Seabed Geohazard Legacy Data Compilation. Publications from these and the other reviews and research programs can easily be accessed from the Report Group menu on the HI Simple Search page.

The Canadian IPY Publications Database (www.aina.ucalgary.ca/hi) now describes 4400 publications from International Polar Year 2007–08 and the three previous IPYs. The database includes both publications from Canadian IPY projects and publications from foreign IPY projects that have studies in northern Canada. The database received funding from the Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year from April 2007 to March 2012 and Encana Corporation from April 2006 to December

2012. Publications resulting from IPY 2007–08 are still being produced and ASTIS is currently seeking sponsors to support the ongoing work on this important database.

Grant-in-Aid Recipients for 2013

This year saw over double the number of applicants for a Grant-in-Aid award as received in 2012. Of the 58 students who applied, 18 were awarded grants to assist them with research costs. The successful applicants were Andy Baltensperger, Casey Brown, Dana Fjare, Diane Huebner, and Courtney Nichols from the Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Chris Cannon, Department of Linguistics, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Katie Christie, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Lisa Strecker from the Resilience and Adaptation Program, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Cecilie Reimer Ebsen, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Eric Hutton, Department of Geography, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Andrew Chater, Department of Political Science, Western University, London, Ontario; John Moody, Bioarchaeology and Archaeological Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Western University; Megan Lukasewich, School of Public Health, University of Alberta; Jennifer Provencher, Department of Biology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario; Jaanika Vider, Department of Archaeology, Oxford University; David Watts, Ecology Intercollege Graduate Degree Program, Pennsylvania State University; Jeffrey Werner, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia; and Chandra Young-Boyle, Department of Archaeology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland.

The members of the Grant-in-Aid Selection Committee for 2013 were Stephen Braund, Carl Benson, Mark Johnson, Peter Johnson, Thomas Newbury, and Matthew Sturm. Proposals for 2014 are due on 1 February. Please refer to the AINA website for application information.

"Vanishing Point" Film Screening

As part of a key mandate to celebrate and inform the public of the Arctic and its people, on March 12, 2013 the Arctic Institute of North America and the University of Calgary First Nations Student Association co-hosted a screening of the new National Film Board (NFB) feature, *Vanishing Point*. The film screening was one of many free public events held as a part of Aboriginal Awareness Week.

Vanishing Point was filmed, written, and directed over four years by Stephen Smith and Julia Szucs of Meltwater Media. The film's central story is tied to the migration of Qitdlarssuaq, a Canadian Inuit shaman who led a historic journey across the Arctic in the 1860s. It follows a Greenland Polar Eskimo Elder, Navarana K'avigaq' Sørensen—a descendent of the shaman—as she considers her peoples' way of life with that of her distant cousins in Arctic Canada. Though she finds much in common with her

Canadian relatives, there are striking differences in lifestyle and hunting practices. In a world of unavoidable challenges, what are the ways forward, what has been lost, what has been gained? Perhaps some ways should be followed, not because they are traditional, but because they make more sense, reflects Navarana.

Presented in Inuktitut and Inukturn with English subtitles, the film captures the majesty of the Arctic land and sea and their relationship with northern culture both today and in the past. The presence of the filmmakers is undetectable in capturing both dramatic and intimate details of the land, the flora and fauna, and its people.

Both filmmakers were present at each of two screenings to take questions from 70 audience members, including students of Arctic archaeology, social workers, Arctic researchers, including associates and staff of the Arctic Institute of North America, government geologists, as well as representatives of the First Nations Student Association.

The First Nations Student Association presented the filmmakers and the Arctic Institute host with beautiful handmade gifts in appreciation of their support of Aboriginal Awareness Week. Dr. Jon Dudley (AINA Research Associate) introduced Stephen Smith and Julia Szucs and coordinated the event on behalf of the Arctic Institute.

The film credits include a nod to Dr. Peter Schlederman (past AINA Director) and Karen McCullough (editor *Arctic*) for their technical advice and for guiding the filmmakers to archival sources that became key elements within the film. As it happens, they are also vicariously connected to this project as having long ago made their own connections to Navarana, who many years later would become the inspiration for this film.

Vanishing Point, an award-winning film, is currently being screened at a number of film festivals and other special events and has received a number of awards. It is scheduled for public DVD and online release in fall 2013, at which time it will be available through the NFB at www.nfb.ca. It is hoped that it can be screened in some of the northern communities in which it was filmed.