

AINA NEWS

2014 Scholarship Winners

Jennifer Provencher, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biology at Carleton University, is the recipient of the 2104 Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship. Readers may recall that Ms. Provencher was the 2013 winner of the Lorraine Allison Scholarship. Jennifer is continuing her research into the possible cumulative effects of gastrointestinal parasites and mercury on the body condition and reproduction of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). In addition to her research, Jennifer is an Executive Committee member of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the current chair of APECS Canada.

Emily Choy, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba, is the winner of the 2014 Lorraine Allison Scholarship. Emily's research focuses on the beluga whales of the eastern Beaufort Sea and how possible climate-change induced declines in Arctic cod (a major prey species for beluga) may affect the physical condition of the whales. As part of her research, Emily works closely with Inuvialuit hunters and other community members to monitor nutritional stress and dietary changes in the beluga population.

The Arctic Institute gratefully acknowledges the time and effort of the scholarship committee members in reading through all of the applications and selecting the recipients. For the Jennifer Robinson Scholarship for 2014, the committee members were Ryan Danby, John Krebs, Geoff Scudder, and Mary Vetter. For the 2014 Lorraine Allison Scholarship, the members were May Allison, Bill Elton, Dee McRae, Heather Myers, Everett Peterson, and Janet Wright. AINA Executive Director Maribeth Murray also participates in the scholarship committee meetings and AINA Administrative Assistant Melanie Paulson pulls everything together for the committees.

Grant-in-Aid Recipients for 2014

The selection committee received a record 97 applications for grants-in-aid in 2014. Twenty of those applicants were awarded grants to assist with their research costs. The successful applicants for 2014 are Tayana Arakchaa from the Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Lauren Bell, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Matthew Binnington, Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto – Scarborough; Michelle Cason, Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Emily Choy, Freshwater Institute and Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba; Sarah Crump, Geological Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder; Greg de Wet, Geosciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Celine Dupont-Hebert, Historical Science, Laval University; Mike Grocott, School of

Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham; Rachel Shively Hart, Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Laura Kaupas, Biological Sciences, University of Calgary; Laura Kelvin, Anthropology, Western University; Jeff Kerby, Biology, Penn State University; Chris McNeil, Alaska Pacific University; Jennifer Provencher, Biology, Carleton University; Hunter Snyder, St. Hugh's College; Sarah St. Germain, Geography, University of Calgary; Christine Urbanowicz, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Dartmouth College; Jeff Werner, Zoology, University of British Columbia, and Vitali Zverev, Biology, University of Turku, Finland.

The members of the Grant-in-Aid Selection Committee for 2014 were Alexander Braun, Peter Johnson, Thomas Newbury, Mary Stapleton, Wayne Strong, Matthew Sturm, John Yackel, and Ken Tape. Proposals for 2015 are due on 1 February. Please refer to the AINA website for application information.

New Executive Secretary for AINA U.S. Corporation

The University of Alaska Fairbanks provided funding to the AINA U.S. Corporation that allowed it to hire a new Executive Secretary, Dr. Ken Tape. Dr. Tape is an ecologist at the Institute of Northern Engineering, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). He attended the public school system in Fairbanks and later obtained a BA in Geology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and an MS in Geology and a PhD in Biology at UAF. Dr. Tape has broad interests in the Arctic natural sciences and Arctic people and history. His research describes the impacts of 20th century climate warming on various components of the Arctic tundra ecosystem, including vegetation, permafrost, hydrology, and wildlife. In 2010, the University of Alaska Press published his book, *The Changing Arctic Landscape*, which was subsequently developed into a traveling museum exhibit, managed by the Burke Museum in Seattle, Washington. He has boated, skied, snowmobiled, dog-mushed, photographed, and written about the major river systems in northern Alaska. His science webpage (<https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/kentape/>) and his photography page (<http://arcticcirclephoto.com/>) have examples of his work.

Introducing the Sahtu Settlement Area Database

The Arctic Institute of North America's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) is pleased to announce that the Sahtu Settlement Area Database is now available for free online at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/sahtu.

The Sahtu Settlement Area Database contains 2100 records describing publications and research projects about the Sahtu Settlement Area in the central Mackenzie Valley of Canada's Northwest Territories. The database can be searched by document type, keyword, title, author, year,

subject category, or community. Records include full citations with standardized corporate authors, detailed subject and geographic indexing terms, and full abstracts.

Our thanks and appreciation to Husky Energy for providing funding and to the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. for their support in developing this valuable resource.

Big Changes for the Nunavut Database

The Arctic Institute of North America's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) is also pleased to announce extensive updates to the Nunavut Database, including a new website location. The Nunavut Database can now be found for free online at:

www.aina.ucalgary.ca/nunavut.

The Nunavut Database now contains 33 100 records describing publications and research projects about the territory of Nunavut in Canada. Information from the following types of research licences and permits is included in this database: Nunavut Research Licences (Nunavut Research Institute) from 1995 to 2012; Nunavut Wildlife Research Permits (Nunavut Department of Environment) from 1999 to 2013; Nunavut Archaeology Permits (Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage) from 1999 to 2010; Licenses to Fish for Scientific Purposes (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) 1991 and from 1999 to 2012. We are very grateful to the organizations that provided this information. The Nunavut Database also includes new items in the Research Program menu for the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan (NGMP) and Nunavut Traditional Knowledge.

ASTIS would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan for supporting the updates and continuing development of the Nunavut Database.