

AINA NEWS

Ocean Travels

Post-graduate fellow Matthew Ayre joined the barque *Picton Castle* in June for a leg of the Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta, sailing from Boston to Summerside, Prince Edward Island. The *Picton Castle* is a dedicated sail-training vessel that stays true to traditional tall ship sailing practices. Matthew used this voyage as an opportunity to ground truth and refine interpolation methods applied to the logbooks of 19th century Arctic whaling vessels to reconstruct their daily positions, allowing for increased accuracy in mapping historical sea ice edge position.

Continuing his time underway, Matthew joined Adventure Canada's "Heart of the Arctic" cruise as scientist in residence. Traveling through Hudson Strait and up the West Greenland coast, he provided perspectives to passengers on Arctic climate change and the commercial Arctic whaling trade. Research undertaken during this voyage included citizen science logbook transcription with passengers, investigation into the locations of J. Dewey Soper's paintings on southern Baffin Island, and interviews with local residents and onboard experts about climate change in the North for the Polar Voices podcast.



The settlement of Kangaamiut, western Greenland.

AINA Postdoc Leads Research at Nfld Groswater Site

In July, Dr. Patricia Wells, postdoctoral fellow at AINA, conducted four weeks of archaeological and geographical research at the Trike Site (EeBi-16) within the Port au Choix National Historic Site in northwestern Newfoundland. Previous archaeological testing had demonstrated that the area adjacent to Bass Pond on the Point Riche Peninsula was occupied by the Groswater, a Paleo-Inuit group who settled in this region between 2800 and 2000 years BP. Groswater seal hunting sites are not uncommon in the area, but this location was of particular interest because previous palaeo-ecological studies of Bass Pond had shown anomalies in micro flora and fauna dating to the Groswater period.

This multidisciplinary project had several goals. Archaeological excavation was initiated to determine whether any other group such as the succeeding Dorset People (ca. 2000–1200 BP) occupied the site, its geographic extent, and what activities are represented there. Graduate student Zoe Armstrong (Department of Archaeology, Memorial University of Newfoundland) collected pond sediment samples from which she will examine zooplankton species to reconstruct the ecology of the pond over time and to assess the impact of the Groswater (if any) on pond ecology. Her research has the potential to build on and clarify results from previous research.

Preliminary results from the excavation have shown that the Groswater were the only group represented at the site, which extended over an area of approximately 650 m². No faunal remains were recovered in the excavation, but a range of stone tools suggest a number of activities, including stone tool working, cutting, and scraping. Since the site offers no view of the ocean and is some distance from good landing beaches, it is not surprising that no harpoon endblades were recovered.

Analyses continue on this SSHRC-funded and Parks Canada-supported project. To follow our progress, please visit the project's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/698996656884781/>

AINA Postdoc attends Future Emerging Leaders Workshop

AINA Postdoctoral Fellow Ravi Sankar was chosen as one of 16 Future Emerging Leaders to attend the Arctic Change–Global Challenge: Workshop for Emerging Leaders in Rovaniemi, Finland, during the last week of August 2017.

The workshop's aim was to increase the capacity of individuals who may become the next generation of global leaders to understand and act on the new security and governance challenges that are developing in the context of global environmental change. It brought together a small group of young professionals to use Arctic change as a starting point for defining what global security and governance might entail in the next 20–30 years and to

explore their own roles in addressing the challenges that may arise.

The workshop, hosted by University of Lapland's Arctic Centre, Rovaniemi, Finland, was supported by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra), the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS), the University of Lapland's Arctic Center, and the project Arctic Governance and the Question of Fit in a Globalized World funded by the Swedish Research Council Formas. Convener was Dr. Annika E. Nilsson, Mistra-Arctic Fellow at GMFUS and Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute.

University of Calgary's Arctic and Northern Studies Digital Collection

Interested in rare archival documents about the Arctic? The University of Calgary Libraries has recently digitized rare and unpublished materials from the Arctic Institute of North America's collection.

The newly digitized collection contains letters (and transcriptions) dating from the 1600s to the early 1900s from notable figures of Arctic exploration, including Sir George Back, Sir Thomas L. Cook, Sir John and Lady Jane Franklin, Sir Francis Leopold McClintock, Sir George Nares, Sir William Edward Parry, Sir James Clark Ross, and John Rae. There are also manuscripts of reports from the catastrophic polar expedition of the USS *Jeannette* in 1881 and the voyage of the HMS *Alert* through Hudson Strait in 1886, as well as photographs from the expedition of the steamship *Diana* to Hudson Bay and Cumberland Gulf in 1897. The collection also includes early maps and charts of the Arctic and polar regions from the 1660s to the 1880s, sketches made by Frederick William Beechey during several Arctic expeditions, and lithographs and colour sketches made by Lt. S. Gurney Cresswell of HMS *Investigator* during the discovery of the Northwest Passage.

The digitization of these rare materials ensures that they are available for public access around the world and that they can be accessed without damage to the original items. Find them online at: <http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/p22007coll1>

ASTIS Subset Databases Expand

The Nunavut Database (www.aina.ucalgary.ca/nunavut) is ASTIS's largest subset database. It now contains more than 35 000 records describing 25 000 publications and 10 000 research projects about the territory of Nunavut and its adjacent waters.

The Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) Publications Database (www.aina.ucalgary.ca/npc) now describes more than 3700 publications, including NCP Secretariat publications, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and Canadian Arctic Contaminants Assessment reports, as well as books, journal articles, theses, and posters. This database is also a repository for NCP publications and includes items that are not otherwise available online.

ASTIS works with the Northern Contaminants Program and NCP researchers to add Open Researcher and Contributor IDs (ORCID) to their records. ORCID provides a unique identification number to individuals, enabling ASTIS to ensure that all publications by an author are attributed to him or her, no matter what form the name has in the author listing. Currently, 211 NCP researchers have ORCID. If you are an NCP researcher and do not yet have an ORCID, please obtain one at www.orcid.org and send it to ASTIS at astis@ucalgary.ca or contact us for assistance.

ASTIS is pleased to work with the Northern Contaminants Program to provide this searchable archive of NCP publications.