

NORTHERN NEWS

Mitjarjuk Attasie Nappaaluk, 1931–2007

Mitjarjuk Nappaaluk, Nunavik educator and author, died in Kangiqsujaq, Quebec, on 30 April 2007. Dedicated to preserving Inuit culture, Mitjarjuk Nappaaluk authored over 20 books during her lifetime, including *Sanaaq*, the first novel written in syllabics. Among her many accomplishments, Mitjarjuk also compiled an Inuttit encyclopedia of Inuit traditional knowledge, translated the Catholic prayer book into Inuttit, and helped to develop curriculum materials for the Kativik School Board. In 1999, Mitjarjuk Nappaaluk received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the Heritage and Spirituality category, and in 2004 she was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Northwest Territories/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey

Once again the Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife Office, is asking all those visiting the North this summer to participate in the survey of birds in the territories. Now in its 13th year, the Northwest Territories/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey collects information on bird distribution from volunteers to assist in the conservation and management of bird populations. The Checklist Survey forms are available online at www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/checklist. Some highlights of the 2006 Survey include the observations of a Baltimore oriole, a rose-breasted grosbeak, and a brown thrasher in Arviat, a yellow-headed blackbird north of Wrigley, and a lark sparrow in Colville Lake, as well as the discovery of an American robin's nest in Rankin Inlet.

AINA NEWS

2007 Scholarship Winners

Isla Myers-Smith, a doctoral student in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta, is the 2007 recipient of the Jennifer Robinson Scholarship. For her doctoral research, Isla is investigating the causes and ecological implications of the expansion of shrubs in the alpine tundra of the Kluane region, Yukon. For her field research over the next three summers, Isla will be based at AINA's Kluane Lake Research Station and at remote field camps in the Ruby Range Mountains, Burwash Uplands, and Kaskawulsh Glacier Valley.

Heidi Swanson, a doctoral student in Biology at the University of New Brunswick, is the 2007 recipient of the Lorraine Allison Scholarship. Heidi's research focuses on the effects of anadromous arctic charr on coastal Arctic lakes; in particular, she will be investigating the potential for migrating arctic charr to be a significant pathway for the transport of contaminants into freshwater lakes.

Grant-in-Aid Program Recipients for 2007

The Grant-in-Aid committee received 25 applications this year, and sufficient funds were available for grants to ten individuals. The committee congratulates the successful applicants, whose names and research topics are listed below. Gregory Goldsmith, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is studying the genetic characterization of interrelatedness and clonality in expanding populations of arctic willow (*Salix* spp.) shrubs. Jennifer Rohrs-Richey, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is investigating the combination of drought stress and the canker pathogen *Valsamelanodiscus* as agents in the mortality of alders in Alaska. Linda Gormezano, American Museum of Natural History, will be estimating the abundance, spatial distribution, and genetic structure of polar bears using passively collected hair and feces. Shelly Rayback, University of Vermont, will use dendroclimatological and stable-isotope techniques to reconstruct the recent past climate of an alpine site at White Pass, Yukon, Canada. Michael Sheriff, University of British Columbia, is researching the enigma of hare population cycles, explaining the low phase through stress and maternal programming. Dawn Hoogeveen, Simon Fraser University, is studying diamonds and employment in the north. Kelly Johnson, Memorial University of Newfoundland, is investigating the use of biomarkers to assess contaminants in northern environments. Isla Myers-Smith, University of Alberta, is studying shrub expansion in the alpine tundra of the Kluane region. Bryanne Hoar, University of Calgary, is examining the impact of northern climate change on the development and survival of *Ostertagia gruehneri*, a pathogenic nematode in barren-ground caribou. And Karen Wittke, University of Toronto, will research changes in gender relations in prehistoric Thule culture society that resulted from the Thule migration out of northwestern Alaska.

Proposals for 2008 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, USA. Phone: (907) 474-7338; Fax: (907) 474-6967; e-mail: ffehf@uaf.edu.

New AINA Fellows

At the 2006 board meetings, AINA's Board of Directors approved the nominations of two new Fellows: Dr. Lawrence K. Duffy and Dr. D. William (Bill) Doidge.

Dr. Duffy has had a long and distinguished career specializing in chemistry and biochemistry. His research, conducted in Arctic and Subarctic environments, spans a wide variety of subjects, from aging to contaminants in the natural environments. Most recently, he has investigated the potential for leaking of radionuclides from the former Amchitka Underground Nuclear Test Site. Dr. Duffy is the head of the Arctic Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, which hosts the annual Arctic

Science Conference. He has also had an exceptional teaching career and is currently the associate dean in the College of Science and Mathematics, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. D. William (Bill) Doidge earned his PhD in 1990 from McGill University, with a thesis on the population dynamics of the northern Quebec population of beluga whales. In the early 1990s, Bill was hired by the Renewable Resources Department of Makivik Corporation (representing the Inuit of Nunavik - northern Quebec) to develop the Nunavik Research Centre (NRC), created to provide research capabilities that are responsive to the needs of the Inuit of Nunavik. In addition, the NRC provides young Inuit with training for careers in wildlife management and the sciences. Bill Doidge's scientific and administrative work has made a significant contribution to our knowledge of the polar regions.

New AINA Research Associates

Three new research associates have recently joined the ranks of AINA. Dr. Alexander Braun has been with the Department of Geomatics Engineering at the University of Calgary since October 2004. Prior to that, he was a senior research associate at the Byrd Polar Research Institute. He is currently conducting research in the field of Arctic sea-ice mapping, using a combination of space-borne, airborne, and in-situ gravity measurements. He is also interested in geoidal and tidal modeling of sea-ice thickness using satellite data.

Dr. Susan Kutz is an associate professor (Wildlife and Ecosystem Health) in the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include the biodiversity of northern wildlife, the impact of infectious diseases on northern wildlife, the effects of climate change on those diseases, and the wildlife-domestic animal interface with respect to infectious diseases. She has done extensive research on the epidemiology, impacts, and response to climate change of nematodes found in captive and wild Arctic and Subarctic ungulates.

Dr. Arthur Mason, currently an assistant professor in the School of Justice and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University (on leave 2006–07), is also the University of Calgary's 2006–07 Fulbright research fellow. During his tenure in Calgary, he will be writing papers on the cultural shifts brought forth by the 2001 energy crisis in North America, regional and federal policy on Arctic natural gas development, and institutional commitments to new economic principles for the energy market.

Circumpolar Health Bibliographic Database

The Circumpolar Health Bibliographic Database (CHBD) is now available at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/chbd. The database, a project of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention, contains more than 3100 records describing

publications about all aspects of human health in the circumpolar region. All types of publications, both peer-reviewed and grey literature, are included.

CHBD records contain citations, abstracts, subject and geographic indexing terms, library codes, and links to the full text of publications that are available online. The CHBD project also provides server space to make publications available online, or to provide an additional location for works that are already available online from their publishers.

The CHBD is a new database and is currently far from comprehensive. It was created from records in the Arctic Institute's ASTIS database, which covers primarily northern Canada. It will take several years to improve the CHBD's coverage of the non-Canadian parts of the circumpolar region.

IPY Publications Database

The IPY Publications Database (IPYPD) is now available at www.nisc.com/ipy. The database will attempt to identify and describe all publications from the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007–08 and the three previous IPYs.

At present, the IPYPD describes 83 publications. This number is expected to grow to approximately 20,000 publications in the next 10 years. The records in the IPYPD contain citations, abstracts, subject and geographic indexing terms, and, in most cases, links to the online full text of the publications.

The IPYPD is part of the IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS) and will be updated quarterly. Its success will depend on the willingness of IPY researchers, educators, and communicators to report their publications, as requested by the IPY Data Policy.

The IPYPD was created by AINA's Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS), the Cold Regions Bibliography Project at the American Geological Institute, the Scott Polar Research Institute Library at the University of Cambridge, the Discovery and Access of Historic Literature of the IPYs (DAHLI) project at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, and National Information Services Corporation.

ASTIS has created the bilingual Canadian IPY Publications Database at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/ipy to make the IPYPD's Canadian content available separately. Funding for the Canadian component of the IPYPD has been provided by EnCana Corporation.

AINA US Visits AINA Canada

Three representatives of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)—Craig Dorman, Vice President for Research at the University of Alaska (statewide administration); Virgil (Buck) Sharpton, Vice Chancellor for Research at UAF; and Carl Benson, Chairman of the AINA Board of Governors (US Corporation)—visited AINA's Canadian

headquarters at the University of Calgary on 12–13 February 2007. The goal of the visit was to explore the link between AINA's sister corporations, as well as to investigate possible research areas of common interest to both universities. The visitors had many meetings, both formal and informal, with AINA's staff, as well as meetings with Michel Scott, Chairman of AINA's Board of Directors; Dennis Salahub, Vice President—Research and International, University of Calgary; and Wayne Patton, the Director of Program Development, Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy (ISEEE), University of Calgary.

Stewardship Dinner and IPY Launch

On 22 March 2007, AINA invited a selected group of sponsors and long-time supporters to celebrate the launch of the International Polar Year (IPY), while showcasing exciting new developments with AINA's Photographic North project. This get-together, held in an upscale restaurant in downtown Calgary, was attended by a wide variety of industry representatives, university professors, graduate students, researchers, AINA staff and executive director, and members of the Board of Directors. Proper thanks were long overdue to AINA's sponsors, friends, and benefactors, whose generous support is essential for AINA to function, let alone grow in exciting new directions (such as the Photographic North project). It is hoped that such an event will become an annual affair.

AINA at the Science Café

Inspired by an established European tradition, Calgary's TELUS World of Science, in collaboration with University of Calgary External Relations, has launched a series of downtown "Science Cafés" at the Unicorn Pub. Previous cafés dealt with fascinating topics such as genomics or life on other planets. But on 24 April 2007, in the wake of Al Gore's visit and talk to a sold-out Calgary audience the night before, the hot topic on the Science Café's menu was climate change. Dr. Benoît Beauchamp, AINA's executive director, was one of two scientists on hand to present his views on climate change and field questions from a loud audience. Patrons deserted the live broadcast of hockey games in adjacent rooms to join in the discussion of a topic that is truly on everyone's mind these days. In a city where nearly a million people benefit from a vibrant economy based on the extraction of fossil fuel, the issue of global warming, and the more thorny issue of what to do about it, leaves no one cold, and for a few hours on 24 April, AINA was in the heat of it all.

CPC Northern Infrastructure and Logistics Study

The Canadian Polar Commission (CPC) has established a working group to facilitate an assessment of northern research infrastructure and logistics in Canada: the CPC

Infrastructure Steering Group. After an initial meeting in Ottawa on 30 January 2007, the group held a workshop in Quebec City on 19–20 March, which brought Steering Group members together with managers or operators of existing organizations that provide infrastructure and logistical support for field research in the North. The objectives were to assess current capacity, quantify infrastructure condition and support, and assess the research needs over the next 25 years. AINA was represented at the January meeting by its executive director, and at the March workshop, by Andy Williams, base manager of the Kluane Lake Research Station. The CPC will convene further workshops on federal facilities for northern research and on future research priorities in the Canadian North, and will facilitate a workshop involving northern-based scientists, northern governments, and communities on long-term research infrastructure needs and present capabilities. To learn more about this initiative, contact Jean-Marie Beaulieu of the CPC.

AINA Visits CCI

AINA responded positively to an invitation by Dr. Marianne Douglas and Elaine Maloney, respectively executive director and associate director of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI), to visit them in Edmonton and join with University of Alberta professors, researchers, and graduate students in a three-day celebration of polar research to mark the launch of the International Polar Year. AINA's executive director Benoît Beauchamp, ASTIS manager Ross Goodwin, *Arctic* editor Karen McCullough, and director of communications Dawn Johnston made the trip to Edmonton on 10–12 April 2007 and enjoyed CCI's remarkable hospitality. Strengthening the bonds and partnerships between AINA and CCI is a major objective of both executive directors, and events such as this get-together go a long way towards achieving this.

2007 Gussow Conference on Arctic Energy Exploration

AINA is partnering with the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG) to organize the 2007 Gussow Conference, to be held in Banff, Alberta, on 15–17 October 2007. The conference, one of the geoscience series named for geologist William Carruthers Gussow (1908–2005), will delve into the geoscientific aspects of Arctic energy and examine how exploration, development, and business should be approached and conducted in a sustainable manner in the changing North. Interest in Arctic oil and gas exploration and future development is growing at a time of remarkable change in the North, as a sparse, yet growing population finds itself in the eye of a perfect storm brought about by climate change, environmental stress, ground-breaking political developments, and the desire for a sustainable economy. More information about the conference, its program, and its venue can be found at www.cspg.org.

KLRS Funding Renewed

AINA's Kluane Lake Research Station (KLRS) has received a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the new Major Resources Support Program of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The five-year funding will provide much needed financial stability for KLRS users and allow stakeholders to plan beyond a short-term horizon. In addition to NSERC funding, KLRS received cash contributions from the universities of Toronto, British Columbia, Ottawa, Alberta, and Calgary. For the next few years, KLRS will be the staging ground for major multidisciplinary collaborative projects falling under the umbrella of the International Polar Year and will examine the possibility of developing partnerships with Yukon authorities and aboriginal communities.

AINA's 2006 Annual Report Now Online

The 2006 Annual Report of the Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) is published and can now be downloaded from AINA's website (www.arctic.ucalgary.ca). Since last year, AINA's annual reports are being published only online. Publishing the annual report online substantially reduces our costs and provides AINA with the flexibility to produce a far more appealing report than the small brochure-like document that was mailed in the past.

Changing of the Guard at AINA

AINA will lose two of its pillars this June. Ms. Sonja Hogg has been with AINA for more than seven years, occupying the key administrative position of Business Manager. Combining her accounting skills and experience with rare multi-tasking abilities, she managed to keep AINA's ship afloat over good times and bad times. Sonja is the brain trust overlooking the operation of AINA. The wealth of knowledge she has accumulated over the years is unique and will be nearly impossible to match in the short term. Sonja has decided to move on with her life, and we wish her the very best in whatever adventure she decides to embark on.

Dr. Dawn Johnston, AINA's Director of Communications since September 2005, has accepted a full-time position in the University of Calgary's Faculty of Communication and Culture, where she will divide her time between teaching and attending to student needs. Dawn has been instrumental in increasing the visibility of AINA in the media, as well as in establishing solid bridges, both within the university community and externally, to organizations such as the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies and the Canadian Circumpolar Institute in Edmonton. Her crowning achievement came last January, when she organized the highly popular, AINA-sponsored community symposium leading up to Calgary Opera's world premiere of *Frobisher*, by composer John Estacio and librettist John Murrell.