

AINA NEWS

Grant-in-Aid Program Recipients for 2010

Thirty-nine students applied for a Grant-in-Aid Award in 2010, of which 18 received awards of \$1000 to assist with the costs of conducting northern research. Our congratulations to the following recipients:

- Kaylee Anderson, University of Calgary, is studying the origin, ecology, and reef-building contribution of late Paleozoic *Palaeoaplysina* in Arctic Canada;
- Pat Curry, University of Calgary, is exploring a blood-on-filter-paper technique for northern communities to monitor caribou health;
- Bonita Dainowski, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is researching Arctic marine and terrestrial vertebrate fossil remains as a means of reconstructing diet, nutrition, and health of past Alaska Eskimo populations and exploring the implications of these reconstructions for present Alaska Eskimo populations;
- Ben Dantzer, Michigan State University, is studying how North American red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) mothers are adaptively modifying offspring phenotype via hormone-mediated maternal effects;
- Mara Dougherty, University of Maryland – College Park, is investigating the radiocarbon signature of sulfate-reducing bacteria associated with methane-rich sediments in the Arctic;
- Justin Fulkerson, University of Alaska Anchorage, is studying the effects of pollinator- and herbivore-mediated selection on floral pigmentation in the Arctic mustard (*Parrya nudicaulis*) to discover why Arctic flowers are so colourful;
- Anna Gaby-Trotz, University of Alberta, is studying the Nahanni River;
- Katherine Gavrillchuk, Université Laval, is using stable isotope analysis to investigate diet in four species of baleen whales in the estuary and gulf of the St. Lawrence River, Québec;
- Rebecca Hewitt, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is researching how post-fire plant-mycorrhizal interactions shape landscape-level biome shifts;
- Samuel Hirt, Auburn University, Alabama, is using stable isotope and trace element analyses in baleen to determine calving interval and pregnancy rate of bowhead whales;
- Amanda May Koltz, Duke University, North Carolina, is studying the effects of climate-induced vegetation changes on Arctic food web dynamics;
- Nathan Libal, Mississippi State University, is investigating den-site and seasonal habitat selection by grizzly bears in Yukon Territory, Canada;
- Jen E. McCormack, University of Arizona and Native Nations Institute, is looking at the cross-border governance of the Gwich'in people in Alaska, Yukon, and Northwest Territories, and specifically how this nation asserts spatial sovereignty through Porcupine caribou

and salmon habitat protection, language preservation, and other shared priorities;

- Charlotte Norris, University of Alberta, is investigating the recycling of organic carbon and nitrogen in boreal forest soils;
- Amanda Robertson, University of Alaska Fairbanks, is exploring the role of epigenetics in DNA methylation variation in balsam poplars;
- Eric Vaillancourt, University of Ottawa, is researching metabolic fuel selection and the lipid mobilization capacity of a long-distance migrant, the greater Canada goose (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*);
- Victoria M. Walker, University of Calgary, is exploring the stratigraphy, diagenesis, and reservoir potential of Pennsylvania-Permian sandstone-limestone cycles in the Sverdrup Basin, Arctic Canada; and
- Nicole Wilson, Cornell University, is researching vulnerability to changes in water resources in the Yukon River Basin through a consideration of indigenous knowledge, water institutions, and climate change.

Proposals for 2011 are due on 1 February. Please refer to the AINA website for information on applications, or contact the AINA office in Alaska at Arctic Institute of North America, U.S. Corporation, University of Alaska, PO Box 6808, Rasmuson Library, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6808. Telephone: (907) 474-7450; Fax: (907) 474-7290.

ASTIS News

The coverage of Canada's northern database, the Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS), continues to improve on many fronts. The main ASTIS database now describes 71,800 publications and research projects about northern Canada and provides links to PDF files of 16,700 publications. The database is available for free from the AINA website at www.arctic.ucalgary.ca.

The Canadian IPY Publications Database at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/ipy has grown by 25% during the past six months and now describes more than 2400 Canadian International Polar Year (IPY) publications. Canadian IPY abstracts from the IPY Oslo Science Conference have been added, and work has begun on fiscal year 2009–10 publications reported to the Government of Canada Program for IPY. The database's "IPYs and Projects" menu now lists approximately 125 IPY 2007–2008 projects. The database is funded by the Government of Canada Program for IPY and by Encana Corporation.

The Hydrocarbon Impacts (HI) database now describes 7100 publications and research projects about the environmental impacts, socio-economic effects, and regulation of hydrocarbon exploration, development, and transportation in northern Canada. The database includes publications from the almost completed review of the Mackenzie Gas Project and the recently started Arctic Offshore Drilling Review. More than 1650 HI records have links to PDF files of online publications. The database is funded by Indian and Northern

Affairs Canada's Northern Oil and Gas Branch and is available at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/hi.

The Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) Publications Database has grown by 7.5% during the past six months, and now describes 2340 publications. The NCP works to reduce and, if possible, eliminate contaminants in traditionally harvested foods, while providing information that helps individuals and communities to make informed decisions about their food use. The NCP Publications Database is available at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/ncp.

New Members for CPC Board

Congratulations to AINA Board Member David Hik and AINA Research Associates Rob Huebert and Darielle Talarico, who were recently appointed to the new Board of Directors of the Canadian Polar Commission (CPC). The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, announced the new CPC Board in early November.

New Staff at AINA

This autumn the Arctic Institute said goodbye to Administrative Assistant Trisha Carleton, who left the Institute for a position as Program Coordinator for Cultural Management Programs in the Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria. Replacing Trisha is Deborah Hazell. Deborah has worked in university administrative and library positions for a number of years. Recently, she has worked in the MacKimmie Library at the University of Calgary and the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford.

Tusaqtuut Knowledge-Sharing Visit a Success

As reported in the *AINA News* section of the September 2010 issue of *Arctic*, Research Associate Jon Dudley was assisting an Inuit Elder-driven initiative called *Tusaqtuut*, which seeks to document the traditional core knowledge of the few remaining Elders from South Baffin who were born on the land before the Inuit relocation to Arctic settlements. The southern knowledge-sharing visit of the Inuit Elders to the University of Calgary, hosted by the Arctic Institute, was successfully held from 3–5 November 2010. A total of five Elders from Kimmirut, Iqaluit, and Cape Dorset represented all of the Elders involved in *Tusaqtuut*.

The visit commenced with a Greeting Ceremony and Reception. The Inuit Elders were welcomed to Treaty 7 Land by Dr. Chief Reg Crowshoe of the Pikani; to the University of Calgary by Jim Frideres, Director of International Indigenous Studies; and to the Arctic Institute by board member John Miller. The Inuit Elders conducted a ceremonial *Qulliq* (lamp) lighting to mark the beginning of the knowledge-sharing event.

Other highlights included a review of Arctic Institute historical photos, during which the Elders identified many Inuit in the photos; a visit to the Rocky Mountains in Banff; and a 3D visualization of archaeological sites and a Thule house reconstruction hosted by AINA Research Associate Dr. Peter Dawson. The visit concluded with a four-hour knowledge-sharing seminar, attended by an audience of 150 with diverse interests. Attendees included a variety of Arctic scholars, members of aboriginal support organizations, veterinary researchers, law faculty, and many First Nations students representing a variety of disciplines.

A more detailed report on this special event is planned for a future issue of *Arctic*.