

AINA NEWS

International Forum on Polar Data Activities in Global Data Systems

Shannon Vossepoel, Manager of the Arctic Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS), took part in the International Forum on Polar Data Activities in Global Data Systems, 15–16 October 2013, in Tokyo, Japan. Her presentation, *From Data to Publications: The Polar Information Spectrum*, focused on the value of connecting and sharing all types of polar information that describes entities such as researchers, organizations, research facilities, research projects, research datasets, and publications. The ASTIS database currently describes 17 000 Canadian research projects and 61 000 publications and is happy to collaborate with other Canadian and international organizations to connect and share information. ASTIS is available for free online at www.aina.ucalgary.ca/astis.



Shannon Vossepoel prepares for simulated Antarctic conditions at the National Institute of Polar Research in Japan.

AINA–Adventure Canada Partnership

Adventure Canada has been offering responsible expedition travel to remote destinations in the North for more than 25 years. With the high priority it places on having knowledgeable staff, it is not too surprising that over the years a number of Adventure Canada resource staff have been affiliated with the Arctic Institute of North America.

Adventure Canada has graciously provided the opportunity to profile AINA on relevant voyages. This past summer, AINA research associate Jon Dudley prepared an onboard display and presented a short talk on AINA's activities during the “Out of the Northwest Passage” trip (20 August–5 September 2013). Much interest was shown in the Arctic Institute, which resulted in new membership.

ACUNS AGM

In late October, Melanie Paulson traveled to Ottawa to represent the Arctic Institute and the University of Calgary at the 2013 annual general meeting of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS). A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research for 2013 to AINA Fellow Dr. John Smol of Queen's University. The ACUNS members also confirmed that the University of Calgary will host the 11th ACUNS International Student Conference on Northern Studies in the autumn of 2015. The student conference is a triennial event organized mainly by a committee of graduate students and hosted by an ACUNS member institution, in conjunction with the annual general meeting.

AINA at University Open House

Despite a snowstorm, the University of Calgary held a successful open house on 2 November 2013, when more than 5000 prospective students and their parents visited the campus. Melanie Paulson, Karen McCullough, and Shannon Vossepoel spent the day greeting visitors and informing them of AINA activities and programs, in particular, the availability of scholarships and grants-in-aid to support students undertaking northern research. Our polar bear proved to be a popular photo-op for many visitors.



The Arctic Institute's booth at the University of Calgary's open house in November.

AINA Attendance at ArcticNet and the AGU

Executive Director Maribeth Murray and ASTIS Manager Shannon Vossepoel traveled to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in early December to attend ArcticNet's 9th Annual Scientific Meeting (December 9–13) and staff the AINA booth in the exhibitor's hall of the World Trade and Convention Centre, where the annual meeting was held. While in Halifax, Dr. Murray also attended the annual meeting

of the Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators (CNNRO), along with Sian Williams, the base manager of AINA's Kluane Lake Research Station in Yukon. Created in 2007 with assistance from the Canadian Polar Commission and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, CNNRO is a forum for operators of northern research facilities.

AINA was also represented for the first time at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in San Francisco. The AGU is the largest geophysical sciences meeting in the world, with more than 22 000 attendees.

Arctic Observing Summits

Understanding and responding to rapid Arctic system change requires the design and deployment of a long-term, cross-disciplinary observing system. Such a system (or network of systems) should capture essential changes in quasi-real time and be sustained over decades. Efforts towards realizing these goals are underway at both national and international levels; however, much work remains to optimize design and to coordinate among initiatives.

To address the challenges involved in designing and operating an Arctic observing system, the Arctic environmental change community has initiated a series of Arctic Observing Summits (AOS). The first of the series, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 30 April to 2 May 2013, was hosted by the International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC), led by ISAC Executive Director Maribeth Murray (recently appointed executive director of AINA), in collaboration with the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Initiative (SAON) of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). The inaugural AOS addressed some of the most critical issues, including an assessment of Arctic observing needs, the design of an observing system, and the implementation and evolution of an international Arctic observing system. The AOS contributed to defining future directions for observing-system development, including support for implementation, infrastructure, and longevity.

The second AOS will be held in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week in Helsinki, Finland, on 9–11 April 2014.