



Alutiiq Museum Bulletin

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Accreditation Achieved

It took 14 years and an enormous amount of work, but the Alutiiq Museum achieved a long held dream in July – national accreditation. Bestowed by the American Association of Museums, accreditation is the highest level of professional certification for museums in the United States. It indicates that a museum meets the most rigorous standards of practice in everything it does, from caring for collections, to serving the public and even preparing for emergencies.

“We set accreditation as a goal 14 years ago when we were developing the museum’s program and policies” said Deputy Director Amy Steffian. “I remember the meeting where our board and staff decided that accreditation could be a great measure for our work, that we could model the museum’s practices after those standards. We wanted the world to see that a tribal museum could be both a culturally meaningful institution and a first class, professional museum. It’s thrilling to know that we accomplished that goal.”

The Alutiiq Museum is just the seventh museum in Alaska and the second tribal museum in the United States to be accredited. The initial certification will last 15 years, then the museum must apply to renew its accreditation.

“This is a milestone for the Alutiiq Museum,” said Executive Director Sven Haakanson, Jr. “Accreditation is the professional seal of approval. It let’s others know that the Alutiiq nation has a model museum.”

Many people helped the museum reach its accreditation goal. “We are especially grateful, to Scott Carlee of the Alaska State Museum who made us believe that we were ready to begin the application process, and provided an exceptional summer intern,



April Laktonen Counciller inventories emergency preparedness supplies.

Elizabeth Manekin, to launch our bid,” said Haakanson. “Once we were in the program, it took the entire board and staff two years of application writing, documentation, correspondence, and finally a site visit to reach this day. It was a team effort and we did it. It feels amazing.”

The Experts Speak!

Who killed Father Juvenaly? What happened to the salmon smolt in Afognak Lake? What Alutiiq treasures lie in Russian Museums? The answers will be revealed during the Alutiiq Museum’s annual lecture series. Join us to hear the latest results from cultural, historical, and biological research on Kodiak and ask your questions. Hear the experts speak.

Rev. Dr. Michael Oleska
The Disappearance of Father Juvenaly
August 9th, 2011, 7:00 pm

Alisha Drabek, MA
Exploring Kodiak Alutiiq Literature
August 18th, 2011, 7:00 pm

Steven Thomsen, BA
Afognak Lake Sockeye Salmon Investigation
August 25th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Sven Haakanson, Jr., Ph.D.
Sugpiaq Collections of the Russian Museum of Ethnography
September 1st, 2011, 7:00 pm

Philip Tschersich, MS
Black Rockfish Abundance Hydroacoustic Study of Kodiak Island and Alaska Peninsula
September 8th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Gordon L. Pullar, Ph.D.
Woody Island History and the Politics of Identity
September 13th, 2010, 5:30 pm

Dan Collison and Elizabeth Meister
American Voices: Sharing the Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary People
September 22nd, 2010, 7:00 pm

Larry VanDaele, Ph.D.
Brown Bears: Northern Peoples’ Liaison with the Spirit World
September 29th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Marnie Leist, MA
Rediscovering Karluk One
October 6th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Patrick Saltonstall, MA, RPA
The Evolution of Alutiiq Houses
October 13th, 2010, 7:00 pm



Generously sponsored by Ardingers Fine Furnishings & Gifts, GCI, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Kodiak College Library, Mill Bay Coffee, On the Cape Vacation Rentals, the Old Powerhouse Restaurant, the Rasmuson Foundation, RC Enterprises, and Sea Hawk Air.
Quyanaa – We thank you.