



Cultural Diversity

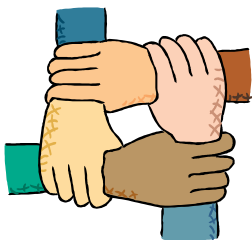
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<http://eeo.arh.nwsar.gov>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Warm greetings to you and I welcome our second edition of the Alaska Region Cultural Diversity Newsletter. The first edition set the bar rather high with our Aleutian birders, New Guinea volcano hikers, and Juneau's Wild Pioneers. After reading those inspiring entries, I pondered how I could portray a similar excitement in my writings. My thoughts immediately turned to my children, Ethan and Elizabeth, and their grandmother's Aleut heritage. My mother-in-law's family was originally from Unalaska and moved to Seldovia in the early 1900s. In future articles I will attempt to discuss the Unalaska Aleuts as well as information on Seldovia. Of course, that will require assistance from our renown Seldovian, Jim Kincaid. Until then I will give you a bit of history on the Alutiiq language.

Native Alutiit (plural for Alutiiq) refer to themselves using a number of self-designators such as Aleut, Sugpiaq, or Koniag. The term Aleut means "coastal dweller" and was used by Russian traders to describe Native people of the Aleutians, the Alaska Peninsula, and Kodiak. Sugpiaq is used by Native people of Prince William Sound, the outer Kenai Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago and the Alaska Peninsula. Koniag is a word used to describe people of Kodiak.

There are two regional dialects for the Alutiiq language. Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound Natives speak Chugach Alutiiq and Natives of the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Archipelago speak Koniag Alutiiq. Within the last thirty years the number of individuals able to speak Alutiiq has been cut in half from 1,000 to 500. One important goal of the Alutiiq heritage movement is to preserve the language. In turn, I will leave you with Ethan and Elizabeth's favorite nursery rhyme in English as well as Alutiiq.

Miktengcuusqaq miskiiRaq mayukii taangam paipaa
The itsy bitsy spider climbed up the water spout

Taumi qitenguartaa, miskiiRaq llurluni
Down came the rain and washed the spider out

Taumi macaq suarluni, qiteq kinertsluku
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain

Taumi miktengcuusqaq miskiiRaq paipaq mayungqiskii
And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again

Laura

*Reference the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository
<http://alutiiqmuseum.com/>

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May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

By Nathan Foster

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the President to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the observance was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 since the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



Asian/Pacific American Statistics

Today there are 14 million U.S. residents who identify themselves Asian or part Asian. This amounts to 5% of the total population. By the year 2050 there will be an estimated 33.5 million Asians in the U.S. representing 8% of the total population. Nearly 1 million people consider themselves Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and represent 0.3% of the total population in the U.S. Between 2003 and 2004 the Asian population in America grew 3.4% and the Pacific Islander population grew 1.7%. In 2004, 9.8% of Asians were below the poverty rate, but that was down nearly 12% from the year before. There are 282,000 Asian military veterans in America and just over 30,000 Pacific Islander veterans.

Famous Firsts by Asian Americans

- ❖ U.S. Representative: Dalip Singh Saund, 1956, representative from California.
- ❖ The first female Asian American elected to Congress was Patsy Takemoto Mink, elected in 1964 as a representative from Hawaii.
- ❖ U.S. Senator: Hiram Fong, 1959, one of Hawaii's first two senators.
- ❖ Governor: George R. Ariyoshi, 1974, governor of Hawaii. The first on the mainland was Gary Locke, elected governor of Washington in 1996.
- ❖ Mayor of a major U.S. city: Norman Yoshio Mineta, 1971, in San Jose, California.
- ❖ Female aviator: Katherine Sui Fun Cheung, licensed in 1932.
- ❖ Astronaut (in space): Ellison Onizuka, first spaceflight in 1985. Died in the 1986 Challenger disaster.
- ❖ Academy Award winner: Haing Ngor, Best Supporting Actor of 1978 for his role in *The Killing Fields*
- ❖ First to command a combat battalion: Young Oak Kim, of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 1943. ■

EXPLORING OUR HIDDEN BIASES

By Wes Adkins

We are mostly good intelligent people, right? We have institutionalized assurances in our society to discourage and prevent discrimination. We appreciate multiple cultures in dining, in expression, and we often bring new ideas to our homes, our workplace, and into our philosophies by interacting with different people on a day-to-day basis, by making new friends, helping strangers along and so on. But despite this, most of us still have “learned” to judge by appearances or preconceived notions through whatever vessel or life experience. Even though most all of us are committed to egalitarianism and consciously work to minimize favoritism, these hidden biases may still affect the way we think and to some degree our actions. A group of experts from the Universities of Virginia, Washington, Yale, and Harvard have teamed up to study these hidden biases in people that focus on appearance. The project is an ongoing experiment on the web using a simple visual exam of associations, called an Implicit Association Test, or IAT. The results of these IATs can indicate possible unconscious biases that we have adopted for a variety of reasons. You, too can explore some of your hidden biases by taking one or any number of the group’s tests. It is an eye-opening exercise. Just log on to <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>. You can select a demonstration or participate in their research, both anonymously. ■

Reaching Out in King Salmon

By Peggy Perales

On March 29, Lucinda Hall and 14 students in grades K-6 from Naknek Christian School were able to visit the National Weather Service Office in King Salmon. The students had been studying weather as part of their science class and the visit was a culmination of their learning.

The students viewed satellite pictures, weather charts, and the ASOS system, and were able to answer many of the questions their teacher asked that related to their studies. They were also able to ask questions of Peggy Perales, the official in charge of the station, and meet with “real weather people,” as one student simply stated.



King Salmon dock

In addition to learning about satellites and clouds, the students made a weather station and took their own observations. They were able to compare these with the observations taken at the King Salmon weather station to compare their calculations on cloud types, cloud heights, and temperatures. Later, the students toured the observation tower, visited the location of the radar site and ASOS units, and searched for whales and eagles along the Naknek River. After touring the office, the students followed Peggy to the inflation building where they were able to watch the balloon inflation and launch process. As usual, the kids, as well as the adults, truly enjoyed this part of the visit.

In other news, the Weather Service Office in King Salmon participated in an Aviation Camp, sponsored by University of Alaska Anchorage on April 29, and was visited by 26 students in grades K-6 from the Koliganek school on May 3. ■

An Experience at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

By Wes Adkins

This past April, I was fortunate to be able to take a “grand vacation” to our nation’s capital. Growing up back East, I had visited Washington, D.C. several times before as a kid on family vacation, as a college student visiting a friend, and as a groomsman in a wedding as a young adult, but this time I was able to do whatever I pleased. No parents, no chaperones, no wedding parties, no fear of being a total nerd, not even a tour book—only a budget. At large on the metro, this was Mr. Adkins’ Trip to Washington, let’s say.

Any trip to Washington is not complete without a visit to one of the many federal museums that make up that grand American institute: the Smithsonian. For the most part, I’m not a “museum type person,” but I make exceptions every now and again. After all, the Smithsonian is a showplace of our civic history, the ideas that shape our tomorrow, our citizenry’s common and individual heritages. One of the newest museums, the National Museum of the American Indian opened in 2004 inside an eye-catching modern facility that resembles a great adobe city wedged inside a sandstone New Mexico hillside, and is situated only three blocks southwest of the Capitol.

City blocks carved by the wide diagonally-laid boulevards of D.C. are gargantuan, so to say that the museum occupies the whole of a single block and rises four stories is a statement unto itself. A park-like setting of rocks, trees, and ponds laces the perimeter of the museum and intends to advertise one of its themes outside the interior walls: that of our universes. As you walk inside, the grand atrium carries your eyes and thoughts aloft like in some holy place or spiritual journey. You are walking inside a place that strives to connect you to the spirit of peoples. This is history in the cyclic tradition, not the textbook taught linear time line. Crowds of tourists assemble in a sunken amphitheatre

of sorts at the center. High on the south wall is a prism-filled slit that refracts light down to the floor to showcase a massive sundial. Where the rainbow ray of light meets the floor, lines of families wait for one of those many quintessential “trip to Washington” photos. Because the ray of light effectively tie-dyes the family’s white “Washington National” t-shirts, this photo promises to be a classic as evidenced by the extra-wide grin on face of the 7-year old. It happened to be opening day of the newly sworn American citizens of baseball, the Washington Nationals, no longer the Canadian Expos of Montreal.

I joined one of several tours assembling in the amphitheatre, this one composed largely of retirees from South Carolina, but with a sprinkling of families from all over, mostly from places within a one-day driving distance of the National Mall. The tour leaders were all Native Specialists; ours particularly knew the native peoples of the Andes Mountains of South America. He made no effort to hide this fact and instead of giving us canned encyclopedic lines on each indigenous group represented in the museum, quite appropriately he started with his own people, their own universe. In so doing he gave us a primer on the museum’s use of themes and how best to gain from the experience. Apparent right away is the museum’s recognition and attention to native cultures went well beyond our nation’s borders. The museum leaves no geographic holes, covering peoples from Greenland all the way south to Tierra del Fuego at the far southern tip of South America. In fact, the only distinction between the Chippewas of Minnesota and the Chippewas of Ontario was their place of residence when Canadian and U.S. diplomats settled on the 49th parallel as our common border between citizens. These are all peoples arriving here from Asia via the land bridge. Most just decided Alaska was just too cold and inhospitable, so they went south to greener pastures, and some all the way to the far shores of South America. Invariably, climate change and the search for more plentiful resources played a role, but all peoples are shaped by their distinct universes. Two cousins growing up along icy Hudson Bay and within the Everglades respectively might have

similar genes, but their universe grants them very different experiences.

The second theme of the museum tells the stories of Our Peoples. Many of the exhibits in this section are interactive with the voices of contemporary tribal members retelling the tales of their own families in a very personal collection of histories. Many stories offer individual glimpses of common chapters in American history like the epic struggles of Native Americans to hold their lands in the face of land-hungry settlers. These are also stories of how native peoples adapted to changes demanded of them and continue to adapt today with new economies, new laws, new belief systems, even new climates. Contrary to the barrage of cultural obituaries being written around the world, this exhibit offers hope that those of a determined spirit can adapt practically to a changing world without relinquishing the unique collective soul of a people.



NMAI in Washington, DC

The last theme was probably my favorite part of the museum: Our Lives—the connection to other peoples. The emphasis that We as Native

Americans are part of You and You a part of Us. Many of us who term ourselves American are indeed Native American in kin. These people's lives are, at second glance, very similar to our own. One particular exhibit that was most memorable was a wall-filled collection of photographs of possibly a hundred faces, many of them smiling. Beside each was a caption with the person's first name, occupation, and where they live. Native Americans are all around us and shape our world today as friends, neighbors, co-workers, even family. A photographed elderly Navajo woman appears immersed in a culture very different than what I have ever known as she sits adorned in jewelry that take on various pastels of the New Mexico desert, while another photograph shows a man dressed in business attire on a busy sidewalk in downtown Minneapolis, and yet another of a young Oklahoma college student with undoubtedly a tiny iPod dangling a chain around her neck.

The National Museum of the American Indian hosts exhibits in both Washington, D.C. and New York. Aside from a rotating collection organized by the themes of Universes, Peoples, and Lives, the museum presents special exhibitions on culture, art, and history. Running through the end of the 2006 in Washington is an exhibition on the Art of Native Life along the North Pacific Coast. In New York, where the museum focuses more on art, artist Will Wilson renders a vision of life in a post-apocalyptic world where native culture still thrives despite epic turning of events. Many of the visions were inspired by the changing world view after the events of September 11, 2001. Wilson's art exhibition runs through the summer of 2006. ■

Outdoor Safety - Be Prepared

By Laura Furgione

The Alaska signs of summer are definitely here with melting snow, the Nenana Ice Classic – Tanana River breakup, Earth Day cleanup activities, road construction, bear sightings, grocery shelves stocked with fish boxes and canning jars, and driveways marked with outdoor chalk. As we prepare ourselves for the long summer days and pack our schedules with outdoor activities, remember to always be prepared. Alaska not only has a wide diversity of people but also has one of the most diverse and harshest environments. Similar to reminding our general aviation partners to file a flight plan and disseminate pilot reports, we too need to notify friends, family, and/or co-workers of our whereabouts. If possible, don't go hiking or camping alone. More importantly, always tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Enjoy your summer in the safest manner. ■

NEW EMPLOYEES

A WARM WELCOME GOES OUT TO ALL NEW EMPLOYEES! HERE IS A LITTLE TIDBIT ABOUT SOME OF OUR LATEST EDITIONS.



WFO Houston/Galveston

Mike Rehbein, stationed at WFO Juneau, moved to Juneau from sunny and warm Dickinson, Texas. Mike is new to Alaska, but not the Weather Service. Coming to us from WFO Houston/Galveston where he was a General Forecaster, some of his work background includes working as an Intern at WSO Brownsville, Texas, and as a Public Service Meteorologist, Outlook/Mesoscale Forecaster at the Storm Prediction Center in Kansas City, Missouri and Norman, Oklahoma. Although single, his dog Molly keeps him busy with walks and play time.

Mike also enjoys working in the yard, camping, hiking, playing softball and is an avid Oklahoma Sooner football fan and a fan of college football in general.

WFO Fairbanks welcomes **Ray Little** to Alaska from Atlanta, Georgia. Hired from the private sector as a general meteorologist, Ray is new to the National Weather Service, but not to Alaska after previously being stationed at Eielson Air Force Base for almost three years. Ray has also worked as the State Meteorologist assigned to the Air Pollution Control Commission and was a meteorologist and aircraft dispatcher for Delta Air Lines. He and his wife Kay have three sons, two that are married, and two grandchildren. In his spare time Ray enjoys hunting, fishing, and traveling.



Atlanta, Georgia



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

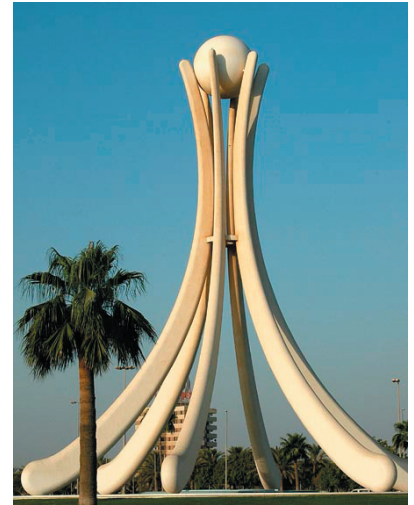
Julie Malingowski traveled from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this summer to spend three months as the 2006 STEP intern at the National Weather Service Systems Integration Branch in Anchorage. She is a senior in meteorology at Penn State and is also studying for a geographic information science minor. Julie is a huge weather nerd and a big fan of the great outdoors. She feels right at home in Alaska surrounded by the mountains, and tends to see a lot of moose on her daily bike commute to work. Her coworkers keep her amused all day, and she is enjoying being a part of the National Weather Service for the summer.



Seward boat harbor

Student Intern, ***Steve Fink***, volunteered at ARH from May 8 - 26. His field of study while attending Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward is Information Technology, Web Application Development. Steve was assigned to our web development team under the guidance of Joe Cannon and Scott Swank. During his stay here he participated in PHP development for the Alaska Region website, installed Linux and configured Apache web servers, observed processes of data flow for NWS and assisted the team in website design strategies.

Joe Cannon, stationed at ARH working as a Web Application Developer, grew up in North Carolina where he still has family. Joe is retired from the Navy where he worked as a Navy METOC (meteorology and oceanography) officer. He graduated from University of North Carolina and has worked as a civilian at Navy's weather centers in Monterey, Spain, and Bahrain. This is Joe's first time in Alaska and he enjoys hiking and traveling.



Pearl Monument, Bahrain



NWS is bearish on Cold Bay submitted by Jim Smith