



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education  
**Date:** February 16, 2021  
**Thru:** Commissioner Michael Johnson  
**Telephone:** 907-465-2911  
**Subject:** Report to the State Board of Education & Early Development Covering December 2020 through February 2021  
**From:** Patience Frederiksen  
Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums

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### Staffing:

- **Amy Carney**, Publications Specialist and Webmaster II for the Division, resigned from her position on January 8 after eight years of service. Recruitment is underway for this crucial position.
- **Robert Hoffman**, Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant at Sheldon Jackson Museum, retired on February 8 after ten years of service.
- **Linda Teas-Conway** was hired in Robert's position at SJM starting February 4. Linda will train with Robert during his final week.
- **Lisa Golisek-Nankerv**, Division Operations Manager, has announced her retirement this summer on July 1.
- **Ellen Carlee**, Conservator, finished got her Ph.D. in Anthropology from UAF. In February, the Alaska Anthropological Association awarded her their 2021 Outstanding Current Contribution to Alaskan Anthropology for the publication of her two invaluable online guides, *Alaskan Ten Agents of Deterioration* and *Condition Reporting*. The award will be presented during their virtual conference in March.

## Division News:

### Events

November 12 – December 28 - Both the Kashevaroff Building and the Sheldon Jackson Museum were closed to the public due to the early winter Covid surge. Both facilities reopened the last week of December with a four day a week and four hour a day schedule.

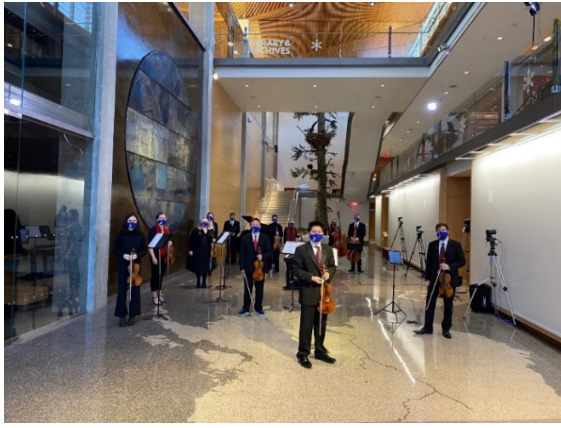


November 16 – The public can get a sneak peek of preparations for the State Museum’s summer exhibit by viewing several video clips and display plans at [www.museums.alaska.gov/sway](http://www.museums.alaska.gov/sway). *The Spirit Wraps Around You* (called SWAY in-house) will feature two dozen ancient and modern Ravens Tail and Chilkat robes and will show the cultural and contextual story of Native weaving, dance and ceremony among the Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlingit Peoples. The videos include: an interview with weaver Lani Hotch of Klukwan; Liana Wallace and Lily Hope discuss the work of conservator Ellen Carlee’s Chilkat Dye Working Group; and curators Steve Henrikson and Jackie Manning previewing artifacts, gallery design, and a new style of mount. (Photo shows Curator Jackie Manning and Exhibit Designer Aaron Elmore taking a critical look at a new mount prototype for displaying Chilkat robes that will mimic the motion of robes in action, while also supporting each part of the robe.)

December 5 – Tlingit artist Jill Kaasteen Meserve taught a virtual beading workshop for ages 7-12 from Sheldon Jackson Museum. Jill learned to bead from her aunts and at Tlingit language and culture classes in Hoonah schools. The workshop covered simple beading techniques, how to start your own beading project, and explored beaded artwork in the SJM collections.



December 29 - MITCH DID THIS<sup>3</sup> is a new exhibit open at the State Museum December 29 to April 3. Juneau-based artist Mitch Watley transforms everyday objects into complex dioramas often depicting futuristic landscapes. Sculpted figures inhabit these scenes navigating life in these other-worldly settings. Viewers will get lost in the details of these small sculptures that take upwards of a year to make. (Image of diorama titled *Orbital Rescue at Maintenance Hatch 20 Amber*.)



December 12 – An empty APK atrium basked in music as the JunEAU Symphony recorded their Holiday At Home concert for broadcast on December 20. (Photo of JunEAU Symphony musicians in atrium of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.)



December 14 – Alaska’s electors met at the APK with Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyers to certify the 2020 presidential election results. John Binkley (Fairbanks) and Judy Eledge and Randy Ruedrich (both from Anchorage) pledged to vote for President Trump. (Photo of three electors and Lieutenant Governor Meyers and photo of the socially distanced lecture hall during the ceremony.)



December 15 – Two artists participating in Sealaska Heritage Institute’s spruce-root mentorship program discovered what is thought to be an old weaving technique that was lost to time. Haida master weaver Delores Churchill and her apprentice and Tlingit and Haida artist Debbie Aanutein Head made the find while studying an old spruce-root hat housed at the Alaska State Museum. Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, said this newly identified technique was used on the Museum’s Wilbur hat, a finely woven spruce-root hat. (My thanks to the SHI newsletter about this fascinating find.) (Photo of spruce-root woven Wilbur Hat.)





December 23 – State Museum conservator Ellen Carrlee has developed a guide *Alaskan Agents of Deterioration* as a checklist of what to consider while preserving objects in both museum and home collections. The top ten agents are: temperature, relative humidity, light, pests, physical forces, pollutants, water, fire, thieves/vandals, and dissociation. This is the first resource to tailor the agents of deterioration framework to Alaskan institutions. (Photograph of a dime surrounded by 12 bugs dangerous to museum collections in Alaska.)

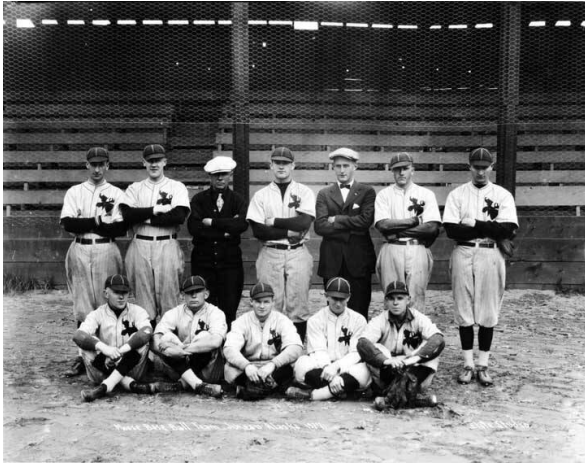
January 4 - The State Library began accepting applications for a summer internship at a public library. The intern will work in an Alaska public library for two months in the summer of 2021. This project provides assistance to public libraries in Alaska, provide internship and professional development opportunities to MLIS students, and will increase the number of MLIS students applying for jobs in Alaska.



January 23 – Juneau artist and designer Tanna Peters worked with youth in a workshop titled *Collaborative Digital Exhibit*. She guided the youth as they developed an exhibit concept, selected objects to include in the exhibit, and developed labels for the objects that told a compelling story. The exhibit they developed, *Life in the Year 2020*, focused on how we reacted to the challenges imposed on us by events during 2020. One young man deconstructed a laptop and used the parts to make a ‘cool’ robot. He said the robot added value to the exhibit by adding new meaning to making friends during Covid school closures and social distancing. (Photo of robot made of recycled computer parts.)

January 6 – The Division began recruiting participants statewide for a professional development program that will build the capacity of collecting institutions in Alaska to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Preparing Alaska’s Cultural Organizations for Emergencies (PACO) program is open to participants from libraries, archives, museums, cultural centers, and other institutions with original humanities materials. This grant-funded training includes an online course about emergency preparedness, drafting an institutional emergency preparedness and disaster response plan, and taking part in a three-day workshop on collections salvage.

January 16 – In a zoom talk, artist Peter Williams (Yup’ik) discussed his new, recent work of garments, two-dimensional art, film, and contemporary media on exhibit as *Tradition Innovation* at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Williams says his art is deeply connected to his advocacy for the rights of Alaska Natives to live a traditional lifestyle in the present day.



January 27 - Historical Collections photos and newspaper articles were the basis for an article about historic baseball uniforms with moose appliques titled: *Forgotten Uniforms: The Moose of Juneau Alaska's City League*. (Photo of Juneau baseball team in uniforms with moose-head applique on shirt.)

<https://www.localnineco.com/blog/forgotten-uniforms-the-moose-of-alaska>  
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January 30 - Conservator Ellen Carrlee held a zoom talk with 2020 summer intern Steph Guidera from the Buffalo State describing the conservation work Steph performed at SJM last summer. Steph shared images and strategies from her treatment of a group of broken model fish traps. Steph will continue her internship during summer 2021 and will assist Ellen with risk mitigation plans for the SJM roof replacement project and the planning for the gallery refurbishments at SJM. (Photograph of Steph working on objects from the Sheldon Jackson Museum.)



February 5 - *Illustrating Alaska: Artists Making Children's Books* is on display at the State Museum February 5th through April 3. This exhibit explores the colorful and intriguing process of illustrating children's books. Exhibit curator Sarah Asper-Smith highlights the process of four different Alaskan illustrators: Jim Fowler, Evon Zerbetz, Michaela Goade (recent Caldecott Award winner), and Mitchell Watley. The exhibit shows the milestones in the process of making a 32-page children's book. (Illustration by Evon Zerbetz shows a narwhal and a beluga in water.)

February 12 – The Sheldon Jackson Museum has received notification that a couple in Houston are planning to donate \$25,000 to the Friends of the SJM to help with refurbishing of the wooden cabinets in the museum gallery. The Friends plan to announce this broadly once the check is in hand. The couple toured the SJM once and subsequently made an earlier donation of \$5,000.

February 12 - A display commemorating the Day of Remembrance reopened from February 16 – 27 in the atrium of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff (APK) Building. This event marks February 19, the date on which President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 to intern Japanese American civilians from designated military zones on the West Coast, including Alaska. The

display panels are drawn from the Alaska State Library collection related to the Empty Chair Project. The Empty Chair Project began as a memorial Capital City Park to honor Japanese Americans suddenly and forcibly removed from Juneau during the war.