The University of Alaska Museum of the North, located on the Fairbanks campus, is the only museum in the state with a tripartite mission of research, teaching, and collecting. The museum's botanical, geological, zoological, and cultural collections, primarily from Alaska and the Circumpolar North, form the basis for understanding the local as well as the global past, present, and future. Through collection-based research, teaching, and public programs, the Museum shares its knowledge and collections with local, national, and international audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Museum Professional Staff

Aldona Jonaitis, Museum Director
Administration
Barbara Ellanna, Fiscal Professional
Andrew Quainton, Assistant to the Director
Linda Sheldon, Fiscal Technician
Alaska Center for Documentary Film
Leonard Kamerling, Curator*
Archaeology
Jeff Rasic, Acting Curator
Chris Houlette, Curatorial Assistant
Scott Shirar, Research Archaeologist
James Whitney, Collection Manager
Communications
Kerynn Fisher, Coordinator
Development & Membership
Julie Estey, Director
Barbara Travis, Membership Coordinator
Earth Sciences
Patrick Druckenmiller, Curator*
Amanda Hanson, Curatorial Assistant
Education
Laura Conner, Director
Jennifer Arseneau, Education Program Leader
Peggy Hetman, Education Public Liaison
Roger Topp, New Media Producer
Entomology
Derek Sikes, Curator*
Ethnology and History
Molly Lee, Curator Emerita *
Angela Linn, Collection Manager
Micole Ogletree, Curatorial Assistant
Exhibition & Design
Wanda Chin, Director
Steve Bouta, Chief Preparator
Tamara Martz, Production Assistant
Genetic Resources
Aren Gunderson, Technician
Gordon Jarrell, Coordinator
Fine Arts
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Andres Lopez, Curator*
Mammalogy
Link Olson, Curator*
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Dusty McDonald, Programmer
Trina Roberts, Postdoctoral Researcher
Operations
Kevin May, Manager
Ornithology
Kevin Winkler, Curator*
Jack Withrow, Collection Manager
Visitor Services
David Daniel, Manager
Morgan Simpson, Store Supervisor
Janet Thompson, Assistant Manager & Tour Coordinator

* UAF faculty holding joint appointment

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Cover, clockwise from top left: Entomology curator Derek Sikes in the field (Suzanne Nielsen). Dissecting owl pellets at the 2008 TOTE Family Fun Fest (Kerynn Fisher). Earth science curator Patrick Druckenmiller (courtesy of P. Druckenmiller). Ethnology collections manager Angela Linn installs a porcupine mask for the special exhibition Hunting and Trapping in Alaska’s Interior. (Micole Ogletree). UA Museum of the North (Patricia Fisher/Fisher Photography).

The University of Alaska Museum of the North is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Writing this year’s column for the annual report has been bittersweet – this will be my last column as the director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North. Last year, I announced my plans to retire, and as I write this, the search for my successor is in its final stages.

As you’ll read about in this annual report, my successor will join a museum that excels in every aspect of its mission and operations, with a strong base of community support and an incredibly talented and dedicated staff.

Our exhibits and public programs always appeal to diverse audiences, but we definitely raised the bar this year. Working with a team of community experts, our staff developed a special exhibit on hunting and trapping traditions that engaged both local sportsmen and out-of-town visitors with very different backgrounds and perspectives. Adding to an already-robust menu of programs, our education department developed a new youth volunteer program to engage summer visitors.

Our faculty curators conducted research all over the state, as well as several international sites, providing unparalleled research opportunities for university students – and even a few high school students. While we were sad to see two long-time research staff retire, a new earth sciences curator joined the staff, and we selected a new ichthyology curator, both after competitive national searches.

In our third year of operations in the expanded museum, visitation continued to grow, thanks in part to the return of one of Alaska’s major tour companies. However, we saw the beginnings of a softening tourism market and recognize that visitation will likely not increase this year. Fortunately, we’ve have a very diverse revenue stream – with state funding, federal grants and visitor-related revenue each providing approximately 30% of our revenue. Add to this support from corporate partners, members, donors and volunteers, and I believe we have a solid foundation to weather the current financial storms.

I’ve long believed that this museum one of the best in the world for its size and mission. I’m certain that my successor will hold the museum to this high standard while taking the museum down new and exciting paths. And I’m excited to watch the museum’s progress, happily observing from the sidelines and enjoying the perspective as a newly-retired member of the Fairbanks community.

Aldona Jonaitis
Museum Director

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Baby Ravens by Rachelle Dowdy purchased with funds from the Rasmuson Foundation and installed in the museum’s Living Room.
Public Programs

Volunteer Mary Ann Nickles with objects from the hands-on collection at the 2007 Military Appreciation Family Day.

Installation from the special exhibit *Ainu Ramati: Soul of the Ainu*.
Exhibits

During FY08, the museum offered five special exhibits:

On the Edge: Forging New Directions in Alaska Native Art, the summer 2007 special exhibit, featured the work of 23 contemporary Alaska Native Artists. Their innovative approaches and their work explored themes of cultural identity, tradition, change and politics.

Arctic Transformsations: The Jewelry of Denise and Samuel Wallace showcased jewelry by the husband and wife team in a 25-year retrospective exhibit organized by the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. Made with fossil ivory, silver, gold and semi-precious stones, the Wallaces’ work is inspired by Denise’s Chugach Aleut heritage and by Alaska’s people, animals and natural environments.

Ainu Ramati: Soul of the Ainu highlighted the Ainu culture of Northern Japan and their traditions with historic and contemporary clothing, ritual implements and weavings. The exhibit was organized by the Foundation for the Research and Promotion of Ainu Traditions. Film curator Len Kamerling coordinated the American premier of the film Ainu: Past and Present in conjunction with the exhibit.

Arctic Quest celebrated the International Polar Year with the work of 25 Canadian artists who documented their impressions of the Northwest Passage during a July 2006 voyage. The exhibit highlighted their journey, their work and their desire to draw attention to northern issues such as climate change, sovereignty and the fragile environment.

Hunting & Trapping in Alaska’s Interior: Our Stories, Our Lives highlighted traditions and values passed down through generations of Alaskan hunters and trappers, both Native and non-Native. The exhibit was developed with a community advisory team with extensive consultations with hunters, trappers, biologists, anthropologists and oral historians. The exhibit’s six-month run was designed to capture both the entire summer visitor season as well as a local audience in fall.

In addition to the special exhibits, the museum showed a short-term exhibit of contemporary furnishings by Tanya Aquiña. The artist spent a month in residence at UAF as part of the United States Artist program and made furnishings using Alaska materials such as birch. The museum also hosted a short-term exhibit featuring the entire collection of KUAC-Alaska One posters as part of the 25th anniversary of the annual posters; several of the original artworks featured on the posters are in the museum’s fine arts collection.

Staff completed the design and construction of a new entry to the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery. The new entry wall blocks direct sunlight into the art gallery to offer more protection for the works on display. They also worked to improve wayfinding and signage within the building.

Exhibit design director Wanda Chin worked with the museum’s visitor services staff to develop the Museum Café Gallery, which expands the retail display of the Museum Store and offers visitors additional access to original works by Alaskan artists. They also organized the museum’s first Artisan Expo, which showcased the work of local artisans; proceeds from the pre-holiday event supported the museum’s special exhibits program.

Chin worked with communications coordinator Kerynn Fisher and designers from UAF’s Office of Information Technology to design templates for the museum’s new website, which was migrated to a content management system in spring 2008.

Education

The museum created a new youth volunteer program for local middle- and high-school students. The volunteers spent three afternoons each week in summer interacting with visitors using the museum’s hands-on collections. For summer visitors, the department also organized evening tours of the art gallery led by volunteer docents.

UAF Alaska Space Grant Program provided funding for continued development of museum summer shows and the rocket science family program. ASGP also provided special project funding for the development of remote sensing media resources for school tour programs and high school and college level instruction.

NASA and UAF Geophysical Institute provided funding to update scientific visualizations that will be incorporated into the museum’s public shows, school tour programs, an online resource database and DVD for free distribution to rural villages throughout Alaska.

Over the course of the school year, almost 3,200 Fairbanks-area school children explored the museum – 1,836 on volunteer docent-led tours and 1,355 on independent teacher-led tours. Thanks to the museum’s on-going partnership with Flint Hills Resources, classes on docent-led tours enjoyed free admission for their visit.

The department organized free public lectures throughout the academic year on a variety of subjects related to the museum’s mission. Almost 600 people attended one or more of the museum’s FY08
Graduate student Jack Withrow prepares a specimen for the bird collection at the 2007 Open House.

Staff archaeologist Scott Shirar in the field.

Research & Collections
Archeology

Funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service supported the inventory, rehousing and database cataloging of collections from archaeological sites along the Porcupine River and on Unimak Island in the Aleutians. Students continued preventive conservation on the 1934-35 Department of Interior-Alaska College Expedition collections from Saint Lawrence Island; 26,776 artifacts have been rehoused, inventoried and cataloged in the computer database. A grant from the National Park Service/Institute for Museum and Library Services Save America’s Treasures program supported this work.

With continued funding from the Bureau of Land Management, students worked on rehousing, inventorying and cataloging several significant collections from BLM lands in Alaska, including the Ipiutak collections from Point Hope and material from the Iyatayet site, the type collection for the Denbigh Flint Complex.

Curator Dan Odess conducted field work on Russia’s Chukotka Peninsula researching the origins of whaling. Research results were featured in national publications, including Science, Nature, Natural History and Archaeology Magazine. Odess took a leave of absence from the museum, beginning in September 2007, to serve as Assistant Director for Park Cultural Resources at the National Park Service in Washington, DC.

Acting curator Jeff Rasic conducted field research at the Wiki Peak obsidian source area in the Wrangell Mountains in partnership with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service, Rasic also analyzed the chemical composition of several thousand obsidian artifacts from the museum and other collections from Alaska to study prehistoric trade and mobility.

Research assistant Scott Shirar participated in archaeological inventory in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve on the upper Yukon River.

Earth Sciences

Patrick Druckenmiller joined the staff as the curator of earth sciences in October 2007, after spending a portion of the summer field season excavating and studying Jurassic marine reptiles from the arctic archipelago of Svalbard, Norway.

With a new curator on staff and new lab facilities, staff began to process the 12-foot-long ichthyosaur specimen retrieved from the western Brooks Range in 2002. Initial work included removing the original plaster jacket and creating a new support jacket for the one-ton specimen.

A team of museum researchers and affiliates, including operations manager Kevin May and curatorial assistant Amanda Hanson, spent three weeks in August 2007 digging for dinosaur specimens in a permafrost tunnel excavated in the banks of the Colville River that spring. The tunnel gave staff the opportunity to dig for fossils outside the active layer of the permafrost, where specimens were shattered into small pieces after being exposed to millennia of freeze-thaw cycles. The team recovered more than a hundred specimens. Many of the specimens are in excellent condition, including hadrosaur teeth and bones; tyrannosaurid and troodontid teeth; and tiny vertebrae from an as-yet-identified dinosaur species, possibly new to Alaska. Outside the tunnel, the team also found a pachycephalosaur jaw fragment, potentially representing a new species. The dinosaurs date to the late Cretaceous period and are approximately 70 million years old. The project was supported primarily by an Australian broadcast production company, which produced a documentary on the project for European audiences and for the PBS series NOVA. ConocoPhillips also supported the project.

Staff worked with the Bureau of Land Management to develop research objectives and plans for future work in the Colville River dinosaur tunnel. BLM granted land use permits for the museum to continue to work at the site. Staff began initial work to describe new plant- and meat-eating dinosaurs from the Nanushuk group based on specimens collected from the museum’s Colville River research sites. The department also began the process of incorporating specimen records into the online Arctos database.

Entomology

Research efforts on federal lands in Alaska continued to generate new species records for the state in addition to new specimens for the collection. Staff and students working with curator Derek Sikes continued to accession 1,705 specimens from the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and prepare a report on this poorly documented region of Alaska. Since 2006, 7,338 pinned...
specimens have been added to the collection from Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, including 10 new state records (to date). Field work in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge resulted in 3,516 specimens, with 193 from Kasatochi Island, collected prior to the eruption of Kasatochi Volcano in August 2008.

Specimens collected from Bureau of Land Management Lands in the Beaver Creek drainage include the first state record for the family Membraecidae (*Telamona pyramidata*) and the first state record for the pseudoscorpion *Wyochernes asiaticus*.

Collaborations with the USDA Agricultural Research Service involving ladybeetles (Coccinellidae), ground beetles (Carabidae) and yellowjackets (Vespidae) resulted in the cataloging and processing of 8,200 specimens.

UAF undergraduate student Brandi Fleshman continued her work on the Spider Fauna of Alaska checklist to include the first state records of 24 spider species.

In a “backyard biodiversity” project, Sikes documented the first state records for the families Mycetophagidae and Eucinetidae from his own property in Fairbanks, bringing the total to six for first state species records from the property since 2006.

A catalog of literature records of Alaskan arthropods revealed, to date, 6,644 species documented in Alaska, with 509 species known only in Alaska.

**Ethnology & History**

Collection manager Angela Linn served as the project lead and guest curator for the special exhibit, *Hunting and Trapping in Alaska’s Interior: Our Stories, Our Lives*. As such, a considerable portion of her time this year was dedicated to expanding relationships with agencies, organizations and individuals to develop the content for the exhibit. In addition to a community advisory team that helped shape the exhibit, partnerships with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Trappers Association and UAF’s Oral History Department were critical to the development of the exhibit.

Curatorial assistant Micole (Van Walbeek) Ogletree joined the staff in January 2008. She focused her efforts on object stabilization, collection research to update database records and streamlining many departmental processes. She also curated an exhibition on the art of William Yanert, which is currently on display at the UAF Rasmuson Library.

Trinity University (Texas) student Bryant Wright spent the summer at the museum as an intern with the Ethnology and Fine Arts departments. He assisted with the complete reorganization, stabilization and catalog record update of the 1,100+ piece basket collection and also curated an exhibit of Eskimo oil lamps at the UAF Rasmuson Library.

Staff completed the final year of a five-year National Endowment for the Humanities project to improve access to the collections. Staff also continued consultations with the cultural programs division of the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center.

**Film Center**

Film curator Leonard Kamerling collaborated with the National Film Preservation Board at the Library of Congress on a long-term preservation strategy for *Uksuum Cauyai: The Drums of Winter*, a film center work named to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2006.

Kamerling continued with the restoration of original magnetic and film recordings of Alaska Native life and culture made over the last 40 years. This project, supported by the Alaska Humanities Forum, helped preserve this visual and aural history by “migrating” the original recordings to digital media.

Kamerling began two new productions. *Strange and Sacred Noise* is a collaboration with Alaska composer John Luther Adams and documents the evolution of Adams’ percussion piece of the same title. The film traces the journey of Adam’s composition from its origins in the elemental sounds of nature to its performance in Alaska Range wilderness location that first inspired its creation.

The second new production, *John Haines - Alaska Poet*, will highlight Haines’ life, art and legacy. Work during FY08 included filming interviews, readings and travel to the places that inspired Haines’ poems.

Visiting researcher Takashi Sakurai worked with the museum’s collections on a project that compares film and audio materials recorded in the Kobuk River community of Shungnak the 1970’s with contemporary video material of present day Kobuk River life and culture.

**Fine Arts**

In FY08, the museum acquired 19 new works for the collection. Notable additions include Donald Varnell’s painted cedar relief carving *Logic Board* and three of Rachelle Dowdy’s *Baby Raven* sculptures.
Herbarium
Efforts to digitally image specimens from the collection continued, with more than 91,000 high resolution images incorporated into MorphBank. Of these, 85,000 include links to related specimens records in the museum’s Arctos database (http://arctosdatabase.museum). The NSF-funded project began in May 2007 and is running ahead of its projected schedule to process 220,000 specimens from the museum’s collection.

The herbarium was allocated 10 terabytes of storage on the NSF TeraGrid, “Ranger.” The museum worked with colleagues from the Texas Advanced Computing Center at the University of Texas Austin to permanently store images from the specimen imaging project. Staff are also incorporating the information into the iRODS system (https://www.irods.org), which offers improved functionality over MorphBank.

Curator Steffi Ickert-Bond worked with Arizona State University’s Marty Wojciechowski on designing primers for whole chloroplast genome sequencing of papilionoid legumes. This effort uses next-generation sequencing Solexa technology at Oregon State University. This cutting-edge technology is generating plastid genomes to provide much-needed data for assessing phylogenetic relationships in closely related papilionoid legumes in a cost-effective way. UAF graduate student Zachary Meyers is using the primers designed from this collaboration for his thesis project on Alaska *Oxytropis* (Fabaceae, loco-weed).

Ickert-Bond spent two weeks at Central Washington State University working with Linda Raubeson on sample prep for next generation Solexa sequencing at OSU, part of the NSF-funded project Assembling the Tree of Life: Gymnosperms.

Ickert-Bond collaborated with ASU’s Kathleen Pigg to describe fossils from the Almont/Beicegel Creek floras in North Dakota. The fossils are among the first records for the family and are similar to *Ochna* (Ochnaceae). The presence of the Ochnaceae in the Almont/Beicegel Creek floras suggests that some families within Malphigiales were well established by the Paleocene.

Ichthyology
After a national search, the museum selected Andres Lopez as the curator of ichthyology (fishes), a joint faculty appointment with UAF’s School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. His research focuses on fish phylogenetics and systematics, comparing different fish species and populations to determine the nature of their genealogical relationships.

Mammalogy
The museum mammal collection catalogued its 100,000th specimen in FY08. An Alaska marmot (*Marmota breviceps*) was selected as the milestone specimen; the species is one of the least-studied mammals in North America and may be particularly sensitive to climate change as its range is limited to alpine areas north of the Yukon River. The 100,001st specimen, a pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*) found dead on the beach near Yakutat, expanded the species’ known North American range northward by more than 800 miles. The museum's mammal collection is currently the 10th largest mammal collection in the nation, holding more Alaska mammal specimens than all other museums combined.

Curator Link Olson and master’s student Kyndall Hildebrandt traveled to Madagascar to conduct surveys of the elusive web-footed tenrec (*Limnogale mergulus*), a semi-aquatic mammal endemic to the island. This research was funded by the National Geographic Society’s Committee for Research and Exploration. Master’s student Aren Gunderson and Ph.D. candidate Hayley Lanier each traveled to remote alpine areas of Alaska to conduct their continued research on Alaska marmots and collared pikas, respectively.

A $150,000 grant from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will support the museum’s research on hoary marmots (*Marmota caligata*) in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho and Montana. The three-year grant will fund field and lab work and will also support a Ph.D. student. The work builds on recent research on alpine...
mammals, including collared pikas, singing voles and Alaska marmots, also supported by the ADF&G.

Olson was promoted to Associate Professor in UAF’s Department of Biology and Wildlife. Lanier was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation for her continued research on collared pikas.

Ornithology

Staff and students conducted seven field efforts this year, including expeditions to the Near Islands (Attu and Shemya), the North Slope, the Copper River Delta, Belize, and the Philippines. Collecting, salvaging and preparation efforts resulted in the cataloging of 1,000 new specimens into the collection. Department staff and students gave six scientific presentations at a variety of venues, including the American Ornithologists’ Union meeting in Laramie, Wyoming.

West Valley High School teacher Cyndie Beale, who completed two summers of research with the department in the molecular genomics laboratory this year, was awarded the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Research sites

In Alaska

Aleutian Islands (Amatignak, Little Sitkin, Kasatochi, Adak)
Bering Glacier
Colville River
Denali Highway, Alaska Range
Kenibuna Lake
Kokrines Hills
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Lower Noatak River
Near Islands (Attu and Shemya)
North Slope

Ray Mountains
Sitka
Steese Highway
(Twelvemile & Eagle Summits)
Toolik Field Station
Utukok, Kokolik, and Kukpowric Rivers
Wrangell St. Elias
National Park & Preserve
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
White Mountains

Outside Alaska

Belize
Madagascar
Netherlands Antilles: Saba Island
Norway: Svalbard
Philippines
Russia: Chukotka Peninsula
Washington State:
Mt. Rainier & Mt. St. Helens
Selected Publications


Staff Professional Service

Alaska Bird Observatory, Scientific Advisory Committee
Alaska Entomological Society, Secretary
American Association of Museums, Registrars Committee – Western Region, Secretary
American Ornithologists’ Union, Associate Editor, The Auk
American Ornithologists’ Union, Check-list Committee
American Ornithologists’ Union, Committee on Bird Collections, Chair
American Ornithologists’ Union, Publications Committee
American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Publicity Committee
CINE National Film Festival, Jury Chair, Documentary Category
Coleopterist’s Society, Executive Council
Committee of the Biological Survey of Canada, Scientific Board
Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau, Past Chair
Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau, PR & Advertising Committee
Flora of North America, Board of Directors
& regional coordinator Alaska-Yukon
Society for Visual Anthropology, AAA National Film Festival Jury Member
Western Field Ornithologists, Board
Western Museums Association, Board of Directors
Western Museums Association, Program Committee
Development & Membership

Wells Fargo's corporate partnership supports the museum's military appreciation events.
The University of Alaska Museum of the North is an institution as unique as the northern cultures and lands we celebrate. We rely on a broad range of community support to ensure success in fulfilling our mission. We are proud to have a strong group of supporters who believe in what we can accomplish together.

Thank you to our donors for all the ways you support the University of Alaska Museum of the North.

Corporate Support
Corporate support contributes to the wide range of educational programming, special exhibits and outreach activities offered throughout the year. This support allows us to provide essential programming that educates and inspires and builds alliances that strengthen our position in the regional and scientific community. It is a vital source of income for the museum and a valuable public relations tool for our corporate partners. Our program offers national and regional corporations name recognition, exposure and connections. In FY08, BP became our newest corporate partner, joining the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Flint Hills Resources, Holland America Line, Totem Ocean Trailer Express and Wells Fargo, who all renewed their support of the museum this fiscal year.

Membership
Since the inception of the membership program, we have worked to achieve the goal of $50K per year. In FY08, our fifth year, the museum was proud to reach that goal with $50,200 from 760 members. The museum saw a 20% increase in our second tier memberships of $125 or above.

Free admission to the museum, a discount at the Museum Store and other membership benefits allow us to say thank you for supporting our mission. This year, members were invited to an exclusive screening of The Journals of Knud Rasmussen, the latest film from the director of Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner).

Private Donors and Foundations
In addition to the individuals and families who support the museum as members, we rely on the support of individual patrons to assist us with operational costs, research projects and additions to our collections. Museum visitors donated also more than $2,500 to the various museum donation boxes over and above their admission price in support of the museum’s mission.

Donor Highlight: Grace Schaible
Longtime museum supporter Grace Schaible has been leading the way in museum fundraising for years, helping build our endowments and serving as an instrumental member of the expansion campaign and Museum Advisory Council. Over the past few years, Grace joined with friends to host a private reception to build a special fund that supports the museum’s dynamic and informative special exhibits program. This year’s event featured special guest and artist Denise Wallace, whose work was highlighted in the 25-year retrospective exhibit Arctic Transformations. In FY08, Grace’s efforts resulted in almost $20,000 in private donations to the fund.

Fundraising Events
Chocolate Bash
The annual Chocolate Bash showcases decadent chocolate desserts from regional businesses and is a much-anticipated rite of spring in Fairbanks. This year’s event, themed ‘Diamond Pearls and Chocolate Swirls,’ was another sold out affair. More than 400 people attended the event, raising more than $10,000 for the museum’s endowment fund.

Thanks to our 2008 Chocolate Bash partners:

Desserts: Alaska Coffee Roasting Company, Bittersweet, Coca-Cola of Alaska, Cold Stone Creamery, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge, Hot Licks Homemade Ice Cream, Iris Café, Lavelle’s, NANA Management, UAF Dining Services, NK Enterprises, North Pole Coffee Roasting Company, Odom Company, Pump House Restaurant, Savor...Alaska Catering by SMG Carlson Center, Sky’s the Limit Catering, Spring Alaska, Sweet Dreams, The Fudge Pot, TVC Culinary Arts Program, Two Street Station Espresso & Eatery

Floral Arrangements: A Daisy A Day, Borealis Floral, College Floral, Safeway, University Center, UAF Controlled Environment Agriculture, Fred Meyer West, Santa’s Flowers, Santina’s Flower & Gift, Wal-Mart

TOTE Family Fun Fest
In June, a day of hands-on activities under the big top tent on the museum’s lawn marks a special occasion to connect youth and families to the culture and science of our research collections. In its 10th year, the TOTE Family Fun Fest raised more than $30,000 through contributing sponsorships and admission revenue. More than 600 children and parents enjoyed a fun-filled day under the big top tent.

Beginning the salmon migration at the 2008 Fun Fest.
**CORPORATE PARTNERS ($10,000 AND ABOVE)**

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**$5,000-$9,999**

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Alaska Humanities Forum
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David and Barbara Andersen
Ann's Greenhouses
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Janet Asaro
Helen L. Atkinson
Paul K. Atkinson
Stephen Austin
AVAYA Matching Gift Center
Mara Bacigalupi
Julie C. Baecker
Paul Baich
Mary Ellen Baker
Thomas and Sharon Baring
Michelle K. Bartlett and William Holman
Fred and Kathleen Bast
Alan R. Batten
Joseph and Barbara Beedle
Gary and Laura Bender
Diana Benson
Dr. Elizabeth Bent and Seth Schwartz
Laura Berkwitz and Jan Julian

**Volunteer Highlight: Lee and Betty Higbie**

More than 400 individuals give their time, energy and expertise to the museum each year. These volunteers are invaluable to many of our departments and indispensable during our events. Anyone who has attended one of the museum’s special events in the past few years has likely met volunteers Lee and Betty Higbie. They are often among the first to sign up for special event volunteer duties, doing everything from serving as greeters to providing extra assistance to visitors in the galleries. “This is a great museum and volunteering means we get to visit more often,” says Betty. “We enjoy sharing the museum with others and helping people experience this amazing resource. It is our way of giving back.”
Mary Liston
Lindsey and Mary Lynch
Teresa A. Lyons
Patricia M. Mack
Curt and Rebecca Madison
Eric and Janet Madsen
Dennis Mailhot
Martín and Gail Maricle
Bud and Jamie Marschner
Chase and Sarah Marshall
Katherine Matolcyc
James and Barbara Matthews
Patricia McCaado
Ann and Michael McCann
Annette McDonald
Caryn McElroy
Michelle McGowan and
Paul Friedman
Joy Morrison and
Susan McInnis
George and Laurel
McLaughlin
Loyola McManus and
Philip Antle
Herbert and Hilda Melchior
Merrie Mendenhall
Harry and Ruth Merriman
Dora and David Meyer
Cathy Middlecamp
Jean and Frank Miles
Debbie Miller
Pamela Miller
Mary M. Mitchell
Nate and Jamie Mohatt
Gerald and Roberta Mohott
Dave Mollett and
Jessie Hedden
Milan and Sherry Mons
James E. Moody P.E.
Ronald and Connie Moore
John and Nancy Morgan
Marta R. Mueller
Franz Muerter and
Susan Nachtigal
Firmun and Gael Murakami
John and Laurie Murphy
Robert and Jean Murray
'Nanne Myers
Roland Nail
Ree and Bill Nancarrow
Joseph and Alyssa Nardinger
Robert and Pat Nelson
Sandra Nelson and
Keith Holcomb
David and Carolyn Nethken
Brian O’Donoghue and
Kate Riley
Lee and Russell O’Hare
Tom and Dianne Okleasik
Gene and Catherine
Omstead
Gareth O’Neill and
Melissa Holmes
Bessie O’Rourke
Geoffrey Orth and
Sheryl Reilly
Daniel and Ria Osborne
Albert and Vicki Parish
Lee and Linda Payne
Jill Pedersen
Alice Pennington
Bill and Marsha Pike
Christopher Nye and
Anna Plager
Robert and Marjorie Poggas
Mike and Peggy Pollen
Denis and Andree Porchuk
Pat Pourchat
Marc and Jennifer Price Wolf
Andrew C. Quainton
Roland and Kathy Quimby
Steven and Alice Rast
Martha Raymonds and
Samuel Dashevsky
Peter and Barbara Reader
Hilde Reimer
Jack and Edith Reisland
Thomas Richardson
Robert Roadcap
Larry and Cathy Roberts
William and Betsy Robertson
James C. Rogan and
Molly Leahy
Richard and Debra Rogers
Susan Royer
Barbara Rudio
Kenneth Russell and
Laurel Devaney
Jon and Mari Sallstrom
Craig Salsbury and
Barbara Pomar
Sandy Samaniego
James and Beth Sampson
Kenneth Sassen
Steven and Becky Scheller
Philip and Janet Schempf
Brian and Melody Schneider
Michael and Lea Schuldiner
Michael Schwitters
Dolores J. Sczudlo
Steven Seefeldt and
Susan McMinn Seefeldt
Keith and Barbara Severin
Kenneth P. Severin
Timothy and Therese Sharp
Sue Sherif
Ronan and Barbara Short
June Siegrist
Derek and Melissa Sikes
Montie and Lynn Slusher
Mary Beth Smetzer
Eric and Jaime Smith
Steve and Jane Smith
Wallace Smith and
Pamela Dyer-Smith
Karen and Cherie Smith
Michael and Pamela Steiger
D. Rebecca Snow
Arnold and Patricia Snyder
Walter and Babette
Sonnenborn
Vikas and Sushma Sonwalkar
Robert and Susan Spanh
Jonathan Starr and
Susan Schneider
State Farm Companies
Foundation
Michael and Pamela Steiger
Dorothy Stella
Robert and Judith Sterns
Karen Storberg
William and Margaret Stott
Jennifer Stoudenmire
Cynthia A. Stragier
The museum's collections have grown through decades of fieldwork and research, careful cultivation and the generosity of people whose passion for science, culture and education leads them to support the museum's mission. We are grateful to our donors for their contributions during FY08.

## Gifts to Earth Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anne Pasch, UAA Professor Emeritus</td>
<td>Vertebrate paleontology teaching collection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Dickey</td>
<td>Pair of Wooden Snowshoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Entomology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brent Mortenson</td>
<td>104 partially identified ant (Formicidae) voucher specimens; in association with research on Aspen leaf miners and Aspen defenses to herbivory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Rudis</td>
<td>76 unidentified insects collected in Juneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. George Ball, University of Alberta</td>
<td>37 identified ground beetle (Carabidae) specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Paul and Regula Schmid-Hempel</td>
<td>Integrative Biology and Experimental Ecology, Zurich, Switzerland. 39 identified Alaskan Bumble bee specimens (Bombus spp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Terry Whitworth</td>
<td>26 identified Blow Fly (Calliphoridae) specimens. These helped fill in many gaps in our representation of Alaskan Calliphoridae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Rudebusch, Idaho State University</td>
<td>138 voucher specimens, Sanak Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hudson</td>
<td>33 identified Dragonfly (Odonata) specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Hallinan</td>
<td>14 boxes of insects collected in Fairbanks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Ethnology & History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Jones</td>
<td>One pair calfskin mukluks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candace Waugaman</td>
<td>Cedar bark handbag with handles collected from Southeast Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Dorman</td>
<td>“Nantucket Basket” and ivory finial, made by Justus Mekiana, on a stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Elphabelle Mumm Trust</td>
<td>57 ethnological objects collected by Ms. Mumm between 1958-1961 in Western Alaska. The donor served as a public health nurse in the communities of Aniak, Anvik, Crooked Creek, Holy Cross, Kalskag, McGrath, Shageluk and Sleetmute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Steeves</td>
<td>Ethnological and historic material from Arctic Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Leer</td>
<td>One Janus-style Anaktuvuk Pass mask by Justus Mekiana, on a stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Moody</td>
<td>Collection of ten various historical lightbulbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Washburn</td>
<td>Beaded baby wrap made by Martha Wallace of Fort Yukon, collected by the donor’s mother, Barbara, in 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letitia Bowman</td>
<td>Various ethnographical objects collected from Southwestern Alaska by Letitia Bowman and family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Cullen</td>
<td>Two Athabascan smoked moosehide pillow covers made prior to 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Krauss</td>
<td>Skin ball made in Siberia (village of Naukan) and given to the donor after taking the Alaska Friendship Flight in 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Lesley</td>
<td>Collection of six stereograph cards of Alaska &amp; Gold Rush scenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Dotson</td>
<td>Collection of objects obtained by Gordon Hill while posted in Alaska (Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope) between 1954-1958 working on the DEW Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Lee</td>
<td>Pair of dance fans and a King Island raven mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Gordon (Anna M.) Hill</td>
<td>Portrait of a Woman Dressed as An Indian by Sydney Laurence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter W. Mason</td>
<td>Two pairs of Athabascan footwear, collected by Marge Thera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter W. Mason</td>
<td>Upper Chena by James Behlke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Film Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malimut Family</td>
<td>Personal 1/4 audio tapes from 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Dickerson</td>
<td>Historical footage of Alaska aviation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Fine Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neil and Rosemarie Davis</td>
<td>Jelley Fish by Patricia Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Irving</td>
<td>Harvest Season by Elizabeth Irving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldona Jonaitis</td>
<td>Holder by Thomas Stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu Nguyen</td>
<td>Last Morning on Statendam by Thu Nguyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion Schmidt</td>
<td>Portrait of a Woman Dressed as An Indian by Sydney Laurence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Shellinger and Carol Merrit</td>
<td>Upper Chena by James Behlke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Herbarium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yukon Department of Environment</td>
<td>Plant specimens from the Yukon Territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oslo (O)</td>
<td>R. Elven Norway collections with C. Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smithsonian Institution (US)</td>
<td>Specimens from the Western Brooks Range (1963-64); sedges and grasses; Sladen collection from the Pribilof Islands and St. Matthew Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>Alaska specimens, including historical collections from 1948-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New Hampshire</td>
<td>Siberian aquatic specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Mammalogy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td>
<td>Mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Sea Life Center</td>
<td>Marine mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Zoo</td>
<td>Mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Marine Fisheries Service</td>
<td>Marine mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td>Marine mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Geological Survey</td>
<td>Marine mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Conservation Society</td>
<td>Marine mammal specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Gifts to Ornithology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bente</td>
<td>Bird specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Boechter</td>
<td>Bird specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Capito</td>
<td>Bird specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannes Erritzoe</td>
<td>Bird specimens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Springer</td>
<td>Bird specimens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Upper Chena by James Behlke, gift of Mark Shellinger and Carol Merrit.*
The museum’s retail operations – admission, auditorium shows, audio guide, Museum Store and special events – continued to grow in FY08 and generated more than $1.6 million in revenue.

Visitation increased by 4%, finishing the fiscal year with 97,081 visitors. To capture more evening visitation, the museum expanded its summer hours to stay open until 9 p.m. (May 15 through September 15) beginning with the 2008 visitor season.

Audio guide sales and ticket sales for the museum’s summer auditorium shows also increased in FY08. In May 2008, the museum changed the pricing structure for the summer auditorium shows: allowing visitors to purchase a $5 show pass for admission to all the day’s shows rather than the former à la carte pricing for individual shows.

Increased visitation by tour groups was key to the museum’s increased visitation.

Summer 2008 marked the first time in more than 10 years that Holland America Line included the museum in their tour packages in addition to offering optional tours to the museum. Because the summer visitor season spans two fiscal years, the full effect of Holland America’s return is not reflected in the FY08 visitation figures; however, Holland America patrons now represent the largest group of visitors to the museum.

Cruise West increased their visitation to the museum by 20% and included lunches (2007 season) and breakfasts (2008 season) as part of their museum visit. The museum’s extended evening hours provided an opportunity for Princess Tours to increase their visits to the museum; the tour company tripled the number of visitors they brought to the museum on optional tours.

The Museum Store finished the year with almost $880,000 in sales, a 14% increase from FY07. New wall display units enabled the store to better showcase its inventory of ivory carvings, Alaska Native dolls and jewelry. Overall, the store increased its inventory of Alaska Native art, Alaska-made products and museum logo products, including a new tote bag, t-shirts, pins and coffee mug. Alaska Native arts and crafts continued to account for a majority of the store’s inventory (60%, up from 51% in FY07). The average per-visitor sale in the museum store remained significantly higher than the national average.

The museum hosted 47 events during the FY08 fiscal year, including nine museum lectures, two corporate partner events, nine UAF receptions, four book readings and several private receptions (including one wedding reception), in addition to the museum’s major annual events – Halloween, Military Appreciation reception and family day, Sparktacular, Chocolate Bash and Fun Fest.

Staff from the education department were also heavily involved in the summer hunting and trapping exhibit, including the development of three media stations.

**University Courses**

The museum’s curators also serve as faculty members at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. During the FY08 fiscal year, museum curators taught the following UAF courses: BIOL 195 – Introduction to Field Entomology; BIOL 305 – Invertebrate Zoology; BIOL 331 – Systematic Botany; BIOL 426 – Ornithology; BIOL 644 – Advanced Topics in Evolution; ENGL 488 – Dramatic Writing; ENGL 688 – Writing for Film and Television; ENGL 697 – Advanced Screenwriting (Independent study); and GEOS 492 – Vertebrate Paleontology.

In addition, the museum’s galleries and research collections continued to serve as a valuable resource for University of Alaska students, with more than 2,100 visiting the museum on their own and with their classes.
Financial Summary

INCOME FY08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State of Alaska</td>
<td>$1,420,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$1,032,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Store</td>
<td>$878,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td>$772,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Gifts &amp; Grants*</td>
<td>$661,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$212,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/City Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>$62,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>$50,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total income $5,091,042

EXPENSE FY08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Operations</td>
<td>$1,302,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>$1,009,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$904,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibits &amp; Public Programs</td>
<td>$663,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Store</td>
<td>$663,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Services/Admissions</td>
<td>$387,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership &amp; Development</td>
<td>$185,690</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expenses $5,116,542

* Note: Revenue from museum memberships, bequests and other private donations are held and managed by the University of Alaska Foundation and only appear in the museum's financial summary as those funds are transferred to the museum's spending accounts. For a detailed listing of the museum's private support, please refer to the Donors of Record listing on page 12.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td>
<td>Phyleogeography of Alaska’s enigmatic hoary marmots (Olson)</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska State Council on the Arts</td>
<td>“Strange and Sacred Noise – A Film Project” (Kamerling)</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fairbanks Hotel-Motel Tax Fund, re-grant by the Fairbanks Arts Association</td>
<td>Special Exhibits &amp; Gatherings North (Chin)</td>
<td>$5,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>Curation &amp; Storage of Denali Park Ungulate Kill Specimens (Olson)</td>
<td>$5,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determine the Taxonomic Status of the Listed Threatened Navajo Sedge (Murray)</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Miyukung Village Data Recovery Project (Odess)</td>
<td>$31,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vascular &amp; Non-Vascular Plant Specimen Identification &amp; Curation for Southwest Alaska Network (Parker)</td>
<td>$11,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>BRC Supplement High Density Storage System (Ickert-Bond).</td>
<td>$25,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ornithology Collection Improvement Project (Phase I)</td>
<td>$23,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (Jarrell)</td>
<td>$23,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REU Supplement – Critical Expansion Needs (Olson)</td>
<td>$6,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REU Supplement – Treeshrew (Olson)</td>
<td>$6,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration/ National Marine Fisheries Service</td>
<td>Improvements to Marine Mammal Data and Specimen Archives (Jarrell)</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alaska Statewide Office of Academic Affairs with funding from BP and ConocoPhillips</td>
<td>“Hunting and Trapping: Our Stories, Our Lives” (Linn)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California Berkeley</td>
<td>Ornithological Collection Improvement Project (Phase I),</td>
<td>$23,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (Jarrell)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Identify Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Plant Specimens (Parker) $1,500
Identify Kanuti NWR Plant Specimens (Parker) $2,250
Identify Plant Specimens Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge 2006 & 2007 (Parker) $12,000
Plant Identification - Icy Bay (Parker) $1,500
Rehouse Bear Cave Collection (Whitney) $4,000
Survey of Aleutian Islands Arthropods (Sikes) $10,125
Unimak Island Collections Curation Project (Whitney) $5,400

US Forest Service
Chugach Identify Plants - 2008 (Parker) $2,475

Rasmuson Foundation
Art Acquisition Initiative (Jonaitis, Lee, Nacke) $34,900
- Rochelle Adams – beaded moosehide cell phone cover
- Rachelle Dowdy – Baby Raven in Nails 1
- Rachelle Dowdy – Baby Raven in Nails 2
- Rachelle Dowdy – Baby Raven in Nails 3
- Raymond Dutchman – wooden loon mask
- Carol Gelvin-Reymiller – Three Frosty Nights at Moose Camp with Big Moon
- Sandy Gillespie – Bone Song
- Mary Jane Derendoff – beaded checkbook cover
- Erica Lord – Silence
- John McIntyre – Issisayaugy Mask
- Judy Redfox – coiled grass basket
- Lena Sanford – two Athabascan dolls
- Glen Simpson – Raven Rattle
- Donald Varnell – Logic Board

* This list reflects new grants and contracts awarded during the FY08 fiscal year only. It does not include multi-year grants or contracts awarded in previous years.
Molly Lee retired in May 2008 after serving as the museum’s curator of ethnology and history and as a faculty member in UAF’s anthropology department since 1995. During her time at the museum, Molly forged long-lasting relationships with Alaska’s Native community, both through her research on Alaska Native baskets and through her “open door” policy for the research collection. She welcomed bead-workers, skinsewers and other artists to look at the collection for inspiration and invited Alaska Native elders to view the collections and share their stories. She served on several national and regional boards, including Doyon’s art acquisition committee. Molly continues to serve on the museum’s acquisition committee.

After more than 40 years at the museum, bird collection manager Dan Gibson retired in June 2008. Before coming to Alaska, Dan worked with legendary Smithsonian ornithologist Roxie Laybourne. He started working at the museum in 1965 as a student in what was then the terrestrial vertebrate collection and joined the staff full-time in 1970. His research has focused on the distribution and geographic variation of birds in Alaska. He also served as the Alaska regional editor of Audubon Field Notes/American Birds and associate editor of Western Birds. Dan continues his relationship with the museum as a Research Associate and volunteer.
The University of Alaska Museum of the North’s FY08 annual report is published with support from: