

PAGLAN*

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Jensen Arctic Museum

*Traditional Inuit greeting



Vol. 16 No. 1 Winter 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER



JAM EVENTS

Board Meetings
2nd Wednesday
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Board meetings are *open*
to the public.

Jan. 26, 2011
Museum open house
4 to 6 p.m.

January to March 2011
Hidden Gems Exhibition
Willamette Heritage Center
Salem

*Thank you to all of our donors
and event guests at our annual
2010 Salmon Bake. You helped
us raise \$14,500!*

JENSEN ARCTIC MUSEUM MIGRATION UPDATE

by Friends of JAM

As the economic climate has changed, the State of Oregon has reduced funding to WOU. In response, the university is no longer able to support community services, such as the JAM, that are not directly involved in educating college students. The time has come for the JAM to adapt to climate change and migrate to a new home.

The Friends of the Jensen Arctic Museum are currently fundraising to reach our goal of \$50,000 to continue regular operations at our current location while we consider other options in and out of Monmouth.

The museum stores and preserves nearly 5,000 archeological and ethnographic artifacts primarily from Alaska but many are also from Canada, Greenland, Russia, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. The collection includes taxidermy bird and animal specimens, a research library with over 1,000 photographs, hundreds of 35 mm slides, audio and video tapes, magazines, maps, Dr. Paul Jensen's professional archives, the Jensen Arctic Museum archives and a modest professional library.

Our current exhibit, storage and workspace is 2,832 sq ft. To properly exhibit and store the collection we need at least 10,000 sq ft space with high ceilings and double doors. The Jensen Arctic Museum (JAM), located on the Western Oregon University (WOU) campus, was formed around the collection of artifacts Dr. Paul Jensen acquired while developing culturally relevant education programs for Alaska Natives. Over the past 25 years it grew to become the only Arctic museum on the West Coast and one of two museums devoted solely to presentation of arctic and sub-arctic ecology and culture in the lower 48 states. About 4000 visitors, including many school children travel to the museum each year. Trunks containing ready-to-use curricula on arctic animals, culture, natural resources and the changing climate are available to educators around the state. Traveling exhibits are shared with venues around the country. The JAM sponsors symposiums at WOU on topics such as whales, climate change, and Arctic peoples.

The mission of the Jensen Arctic Museum is to inform and educate the people of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest about the environment of the Arctic and the culture of Arctic people. The museum's mission will be realized through collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of Arctic artifacts, art, and everyday objects.

To help chart the migration route or for more information, contact Roben at arctic@wou.edu

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall! It has already been two months since the Salmon Bake and there is a lot to catch up on already. The Salmon Bake was a success, thanks to all of you who participated! As we move forward with our ever-evolving migration, it is clear that we will need to change our strategies for engaging the public in general and, most importantly, our friends and future members. In an effort to meet the Jensen collection's financial needs, which is equal to a Salmon Bake every quarter, we are preparing a steady stream of events and I want to encourage you to join us more frequently this year. It is more important now than ever before, that we pull together our collective efforts and keep what we already have alive and healthy. This will take active participation and a willingness to get out for our cause.

The museum is open and still provides what I like to call the "Jensen Experience", simply allowing the collection and its surroundings to work its magic on ones' imagination and letting the thoughts and senses unfold. The experience takes another level with the interaction of our dedicated volunteers and staff, with stories and experiences, highlighted with our ongoing efforts to document and preserve the collection (come in and see what I mean).

As the future of our museum will prove, community is vital and there is likely to be something of interest for everybody at our events. If not, let us know what IS of interest, or, take a chance and participate! Get involved and share your ideas!

On behalf of the board, we look forward to seeing and hearing from you. Thank for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,
Dave Stahlke
President, Friends of the Jensen Board



Gale and Dave Stahlke

If you know of a suitable storage area, please contact the museum! In addition, our operations are directly impacted by the accomplishments that are made on the outreach and fund-raising fronts.

OPERATIONS, OUTREACH, FUNDRAISING

In our vision towards preserving the collection and assuring a healthy self-supporting museum, the Friends of the Jensen Arctic Museum Board is working hard to identify solutions to key issues on three major fronts: operations, outreach, and fund-raising. Recently, the operations and outreach efforts have received the primary focus to define our needs, to understand our support base, and to develop the direction of our next years' fund-raising events. Legal issues pertaining to the collection are developing and will receive more attention as issues pertaining to donor constraints and the location of the museum are considered.

The amount of effort to keep all these fronts moving simultaneously has highlighted the need to increase the size and ability of the board and work crew. This growth is dependent on seeking and building a strong community relationship. In the process, the community vitality will be increased via educational programs, symposia and exhibits. In turn, the museum's vitality will be increased through increased visitation, volunteer help and financial support. As near-term strategies in the next two years take hold, a long-term goal of becoming accredited by the American Association of Museums as a self-supporting museum in the next few years can come into focus.

OPERATIONS

Before the start of the fall term, the decision was made to keep the museum open after Western Oregon University funding is withdrawn on July 1, 2011 and while we seek a long-term stable home for the collection. In addition to keeping the doors open, the preservation and documentation of the collection is paramount to any other issue surrounding the Jensen. As usual, we will follow the standards and best practices as outlined by the American Association of Museums. It will take approximately eight months to finish documenting the collection. The primary work to be done is: photographing about 2/3 of the bone, stone and ivory artifacts; digitizing records; updating object conditions; and maintaining a proper physical location/storage structure. Included in the collection documentation is accessioning two new donations of approximately 75 artifacts each. Seven students and four community volunteers are helping with the documentation efforts and day-to-day operation of the museum.

As we are documenting the collection, we are also

preserving it by addressing storage needs. It is becoming increasingly important to find a secure storage area for the artifacts that are currently resting among the regular exhibits and have displaced the gift shop. To properly exhibit and store the collection, we need to have 5,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and 1,500 sq. ft. of storage space. This means doubling the current square footage for our spaces.

OUTREACH

Community outreach has been a major focus of the board efforts in the past three months. Determining how best to share our needs has prompted newspaper interviews, a media release, a follow-up to our migration message and attendance at many community meetings.

We are continuing our push towards finding the best home for the collection. We have started to expand our visibility in Monmouth, Independence, Albany, Salem and we are looking at Corvallis, Eugene, and Portland. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Valene Smith Museum of Anthropology at California State University - Chico, and the Clatskanie Historical Society have expressed an interest in our situation.

The JAM board is increasingly taking on a role of a business team. To enhance our board we are actively looking to add two or three more enthusiastic members that have museum, non-profit, and business experience. *Please contact Roben if you can provide the critical help we need.* Fresh perspectives and their potential to inject the right combination of vitality and direction have already allowed ideas to take hold.

FUND-RAISING

The biggest known challenge that the board is facing is to develop a fund-raising strategy that can increase the revenues that the museum has historically achieved. An aggressive search for operating expenses is of primary concern, since most of our biggest opportunities involve having access to a building location. Part of our seeking new board members with non-profit, museum and business experience is to maximize our fund-raising ability. Taking our issues and making them essential to prospective donors is a key trait to pursue, as is the ability to find and write new grants that can be tailored to our programs and mission.

*Our fund raising goal is a very realistic \$10 per month per person on our mailing list!
Please be active and generous in this process!*

New alternatives are already taking shape as different fund-raising strategies are being discussed. In order to keep good ideas alive and the proponents engaged, live events and progressive mailings are being developed. An Open House, scheduled for the last week in January, will be the first of monthly contacts with the current membership and new friends. Live functions will concentrate on friend-raising to shape follow-up fund-raisers, tailored towards specific interests.

Imperative to fundraising is a need to identify the issues in developing and maintaining a 501(c) 3 organization. Maintaining non-profit status is a key step in the future operation of the museum.

If the necessary accounting, marketing and grant-writing capacity cannot be found through volunteers, hiring expert help on a temporary basis will be carefully considered. To allow the preliminary tasks to be accomplished and to give them a chance to develop properly, we are planning to stay on the WOU campus for the next 18 months thousand dollars might allow for more manageable and intimate experiences.

BELOVED JENSEN DAUGHTER PASSES AWAY

Anna Dorthea Kendall, born on January 29, 1938, peacefully passed away with her family beside her on October 12, 2010. Anna was born in Fargo, N.D She worked as a church secretary and teacher's aide Anna is survived by her husband, Lyle G.; daughters, Teresa M. Kendall and Joy A. Olson; and son, Lyle H. She was preceded in death by her father, Dr. Paul H. Jensen; and mother, Theresa D. Madson Jensen Baker.

Published in The Oregonian on October 22, 2010



Paul Jensen and girls

REFLECTIONS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY FATHER: PART III

by Carol Jensen

In 1981, Dad was instrumental in the adoption of my son, Pete, an Alaska Native born in Chevak in 1976. My husband and I adopted him when his mother suddenly died and no relatives were able to care for him. Today, Pete is a friendly and caring man who has very fond memories of his Grandpa Jensen.

After more than 20 years of trips to Arctic regions and bringing home many artifacts, Dad had more than enough items to fill a museum. In 1985, Dick Meyers, President of Western Oregon State College, made arrangements for Dad to display his collection on the campus. That was the year that the Paul Jensen Arctic Museum was founded. My 11 year old daughter and I had the honor of helping my parents catalogue and display Dad's many interesting artifacts in preparation for the very successful opening of the museum. Over the next 9 years, Dad thoroughly enjoyed his position as Museum Curator, especially when he had the opportunity to share his arctic stories with children and other visitors.

Dad was an enthusiastic visionary who was fascinated by people and their cultures. He was also a strong advocate of revolutionary methods of learning that would help people improve their lives. I have a cassette tape Dad made at the age of 80 while he was traveling by himself on a train through Sweden and Norway. It was 1987, and he talked about how students should do more computer-based training instead of spending so much time in high school classes. Twenty-two years ago, few people considered computer

training an alternative to classroom instruction. That was an example of his very innovative thinking!

I feel so blessed to have had Dad's presence in my life for 47 years. I always admired his adventuresome spirit and his kind, friendly and caring manner. He taught me the importance of faith in God, the power of encouragement, how to dream dreams and work to make them a reality, as well as how to use your education to help others, and the importance of respecting other people and their cultures. I will always be grateful that Dad was my father. He was an optimistic leader who made a big difference in my life and the lives of many others. The end.

MUSHING TO CHANDLER LAKE: PART IV

by James (Jim) Hemming, boardmember

That night, we had more rice and tea for dinner and Noah hacked up the caribou with his axe and fed each dog a basketball-sized piece of raw meat which they promptly devoured. I could hear them growling and snapping as they fought their neighbors for the scraps.

On the third day, we topped a small rise and I could see Chandler Lake in the distance. The dogs had full bellies and we suffered their gaseous emissions as they eagerly headed toward the lake. The Nunamiut name for the Chandler Lake is "Narivakpak" which means "big lake" and it is big, stretching more than 5 miles in length.

The lake looked like a mirror as we approached. When we actually moved onto the ice, it was as if we had just stepped onto a massive block of crystal. Arctic winds had scoured away the snow and the surface of the ice was polished like glass. Small pebbles more than ten feet below on the bottom of the lake looked as if you could reach down and snatch them up. At this point, the dogs panicked, and regardless of Noah's commands, they headed for the snow-covered shore. Noah tried repeatedly to get the dogs back onto the ice but they were too afraid, so we had to mush along the edge of the lake through the snow, rocks, and rough ice.

A few miles to the north, we skirted Little Chandler Lake and turned west toward David Mekkiana's trapping camp. In this area, there was more snow. Trail conditions improved with the exception of one semi-controlled downhill run. With the dogs running flat out to stay ahead of the sled, we moved along without mishap.

We hoped to make it to David's camp by nightfall. As we came over a ridge into a small basin, we saw about fifty caribou including many adult females, "prime choice" for good table fare at this time of year. When you must live off the land, you never pass up an opportunity to harvest food, so Noah quickly secured the sled and we grabbed our rifles and began our stalk. I moved to a high point and knelt down where there was a good view of the entire basin, while Noah slipped down a draw and was able to get within about 50 yards of the herd. Soon he stood up and began to shoot. I withheld my fire so I could pick off any animals that might be wounded. I saw two limping animals, so I put them out of their misery and the hunt was over.

We had killed seven fat cow caribou and we immediately set began cutting them up. As we worked, I heard wing beats over head and then I saw several ravens circling the area. Despite the fact that we hadn't seen a living creature

for 3 days, except the 5 bull caribou on day 2, the ravens had found us. Ravens are amazing birds and are clearly one of the best adapted animals for survival in the Far North.

As we gutted and skinned each animal, I checked their general condition, took the necessary samples, and recorded notes in my field log. We loaded two of the caribou onto the sled and took off for David's camp. We would return for the remaining animals tomorrow.

By this time we were "starving". It was almost dark and the smoke coming from the stovepipe on David's tent as we arrived was most welcoming. We unloaded the gear, fed and staked out the dogs, and climbed into the tent for some hot, sugary tea. Thick caribou hides covered the floor and walls of David's tent so it was well insulated, warm, and luxurious.

David was a young man with a round smiley face and a stout frame. He seemed happy to have company as he shaved about two cups of frozen raw caribou fat into a small turkey roaster and put it on the willow stove to render. He then cut three-inch chunks of fresh caribou meat, dropped them into an inch of boiling fat, and popped the lid on. He put some rice on to cook and soon we began the feast. After three days of jogging in sub-zero weather through the mountains on very light rations, Noah and I were famished. For the next two hours or so, we gorged on what the Nunamiut call "fry" (the deep fried/steamed meat) with breaks for sugary tea and conversation between courses. Fat tastes especially good after you have been working in the cold. A year or so later I made some "fry" at my home in Anchorage and somehow it didn't taste the same. My wife threatened to evict me because our home retained the heavy musky smell of rendered-out caribou fat for many days.

The next day, we went back to pick up the remaining caribou carcasses. As we approached, ravens were pecking at the gut piles and a beautiful red fox scurried away. From his tracks, it was obvious that the canny fox had methodically checked each carcass and fed on the one that was the fattest.

continued on next page



Chandler caribou bull



MY MOTHER'S MEMORIES

by Andrew Olivo Parodi, WOU student

My half-sister Laura, a registered member of the Aleut tribe, recently told me a very unusual story. I was a little boy walking with her on Kodiak Island near a river full of spawning salmon, so thick you could walk across their backs. My sister wanted me to see how big the fish were, so she reached into the river, grabbed one of the salmon, and threw it on the banks. She felt really guilty when its eggs spilled out all over. She hadn't known it was pregnant. My sister quickly put the fish back into the river.

I've grown up with stories like these, stories of an exotic life in Alaska that I apparently lived through but have no memory of; stories about my mother walking by herself in the Alaskan forest and coming across bears that would stand up and look her in the face, then calmly turn and walk away. About the time my mother was chased down the beach by a 10-foot king crab that had fallen off of the fishing boat. Stories about the time my mother told off a group of men who were making fun of Alaska Native culture. (My mother was just a little girl but said to the grown men something like, "It's different from your ways, but that doesn't mean you're better!") Or the time that my uncle, Bill, was told he had to sit in the balcony of the movie theatre because "natives" weren't allowed to sit with whites. (My aunt once hid from my uncle the newspaper article whose headline read, "Hundreds Killed in Landslide, Not Counting Natives.") Stories about the time I, as a child, learned to walk while visiting distant relatives on Kodiak Island.

Working at the Jensen Arctic Museum a recent Saturday, I reflected on the fact that it's going to lose University funding within a year. Inevitably, I'm sad about this. I then realized that one reason I'm thankful for the museum is because in a way it has given me a chance to experience a life I lived but have no memory of. I actually found a book in the museum's gift shop that mentions the relatives we were visiting on Kodiak Island



when I learned to walk as a child. And when my mother visits the museum, she looks oddly at home. It's that old cliché ... now that the future of the museum is uncertain; I realize what it has meant to me. In many ways it has meant connecting with people of a culture that I am told embraced of me, a place I associate with my Aleut family members and perhaps the happiest era of my mother's life.

The museum has also helped me understand my life from a larger perspective. So much about my life, particularly my very early years, has always seemed so mysterious, so many dots to connect. Working at the Jensen Arctic Museum has helped me understand that there is an obvious



connection between my mother's childhood growing up among the Aleut people and my childhood growing up in the Mexican/Chicano culture. My mother was a teenager when her family moved from Alaska to California. Which culture

appeared, in some ways at least, to resemble the culture my mother had grown up among? Western culture? No. It was perhaps inevitable that my mother's childhood among the indigenous of Alaska would influence her gravitation toward Mexican/Chicano culture in California, a culture which of course is indigenous to North America.

One of the more endearing stories of my mother's life in Alaska is the time she told a family friend, an older Alutiiq woman that she had to move to California. The friend said, "No. Stay. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will help you." My mother confessed that she couldn't ask the BIA for help because my mother doesn't have any Alutiiq ancestry. The friend was shocked, asking humbly, "Not even a little?"

Mushing (cont.)

After spending a day with David, we loaded up several caribou carcasses and headed back to the village. The return trip was fairly uneventful. The uphill jogging was hard, but this time-- we had meat!

As we approached the village a group of laughing children scurried up to greet us and then followed us to the ARL cabin where we unloaded my gear. I dug into the groceries I had left for my return and I found some chewing gum. Then I went outside and gave each child a treat. My pilot was scheduled to come back for me the next morning, so this would be my last night in the village.



JAM STUDENT EMPLOYEE: SARAH THYGESEN

by Sarah Thygesen

I am a single mother, student at WOU and a student employee at the Jensen Arctic Museum. I grew up in Los Angeles, California. I decided I wanted a change of pace and applied to Western Oregon University, April 2009. After being accepted I moved to Monmouth in Sept. 2009 and started school. I first encountered the Museum during New Student Week '09. The amazing animals, artifacts, history, and culture immediately drew me to the Museum. I was perplexed that such a small campus could hold such a jewel. After viewing the museum alone I decided that

Shaughn (3), my son, shouldn't miss out on such a great learning opportunity. I had Karen Olivo (a museum tour guide) give me and my son a small tour of the museum. She knew so much about Alaska and the Arctic. My son loved the Sound and Light Show. He laughed at the silly jokes the narrators said and enjoyed learning all the fun information about the animals and hunting gear the Natives used. We both admired the wonderful Native outfits that were placed in the main room. We read a story called "Mama, do you love me?" and had a fun encounter with the museum's "touching table." A majority of the museum's artifacts you are not allowed to touch but at the touching table there are plenty of things to keep your child occupied, entertained, and happy. Some of the objects on the touching table are Eskimo yo-yos, and other toys, animal furs, and bones. There is a guessing game to go along with the touching table. Attached to each artifact is a paper asking you to guess what each artifact could be. Shaughn and I play: whoever can name it fastest gets a point. I have visited the Jensen Arctic Museum quite often and became eligible for hire when I was awarded work-study in my financial aid package. Since starting work here, I've enjoyed learning even more about the history and culture of the Arctic and those who inhabit it. I've met some amazing people and seen beautiful artifacts. Being here has been a wonderful opportunity and I look forward to spending another year at the Jensen Arctic Museum.

ARCTIC CLUB

The Jensen Arctic Museum is recruiting students, alumni, staff, and faculty to get involved in supporting a student led Arctic Club. We need people to create fun and interesting fundraisers to help support our beloved museum. We will hold the first meeting:

Friday, January 14, 2011 @ 12pm at the Jensen Arctic Museum.

We will discuss the club constitution and duties of the club president, vice president, and treasurer. All are welcome. Any one who's interested in learning more about the Arctic should be at our first meeting. See you there!

Any questions contact:

WOU Student, Sarah Thygesen at salvarez09@wou.edu
Museum Curator, Roben Jack Larrison, arctic@wou.edu



Do you have, or can you recommend any media (newspaper, photographers, TV), service club, business organization, or community organization contacts, please contact the museum. You can also volunteer for preparing mailings and making phone calls!



Jensen Arctic Museum
Ecology, Education and Culture

JENSEN ARCTIC MUSEUM
Western Oregon University
345 N. Monmouth Ave.
Monmouth, OR 97361

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

This year you can:

- Fund a monthly children's activity: \$1,500/year or \$125/month
- Host an open house: \$250
- Nestle some carvings: \$125
- Store a parka: \$100
- Pack a doll: \$50

FRIENDS CHECKLIST

- Volunteer
- Renew membership
- Visit the museum
- Donate and ask a friend to donate too!
- Schedule a group visit

Call Roben at the museum: 503-838-8468

Save time, money and trees! Send your email address to arctic@wou.edu to receive future Paglan newsletters in digital format!

JENSEN ARCTIC MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Archer
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The Jensen Arctic Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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www.wou.edu/arctic