

Sealaska Heritage Institute

Native American Heritage Month 2010 Events

	Lecture Sealaska Plaza, 4 th Floor Boardroom (bring your own lunch)	Dance Group Performances JDHS Auditorium	Native Artist Market JDHS commons
Monday, Oct. 25	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Charting Material Memories: an ethnography of visual and material responses to woolen trade blankets in the Pacific Northwest of North America and New Zealand” by Fiona McDonald, PhD candidate at University College London.		
Friday, Nov. 5	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Pre-Contact Tlingit Warfare: What Do We Really Know?” by Madonna Moss, Professor of Anthropology at University of Oregon.	<u>10:00 am</u> (for elementary students) <u>1:30 pm</u> (for junior high and high school students) <u>7:00 pm</u> (for general public)	<u>5 pm-9 pm</u>
Monday, Nov. 8	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Tlingit Oral Narratives and Deep History” by Dan Monteith, Professor of Anthropology at University of Alaska Southeast.		
Monday, Nov. 15	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Un-silencing the Past: Reassessing American Military Relations with the Tlingit in 1869” by Zachary Jones, Head of SHI Special Collections and Adjunct Instructor of History at University of Alaska Southeast.		

Monday, Nov. 22	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Languages Across Bering Strait: My Siberian Odyssey and the Reconnecting of Asia and America” by Edward Vajda, Professor of Slavic Languages at Western Washington University.		
Monday, Nov. 29	<u>12-1 pm</u> “Just Because You Have Studied One Native American Population, You Haven’t Studied Them All: Insights from DNA about Prehistory in the Americas” by Brian Kemp, Professor of Molecular Anthropology at Washington State University.		
Monday, Dec. 6	<u>12-1 pm</u> “The traditional Tlingit Educational System” by David Katzeek, Leader of the Shangukeidí Clan, Thunderbird of Klukwan.		
Monday, Dec. 13	“Tlingit Oral Traditions” by Cyril George Sr., Leader of the Deisheetaan Clan of Angoon, and Kaáak’w Hít.		

Sealaska Heritage Institute Native American Heritage Month Lecturers' Abstracts

October 25, 2010: Fiona McDonald, PhD candidate at University College London, will present on "Charting Material Memories: an ethnography of visual and material responses to woolen trade blankets in the Pacific Northwest of North America and New Zealand."

Abstract: Button blankets and *At.óow* are central to Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures; for anthropologists, button blankets enable a greater understanding of the role of material culture in the anthropology of memory. Fiona's presentation will share her investigation of woolen blankets (originally produced in England since the mid-1600s) through a presentation of the historical and contemporary importance of blankets in communities across North America and in New Zealand. More specifically, her presentation will trace out the breadth of knowledge learned, and the process of learning about button blankets, through the SHI supported Oral History Project, entitled *Charting Material Memories*. The stories and memories that have been generously shared with her illustrate how button blankets may act as repositories of memory and identity, but more so how blankets and *At.óow* are created, shared, and experienced. The presentation will be a summation of the first two months of her doctoral research in Alaska and an opportunity for others to share their personal and culture knowledge of blankets.

November 5, 2010: Madonna Moss, Professor of Anthropology at University of Oregon, will present on "Pre-Contact Tlingit Warfare: What Do We Really Know?."

Abstract: Using ethnographic and historical sources, archaeologists have tended to characterize the Northwest Coast as a region plagued by endemic warfare for 3000 years. The Tlingit case shows how 18th and 19th century colonialism exacerbated warfare, by enlarging its geographic and social arena, and increasing the frequency and lethality of conflicts. I argue that the generalized ethnographic representation of warfare is in essence a by-product of colonialism. Following the work of Rosita Worl and other scholars, Tlingit "war" was an important social institution, but it was part of a larger network of legally sanctioned social relations that included peace ceremonies and the "potlatch." In my view, the archaeology of pre-contact warfare in the Tlingit region is both limited and ambiguous.

November 8, 2010: Dan Monteith, Professor of Anthropology at University of Alaska Southeast, will present on "Tlingit Oral Narratives and Deep History."

Abstract: Tlingit oral histories and place names describe ancient landscape changes and migrations of people that are thousands of years old. These narratives can help scientists understand not only how the landscape has changed, but how these changes have impacted a variety of resources. The convergence of Tlingit Ecological Knowledge, or Tlingit Science, with Euro-American science can

potentially enable us to understand and manage resources better in a dynamic landscape like Southeast Alaska.

November 15, 2010: Zachary Jones, Head of SHI Special Collections and Adjunct Instructor of History at University of Alaska Southeast, will speak on “Un-silencing the Past: Reassessing American Military Relations with the Tlingit in 1869.”

Abstract: In this presentation Jones will discuss how Tlingit oral record functions to rewrite the history of US Army’s relations with the Tlingit in 1869. The year 1869 was a violent year in Southeast Alaska as the newly arrived US Army sought to wrestle control of Southeast Alaska from the Tlingit. Numerous conflicts between the Army and the Tlingit occurred, most notably those at Sitka, Kake, and Wrangell. A reassessment of these events with application of Tlingit oral record has transformed what we can now learn about the conflicts of 1869.

November 22, 2010: Edward Vajda, Professor of Slavic Languages at Western Washington University, will speak on “Languages Across the Bering Strait: My Siberian Odyssey and the Reconnecting of Asia and America.”

Abstract: Dr. Vajda describes his travels to Siberia and the evolution of his research linking Ket, the sole living representative of the Yeniseian language family in Siberia, with the Na-Dene family of North America. The lecture ends with a discussion of how Ket verb structure suggests a new way to write dictionary entries for Tlingit verbs.

November 29, 2010: Brian Kemp, Professor of Molecular Anthropology at Washington State University, will present on “Just Because You Have Studied One Native American Population, You Haven’t Studied Them All: Insights from DNA about Prehistory in the Americas.”

Abstract: In this presentation, Dr. Kemp shows how the antiquated Euro-centric view that "if you've seen one Indian, you've seen them all" could not be more incorrect. While some of the earliest genetic studies made broad conclusions about the Americas from a very limited sample, the past few years have witnessed a revitalized appreciation for variation exhibited by and among various indigenous populations. With technological advances in molecular genetics and a better means to evaluate of population history, scientists are converging on a single scenario for the peopling of the Americas and the ensuing 15,000 years (or so) of prehistory. What has been discovered is that the Native American gene pool is very highly structured relative to other “continental populations”. This means that there are undoubtedly many discoveries yet to be made from the study of contemporary indigenous groups, as well as from their ancestor’s remains. Learning more about the past through DNA analysis will only be possible through cooperation between scientists and indigenous communities. We must work together to develop and meet common goals.

December 6, 2010: David Katzeek, Leader of the Shangukeidí Clan, Thunderbird of Klukwan, will speak on the “The Traditional Tlingit Educational System.”

Abstract: Mr. David Katzeek will speak on the traditional and ancient Tlingit Educational System, and how it used stories that helped the Tlingit learn about weaving baskets, Chilkat Robes, and making canoes, as well as imparting vital knowledge on salmon, biology, hydrology, and other essential disciplines. The traditional Tlingit Educational System was based upon respect, listening, accepting, and affirming that human beings are intelligent, and that they can work together.

December 13, 2010: Cyril George, Sr., Leader of the Deisheetaan Clan of Angoon, and Kaḱáak’w Hít, will speak on “Tlingit Oral Traditions.”

Abstract: Mr. Cyril George will speak on Tlingit traditional knowledge and its role in Tlingit culture.