

**The National Endowment for the Humanities announces a 2010 Summer Institute
Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast
June 13 – July 12, 2010**

The Institute at a Glance

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces a Summer Institute for twenty-four faculty participants from community and four-year colleges and universities to be held on-site in locations in Alaska and British Columbia from June 13 to July 12, 2010, on the topic “Native Cultures of Western Alaska and the Pacific Northwest Coast.” The Institute, sponsored by The Community College Humanities Association, is an opportunity to experience an encounter with one of the most complex indigenous culture areas of the world, and one which produced one of the world’s great art styles. Selected participants will have grant support that includes all internal travel, lodgings and admissions throughout the four weeks of the project, but will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the Institute and for meals and personal expenses. Project co-Directors are George Scheper (Humanities, Community College of Baltimore County) and Laraine Fletcher (Chair, Anthropology, Adelphi University).



A roster of internationally known scholars and Native artists will conduct seminars and field study experiences focusing on culture groups including the Yup’ik of Pacific Alaska, the Tlingit and Tsimshian of Southeast Alaska, the Haida of Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands) and the Kwakwaka’wakw [Kwakiutl] of Alert Bay off the coast of Vancouver Island. Throughout the Institute our visiting faculty and Native artists will offer seminars and conduct on-site study visits to museums, local heritage centers, and Native communities

directed at understanding cultural history and contemporary concerns focusing on cultural continuities and change, particularly in the areas of artistic and craft traditions, visual culture, identity and self representation, oral traditions, cultural performance, and property and repatriation issues of First Nations peoples.

Participant Fellows will read and discuss materials drawn from the disciplines of anthropology, history, art history and literary history and criticism, a multidisciplinary approach inviting a rich and nuanced understanding of the complexities of the culture histories of this extensive and diverse area.

We begin the institute in Juneau, Alaska for two weeks of seminars on Yup'ik and Northwest Coast histories and cultural traditions; we then move on to Sitka and Ketchikan, where we visit totem pole heritage centers, artists' studios and Tlingit cultural centers. In British Columbia we are based first in Prince Rupert; our trip by ferry to the Queen Charlotte Islands includes a visit to the Skidegate Haida community and the Haida Cultural Centre. From there we move on to Vancouver for seminars at the University of British Columbia focusing on such issues as the reconsidered role of the potlatch, the symbolism of totem poles, museum issues concerning collection and display of First Nation artifacts, and the importance of oral histories and Native self-representation. The Institute ends with a visit to Alert Bay and two days of presentations and discussions with representatives of the resident Kwakwaka'wakw community at the U'mista Cultural Centre.

Institute Visiting Faculty and Native Artists

Kenneth M. Ames (Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Portland State University), a specialist on the archaeology and prehistory of the peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, will conduct two seminars on the development of the complex cultures of these coastal societies.

Nora Marks Dauenhauer, a Native Tlingit scholar and Tlingit language researcher and cultural historian, and her colleague and husband, **Richard Dauenhauer** (University of Alaska Southeast), will conduct joint seminars on continuity and innovation in Tlingit traditional and contemporary practice.

Ann Fienup-Riordan, anthropologist and independent scholar working at the Arctic Studies Center and with the Calista Elders Council, will conduct three seminars on Yup'ik traditions and film representations.

Aaron Glass, Fellow in Museum Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History and Bard Graduate Center, will offer a seminar at UBC and accompany the group to Alert Bay, Vancouver Island, the site of his extensive fieldwork with the Kwakwaka'wakw.

Aldona Jonaitis, Director Emerita of the University of Alaska Museum of the North and expert on the artistic traditions of the peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, will give three seminars as well as accompany the group to Sitka for additional on-site study visits to museums and historical parks.

Jennifer Kramer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Curator of the Pacific Northwest Coast at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, will present a seminar and lead a study visit of the museum.

Bruce Miller, Anthropology Department, University of British Columbia, who works with Coast Salish communities on issues of indigenous justice and the court system, will present a seminar jointly with Aaron Glass at UBC.

Charlotte Townsend-Gault, Assist. Prof. of Art History at the University of British Columbia and a

specialist in the art of the Northwest Coast, will present a seminar at UBC jointly with Prof. Kramer. **Rosita Worl**, Vice Chair, Sealaska Corporation and President, Sealaska Heritage Institute, will give a seminar on contemporary issues in Southeast Alaska and direct a visit to the Saxman Village of the Cape Fox Tlinglit.

Teri Rofkar, weaver of baskets and ceremonial robes since 1986, and winner of the Governor's Award and Tlingit designer and award-winning silversmith **Nicholas Galanin**, will meet with Institute fellows in Sitka.

Nathan Jackson, master carver, will give a presentation at his workshop to our group in Ketchikan.

For additional information you may contact one of the project co-Directors:

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For Application and Information Packet:

Download from our project website: < www.ccha-assoc.org/nwcoastcultures10/index.html >

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Application Deadline: March 2, 2010

