Rovaniemi Warmly Welcomes PLC 2018!

The Polar Libraries Colloquy in Rovaniemi is approaching very soon. The Welcome Reception takes place on 10 June 2018, with the conference occurring on the 11th–15th and the optional post-conference field trip on the 16th to the Tornio River Valley. There is still time to register so that you can join us in experiencing the endless days of the northern summer here on the Finnish Arctic Circle.

Finland’s Chairmanship of the Arctic Council
Finland is the current chair of the Arctic Council from 2017 to 2019, having taken over the two-year rotating chairmanship from the US at the Fairbanks (Alaska) ministerial meeting in May 2017. In November 2017, Rovaniemi hosted the Arctic Spirit Conference, the first large-scale public Arctic event of Finland’s chairmanship period. It was also the most important Arctic event of Finland’s centenary year 2017.

Although the conference was not part of the official program of the Arctic Council’s Finnish chairmanship, the theme of the three-day conference focused on one of the Council’s key guiding principles—how to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the Arctic and how to bring those goals to Arctic science, policy, and the economy.

The Rovaniemi Arctic Spirit Conference maintains and continues the heritage of what is known as the Rovaniemi process, the first step in governmental cooperation between the Arctic states that led to the adoption of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy in 1991. The current Arctic Council and its structures are mainly a result of the Rovaniemi process. International Arctic conferences held in Rovaniemi in 2013, 2015, and 2017 continue the tradition of strengthening peace, stability, and cooperation in the Arctic region.

University of Lapland
As the northernmost university in Finland and the European Union, the University of Lapland’s mission is captured in its watchword, “For the North, for the World.” Its vision statement for 2025 affirms that the University will create, and be recognized for, an international profile as an Arctic and Northern science and art university.

This strategic profile emphasizes research on change in the Arctic and the North. The impacts of global economic and political changes and global warming
are having more extreme effects in the Arctic than anywhere else. Research and research-based teaching at the University of Lapland focus on the communities and the environment in the North and on the interaction between these two elements.

**History of the PLC in Rovaniemi**
The Arctic Centre, Finland’s national institute for Arctic expertise, was founded as a separate institute of the University of Lapland in 1989. It has had three main functions from the start: research, education, and science communications. In communicating science through its information service, the Arctic Centre has been actively involved in international cooperation from the beginning. In 1990, the 13th Polar Libraries Colloquy, with a post-conference trip to Murmansk, Russia, was organized in Rovaniemi; this marked the first international conference arranged by the new Arctic Centre.

This year, the University of Lapland’s Vice-rector, Professor Kaarina Määttä, will open the 27th Colloquy. The Arctic Centre’s Director, Professor Timo Koivurova, will present the opening keynote address entitled “Arctic Governance and Finland’s Role in its Development.” Other presentations will range from “The Canadian Consortium for Arctic Data Interoperability,” “Bibliometrics for Studying Polar Research,” and “Archives and Libraries of the People, by the People, for the People” to “Arctic Journalism,” “Human and Societal Security in the Arctic,” and “Canadian Indigenous Children’s Books Through the Lense of Truth and Reconciliation.”

*Tervetuloa!*
Despite this year’s cold spring and high snowdrifts, we are waiting keenly for the summer, for you and for the PLC, and for the Arctic summer light. We welcome you warmly to Rovaniemi!

*Tervetuloa!*

Susanna Parikka, Library Director
University of Lapland
susanna.parikka@ulapland.fi

Arktikum, which houses the University of Lapland’s Arctic Centre.
Experiencing the International Summer School at the University of Oslo

by L. Christine Ericson, Electronic Resources Librarian
Library Liaison for Department of Languages
UAA/APU Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, Alaska, USA

[Editors’ Note: By way of background, in addition to her work at UAA, Professor Ericson is Librarian and Cultural Director for the Anchorage chapter of the Sons of Norway, an organization whose members celebrate and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway. Considered the largest Norwegian organization outside of Norway, the Sons of Norway has 380 local chapters (or lodges) throughout North America and Norway, seven of which are located in Alaska. Professor Ericson also has started writing the monthly Norsk 101 column for The Norwegian American newspaper. She recently spent some time studying Norwegian at the University of Oslo; this is her report of that experience.]

During the summer of 2017, I applied for and was accepted into the University of Oslo’s International Summer School (ISS) to study Norwegian. Having taken Norwegian-language classes at the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge in Anchorage, Alaska, off and on for the past seven years, I was ready to take my language skills to the next level. I was also very fortunate to receive the Carl M. Saltveit Scholarship from the Sons of Norway, District 2, which covered my tuition, room, and board at the ISS, as well as a Language and Heritage Scholarship from Bernt Balchen Lodge.

The origins of the ISS date back to 1947, when the first summer sessions were offered for American students as an expression of gratitude to the US for providing educational opportunities to Norwegians during World War II. Today the program admits students from all over the world and focuses on promoting intercultural understanding through “Six Weeks of Academic Excellence and International Good Will.” In the summer session I attended, there were 520 students from 85 countries, ranging in age from 18 to 85.

In addition to a number of undergraduate and graduate courses in a variety of subjects (all taught in English), the ISS offers four levels of intensive Norwegian-language instruction—from elementary to advanced. I enrolled in “Intensive Intermediate Norwegian,” an immersion-style course offered for three hours a day, five days a week. The first few days of class were a little rocky, as I could barely understand anything the instructor said, but I quickly caught on. Of the 15 students in my class, only two of us were from the US. The others were from Russia, Nepal, Japan, Austria, the UK, Brazil, Australia, and Pakistan, and we all had a great time getting to know each other as we endeavored to learn Norwegian.

Besides the classes, I also had the opportunity to visit many places and to go on several excursions, including an Oslofjord tour and a trip to Bergen. As a librarian, I was particularly interested in learning about the library profession in Norway and was delighted to be able to visit several libraries in the Oslo area. I arranged to meet with a librarian at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library (HumSam-
biblioteket) at the University of Oslo, where I was struck by the many similarities between this library and my own. I also visited the beautiful Oslo Public Library (Deichmanske bibliotek), as well as the construction site for the amazing new library building that is scheduled to open in 2020. A quick visit to the National Library of Norway left me eager to return again.

As if language classes and libraries weren’t enough, the highlight of my trip was meeting my Norwegian relatives for the first time. I also was able to fulfill my lifelong dream of visiting the small island of Herføl (south of Fredrikstad), where my great-grandparents were born and raised. As a distant relative of Roald Amundsen, I was excited to visit his birthplace in Borge and to go on board the Fram at the Fram Museum in Oslo.

In addition, I discovered that Canadian Arctic explorer Henry Larsen was also born in Herføl. I learned that my aunt remembers him coming to visit my great-grandparents in Seattle, Washington. Learning more of the language of my ancestors and discovering personal connections to the polar explorers I’ve read so much about was such an incredible experience. I can’t wait to return to Norway soon to learn more!
Arctic Council Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

A group of international academics has nominated the Arctic Council for the Nobel Peace Prize. Sixty signatories from more than 20 countries, including members of the UArctic Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, submitted the nomination letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in January 2018.

In their letter, the signatories wrote,

In a time when facts have been challenged, diversity has been viewed with suspicion, and the value of international cooperation has been questioned, the Arctic Council has persevered in its work unabated.

The Arctic region has always been a place where cooperation between and amongst groups was not only desirable, but in many cases necessary for survival. This philosophy has continued into the 21st century, where climate change, globalization, mass-scale utilization of resources, and narrow interpretations of geopolitics impose new challenges to the region.

We can nominate no individual, no leader of the Arctic Council, because the organization is and has always been about the work that can be done when states, sub-national regions, Indigenous groups, researchers, and NGOs collaborate. The Arctic Council is a model for promoting fraternity between nations, and a deserving recipient of Alfred Nobel’s Peace Prize.

Formed in 1996, the Arctic Council is a consensus-based forum made up of the world’s eight circumpolar nations and six Arctic Indigenous groups. UArctic was created based on an initiative by the Arctic Council (Iqaluit Declaration, 1998). Currently chaired by Finland through 2019, the eight nations that comprise the Council are Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and the United States. Permanent Participants that make up the six Indigenous groups include the Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich’in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and Saami Council.

The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize has received nominations for 329 candidates, and includes 216 individuals and 113 organizations. The Peace Prize is awarded by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, an independent five-member body appointed by the Norwegian Parliament. The award recipient(s) will be announced in October, with the ceremony to take place in Oslo on 10 December.

—Adapted from UArctic News, 18 January 2018. For the full article, see Quinn, Eilis, “International Academics Nominate Arctic Council for Nobel Peace Prize,” Eye on the Arctic, 16 January 2018.

Michael Sfraga Leads Polar Initiative at Wilson Center

Attendees at the Fairbanks PLC meeting in 2016 may recall Dr. Michael Sfraga as one of the featured speakers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). At that time, he was Vice Chancellor for University and Student Advancement, and gave one of the host introductions on the first morning of the Colloquy. In his role as co-director of the UArctic Institute for Arctic Policy, he spoke to Colloquy members about the upcoming inaugural gathering in Washington, DC of 17 Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars, along with their co-lead scholars, representing all eight Arctic nations. The group would be participating in policy meetings, public engagement events, and a symposium showcasing the results of their research and collaborations over the preceding 18 months.

Later that year, Sfraga was appointed as the new director of the Wilson Center’s revitalized Polar Initiative in Washington, DC. Chartered by Congress, the Wilson Center is the nation’s key non-partisan policy forum. It is the only think tank based in Washington to house a broad-based initiative on the Arctic. In tackling global
2018 Hubert Wenger Award Recipient Announced

The Polar Libraries Colloquy Steering Committee is pleased to announce that Stéfano Biondo, geospatial data and cartographic documents librarian at the Centre Géostat, Université Laval in Québec City, Canada, has won this year’s Wenger award. This is the second time he has received this award, as delegates are eligible to apply for up to two Wenger awards.

Established to provide financial assistance to one or more delegates who might otherwise be unable to attend a PLC biennial meeting, the award covers the full cost of registration and up to $400 in travel costs. The award is funded through the proceeds of the Circumpolar Auction held at each Colloquy; donations to the award are always welcome. In his application for this year’s award, Stéfano wrote:

*My participation in the PLC meeting represents an opportunity to meet colleagues from different universities around the world, establish and strengthen existing collaborations, generate new ideas and above all, develop my Nordic cartographic knowledge, particularly for the management and dissemination of geospatial data.*

As well as his presentation in Rovaniemi on story maps related to the Coppermine Expedition conducted in the Canadian Arctic by Sir John Franklin, Stéfano and his Université Laval colleague, Joë Bouchard, will introduce Québec City as the host for the next PLC in 2020. Congratulations, Stéfano!

Mary Ehrlander Wins 2018 Alaskana Award

Mary F. Ehrlander, professor of history and director of the Arctic & Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, has received the Alaska Library Association’s 2018 Alaskana Award for her book *Walter Harper: Alaska Native Son*, published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2017.

Walter Harper was a remarkable man who lived a short and extraordinary life. He was the first person to summit Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley), North America’s highest mountain, on 7 June 1913 at the age of 20. He also became a leader and a bridge between subsistence-based Alaska Native peoples and Westerners in the Alaska territory.

Walter was born in 1893 to Koyukon Athabascan Jennie Seentahna (née Bosco) and Irish immigrant Arthur Harper, a legendary Alaskan gold prospector. When his parents separated, Jennie reared Walter in the traditional Koyukon ways rather than sending him Outside to boarding school. When he was 16, Walter met missionary and Episcopal archdeacon of the Yukon, Hudson Stuck, who encouraged his education and hired him as his riverboat captain and winter trail guide. Stuck became Walter’s mentor and over time they traveled from village to village ministering and providing medical aid.

After the Denali expedition, which had been led by Stuck and Harry Karstens, Walter attended school in Massachusetts for three years before returning to Alaska.

He married in 1918 and was accepted to medical school in Philadelphia. Along with his wife Francis Wells, who was a missionary from Philadelphia, he planned medical missionary work in Interior Alaska. Intending to honeymoon in Seattle before traveling on to school, the couple boarded the steamer *Princess Sophia* in Skagway, Alaska. The ship struck a reef in a snowstorm and ultimately sank on 25 October. All aboard—at least 353 passengers and crew—perished.

Professor Ehrlander received the Alaskana Award in March at the Association’s annual conference in Anchorage. Since 1994, the award has honored outstanding adult fiction and nonfiction works that make a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska and that exhibit originality, depth of research, and knowledge of the state.
In Memoriam: Philip N. Cronenwett (1946–2018)

Nancy Liston, retired librarian from the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CCREL), shared the sad news about longtime PLC member, historian, and author Dr. Philip Cronenwett, who passed on 20 January 2018 in Enfield, New Hampshire. Phil had a distinguished 24-year career at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he was special collections librarian and curator of manuscripts for the Stefánsson Collection on Polar Exploration.

In 2003, he was awarded the Knights Cross of the Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland for his efforts in preserving the work of Arctic explorer Viljalmer Stefánsson. In 2004, Phil went on to become director of the privately owned Burndy Library at the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Phil engaged in a myriad of professional and community service activities. In addition to chairing PLC, Phil was president of the New England Archivists and a trustee of the American Printing History Association. According to his obituary (see link below), “he was most proud of working as a kitchen assistant in the weekly community dinners in Enfield.”

Described as a good friend and active Polar librarian, Phil died of leukemia at age 71; as Nancy Liston said in her email announcing his death, very fast and way too early.

To read the full obituary, see the Valley News, West Lebanon, NH (22 January 2018).

Michael Sfraga Leads Polar Initiative continued from page 5

issues through independent research and open dialogue, the Center informs actionable ideas for Congress, the administration, and the broader policy community.

Sfraga is an internationally recognized authority on the geography of Arctic landscapes, Arctic policy, and the impacts and implications of a changing climate on social and political regimes in the Arctic. Partnering with the Center’s longstanding work on Russia and Canada, he will lead the Polar Initiative in addressing practical questions and policy challenges facing Alaska, the US, and citizens of the North, to include implications for national security and international relations; shipping and infrastructure; environmental protection; maritime capabilities; investment considerations; and more. Sfraga retains his role at the UArctic Institute for Arctic Policy, continues as an affiliate faculty at UAF’s International Research Center, and is again serving as co-lead scholar for the Fulbright Arctic Initiative—this time for its 2017–2019 program.

The Polar Initiative’s Research page links to reports, policy briefs, books, blogs, multimedia, articles, and other items of interest that have been produced through the Wilson Center. The Center’s main Research tab accesses all products and is searchable by Trending Topics, Issues, and Regions, as well as keyword. The Explore tab includes the Wilson Quarterly, whose Winter 2018 issue is themed “The Disinformation Age.”

—Adapted from The Wilson Center’s website, accessed 2 May 2018; and from UArctic News, “Michael Sfraga to Lead the Wilson Center’s Polar Initiative,” November 2016.
New Inuit Children’s Books Feature Birds

by Sandy Campbell
J.W. Scott Heath Sciences Library, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Inuit storytelling is rooted in the natural environment. The stories reflect the relationships with the landscape and living environment, and mammals, birds, and sea creatures often play important roles in the stories. Two new books in which birds are prominent characters were recently published by Inhabit Media of Iqaluit, Nunavut, adding to their growing collection of works which feature birds. In retellings of traditional tales, the bird characters sometimes have magical qualities, but often they represent people and the stories include morals or lessons.

Both of the new stories about birds are modern adaptations. Sukaq and the Raven (2018) is an origin story, in which raven creates the world. While the narrative is based on a traditional story told by Inuvialuit storyteller Roy Goose, Kerry McCluskey retells it as a modern-day boy’s dream. In the dream, the boy flies on raven’s back and watches as the world is created. In Elisapee and Her Baby Seagull (2017), Nancy Mike tells a story of a young Inuit girl who nurses a baby seagull to health and raises it to adulthood. Then, of course, the seagull must rejoin the other seagulls, so Elisapee learns not only about the care of animals, but also how to let them go. While this is not a retelling of a traditional story, it is still rooted in the relationships with the natural world and contains lessons for the reader.

The illustration styles of the two publications are very different, but both are attractive and will engage children. Charlene Chua’s drawings in Elisapee are cartoonish, with characters having oversized eyes, reminiscent of characters in Japanese manga. Soyeon Kim’s illustrations are more realistic depictions, but set in ethereal backgrounds enhanced by a rich color palette.

Inhabit Media’s earlier children’s works featuring birds include Rebecca Hainnu’s Spirit of the Sea (2014), about a fulmar that appears as a man who tricks a beautiful young woman into marrying him. When her father attempts to rescue her, the birds attack and he eventually throws his daughter overboard so that he can survive. She sinks into the sea and becomes the powerful sea spirit who is known as Sedna.

In The Blind Boy and the Loon (2014), Alethea Arnaquq-Baril tells a traditional story of the consequences of misbehaviour. The loon in the story is a magical creature who is able to restore sight to a boy whose mother has deliberately blinded him. The mother eventually gets her
comeuppance when she is pulled into the sea by a whale and drowns.

Like the story of Sedna, many traditional tales are origin stories, or stories of “how things came to be.” On the surface, *The Raven and the Loon* (2013), retold by wife and husband team Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley, is a simple story of how the raven and loon got their colours. However, the story also includes several lessons about the importance of good behaviour such as staying calm, being patient, and practicing good manners. Qaunak Mikkigak and Joanne Schwartz’s retelling of *Grandmother Ptarmigan* (2013) also includes lessons, this time about relationships between adults and children. Baby ptarmigan should respect his grandmother, listen to her, and go to bed. Grandmother ptarmigan allows herself to become frustrated with him and tells a scary story, causing him to fly away and become lost. She then has a stressful time trying to find him.

Other bird stories just teach simple lessons. In *The Owl and the Lemming* (2016), Roselynn Akulukjuk retells the traditional survival story in which the lemming is able to trick the owl into not eating it. *Saila and Betty* (2016) by Christina Rooney focuses on getting along in spite of differences. Betty, a tern, and Saila, a seal, are good at different things but can still be friends.

All of these books are excellent works and highly recommended for public and elementary school libraries, for any libraries that collect Polar children’s literature, and for anyone who enjoys literary bird watching.
Audubon Alaska’s *Ecological Atlas of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas* takes the reader on a scientific journey through natural history and ecological relationships in the Arctic marine environment. This comprehensive, trans-boundary, and peer-reviewed work presents more than 100 maps of Arctic marine mammals, seabirds, sea ice, subsistence, and more.

Layer by layer, the *Atlas* builds the ecological foundation of the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas through each of six sections:

- **The Physical Setting** explores climatic attributes and the abiotic processes that perpetuate them.
- **The Biological Setting** introduces the lower trophic food web.
- **Fishes** describes a range of prominent pelagic and demersal fish species.
- **Birds** highlights the many seabirds and waterbirds that regularly use these waters.
- **Mammals** includes maps that show regional use by cetaceans, pinnipeds, and polar bears.
- **Human Uses** covers subsistence, conservation, and economic drivers in the region.

In order to produce the maps for the *Atlas*, the editors synthesized data from multiple studies, species, decades, and seas. The data were combined and edited into composite layers to gain a broad-scale perspective on ecological patterns. Maps for a given species of fish, bird, or mammal visually describe seasonal use, activity, and movement through the project area.

According to the work’s Introduction (p. 6), in some ways, the maps are only the beginning of what is in the *Atlas*. Most of the maps are a composite of multiple data layers, and often each of the layers is a composite of data from multiple sources, all of which were rigorously cataloged. This enabled the creation of an extensive geodatabase that resides behind the maps and that refers back to the original works, crosswalking those studies into the ‘synthesis database structure.’

Using this spatial database, it is possible for a user to depict or discover many more patterns and relationships from the available data than were able to be incorporated into the static maps of the *Atlas*. The publically shareable data layers are published alongside the *Atlas* for communities, scientists, managers, and others to explore and use.

The project coordinated with **AOOS** (the Alaska Observing Ocean System) and Axiom Data Science to make these data publically available through their online **Arctic Portal**.

Details for purchasing or downloading the *Atlas* can be found [here](#).

—Adapted from the publisher’s announcement and from the Introduction to the *Atlas*. 
William Mills Prize

2018 Nominees


2018 William Mills Prize

Nominees continued


2018 William Mills Prize

Nominees continued


* see PL Bulletin issue 77 for review
** see PL Bulletin issue 78 for review