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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **March 2, 2011**

WEDNESDAY NOON LECTURE SERIES AT THE ALASKA STATE MUSEUM LECTURE ABOUT WORLD AND ALASKAN GEOGRAPHY WITH SCIENCE ON A SPHERE

JUNEAU – Larger than life wonders of our world will be displayed on a six foot globe in a presentation by museum employee Sara Lee as the last of the 2011 Kashevarof Lecture Series this Wednesday, March 9, at noon at the Alaska State Museum.

Lee's talk, entitled: "Taking Science for a Spin: Earth Secrets Revealed on the Museum's Big Ball," will explore an eclectic selection of geographical topics with the use of the ultimate visual aid, the 3-D high-tech projection system called "Science on a Sphere," or "SOS." The SOS was created by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a tool for displaying complex scientific models of earth processes. Installed at the Alaska State Museum in 2009, the SOS has thrilled audiences with imagery of weather conditions, sea ice conditions, earthquakes, tsunamis, astronomy, and even air traffic control. It does its magic with six computers driving four digital projectors to cast seamless moving images onto a spherical screen six feet in diameter. Lee will share some of her favorite images and also unveil a tantalizing selection of new imagery she has custom created to help put Alaskan geography and history into a global perspective.



This will be the first public presentation of new SOS imagery of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and glaciers. Lee did her own research, burrowing into the scientific literature to compile imagery that summarizes the relative abundance of glaciers around the globe, as well as their status whether retreating, stable, or advancing.

Lee has also created some new views of the earth's longest animal migrations, including the 3,000 mile journey of the humpback whale and the 44,000 mile journey of the jet-setting arctic tern. She may include images that trace the path of historical human travels such as the epic oceanic journeys of Captains Bering, Cook, La Perouse, Malaspina, and Vancouver.

Lee will briefly outline the methods and de-mystify the process of creating SOS-ready imagery. By sharing her technological knowledge and enthusiasm, Lee hopes to inspire artists, scientists, students, techies, historians and educators to create their own presentations and imagery for the SOS.

Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discounted winter admission for museum visitation is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact visitor services at 465-2901 before the visit for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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