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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Fur or fuzz, what is it?**

Ellen Carrlee, Conservator at the Alaska State Museums, will present a program on the identification of fur in clothing and artifacts during a free, brown-bag lecture on Wednesday, March 31, at noon at the Alaska State Museum.

Carrlee's talk is titled "Fur, Fuzz, and Fibers: Materials ID at the Museum." Native materials often feature mammal fur, and its identification in most museum collections has been haphazard. Correct identification can inform cultural attribution, trade relationships, historical period, methods of manufacture, and authenticity of artifacts.

Advances in digital imaging for the microscope along with Internet technology allows the museum to make a reference set of images available to everyone, along with a compilation of observations. It is hoped that this project might also prove useful to other professions such as zooarchaeology, biology and forensics.

The brown-bag lecture series will feature one more lecture on April 7 when Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, will give a lecture entitled, "A Century in the Making: The Alaska State Library and Museum." The series has featured recent research on the museum and library collections by staff and visiting scholars.

For additional information you may go to [www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us).

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission 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:

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976  
[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

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