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## Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NEW CURATOR FOR ALASKA'S OLDEST MUSEUM Jackie Fernandez Named Sheldon Jackson Museum Curator of Collections**

SITKA – The Sheldon Jackson Museum, established by Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson and ranking as the oldest in museums in Alaska—also housed in the state's first concrete building—now has a new Curator of Collections: Jackie Fernandez, currently curator of the Sitka Historical Society Museum.

Fernandez will assume the curator position at the Sheldon Jackson Museum on March 1, 2013. In her new capacity, she will oversee 6,000 artifacts — referred to by some as “the jewel in the crown of the Alaska State Museums’ ethnographic collections”— representing each of Alaska’s Native groups.

“You’re talking about an ethnographic collection on par with the Smithsonian,” says Fernandez, who, in addition to working with the collection, also plans to expand public dialog between the Sheldon Jackson Museum and the community. “The Sheldon Jackson Museum, the Alaska State Museum and of course, both museums’ staff, engage the public with these artifacts in a way few other institutions do. I’m really excited to be a part of that.”

Born and raised in Boston—with stints as a teenager both in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Vermont— Fernandez earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Mount Holyoke, and a Master of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts in museum studies from Tufts University. She has interned at various museums and non-profit organizations, both in the Lower 48 and Alaska, including a summer at the Alaska Museum of Natural History in Anchorage as part of Alaska State Museum’s summer internship program, and work at the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines.

Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with a \$3 discounted winter admission. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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