



## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY



French and team working with the Coast Salish in the Pacific Northwest



Crew on site filming at the Smithsonian Genetics Lab in Washington D.C.

Welcome to the first CORVA newsletter! We will try our best to do this four times a year to provide some updates on what we are up to.

Now you may be asking yourself, what is CORVA?

The CORVA Studio Lab at Penn State produces both feature-length documentaries and short videos that rely on co-production with community members. Our approach provides a highly effective way to share anthropological research with the wider academic community and broader public in both an accurate and engaging manner.

CORVA is directed by Kirk French, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and assistant professor of anthropology and film production and media studies at Penn State. In addition to being a video production lab, CORVA serves as a training facility for both undergraduate and graduate students.

## THE PREMIERE OF A CENTURY AFTER NANOOK IN INUKJUAK

A lot of Kirk's time over the past five years has been spent working with the people of Inukjuak to document the drastic environmental and cultural changes they have experienced since the filming of *Nanook of the North* in 1920-21. Allakariallak (Nanook's real name) was the man who helped make the world's first feature-length documentary a global success. Over 250 community members attended the premiere on October 19th in Inukjuak. They also provided valuable feedback/suggestions that are being incorporated into the final version, prior to the film going to broadcast.



Premiere in Inukjuak



Feast at the premiere



Allakariallak's newly installed grave marker



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**DR. KIRK FRENCH**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
EMMY-NOMINATED  
FILMMAKER

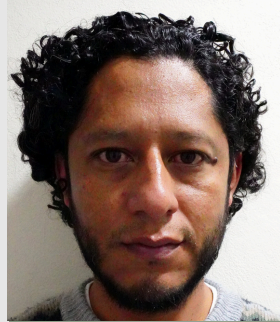
## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The rapid fire changes that are happening right now in our world make it difficult to focus on anything else. Getting lost in your work with the hope that it will make a difference can be of some comfort. Our collaborative projects in the Teotihuacan Valley and Arctic Quebec have been both professionally and personally rewarding. It is my hope that by sharing a bit of what CORVA is up to will inspire a few folks — or at the very least provide a healthy distraction. Enjoy...and hang in there.

## MEET THE REST OF THE TEAM



**NEAL HUTCHESON**  
AWARD WINNING  
FILMMAKER



**ALONSO RODRÍGUEZ**  
JOURNALIST



**PERLA MARTÍNEZ**  
EDUCATOR



**SARAH SAMISACK**  
TEACHER



**TORI GAMEL**  
PH.D STUDENT



**NIKKI KHMELNITSKY**  
INTERN



**SARA RIVERA-CRUZ**  
INTERN



**ISABELLA FONTANES**  
INTERN

It's a great team! And we are excited for what's coming down the pipe. More work in the Teotihuacan Valley with our partnership with [NECOC Diálogos Intergeneracionales](#). The US premiere of *A Century After Nanook* on March 1. And our Smithsonian project -- *Threads that Bind: The Story of the Coast Salish Woolly Dog* in the Pacific Northwest (soft premiere at the University of Washington's Burke Museum in Fall 2025). It's going to be a very busy year!



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