

Curator Launches Lecture Series with Untold Story!

On Saturday, February 17th the Museum launched *The Untold Story: Who Really Invented the Telephone?* the first in a series of multi-media presentations by John Jenkins, historian and Museum curator. In *Who Really Invented the Telephone*, Jenkins recounted the many fascinating inventions and surprising events that led to the creation of the telephone—one of the greatest achievements in engineering and communications history.

"I've been wanting to do this for about as long as the Museum's been here," said Jenkins. "The things most of us really know about some of the most profound inventions of all time are often very little and just the tip of the ice berg."

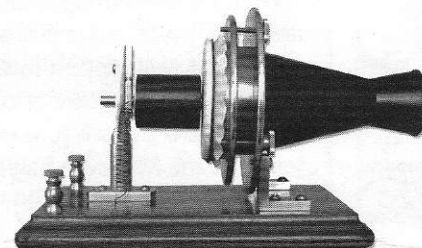
In *The Untold Story* Jenkins challenges conventional wisdom by uncovering and illuminating the incredible back stories behind the inventions and discoveries that make our modern world possible. "My theory is, when we learn about a particular event or invention in elementary school—say for example, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone—you don't really cover it again, unless your later work focuses on that particular point in history," says Jenkins. "We accept it as fact and never go any deeper than our grade school education."

Still photos, rare video clips and live demonstrations were all part of this multi-media presentation, often

highlighting several rare and remarkable experimental telephone models from the Museum's collection, and featuring demonstrations of Bell's most important experiments, including the famous "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you." Other demonstrations include a look at the laboratory notes and patents of Bell and other "inventors" of the telephone; a presentation of several rare and important telephones on display at the Museum, including: One of the original telephones used in the first transcontinental call, owned by Henry Lee Higginson, Civil War hero and founder of the Boston Symphony and the "Hush-A-Phone," the first telephone accessory, which ultimately led to the breakup of AT&T, along with examples of Bell's very early telephone models.

"What I want to do in *The Untold Story* is look at *all* the facets of whatever invention or discovery I'm investigating. That's when you really uncover a more interesting and honest story," suggests Jenkins. "There are so many ways to look at this—just focusing on the invention itself is a fascinating story, and that's true for any of these inventions, whether it's the electric motor or the electric light, the telephone or the telegraph, all have really interesting stories most people aren't familiar with."

Historical context is also an important part of the story. "Discovering



Bell "Centennial" Telephone, 1876

what else was going on in the world at the same time is crucial, along with the cultural impact of the invention and the forces that led to this invention being brought forth," says Jenkins. "Most times it's more than what springs out of the brain of a single person, which is contrary to what we're taught."

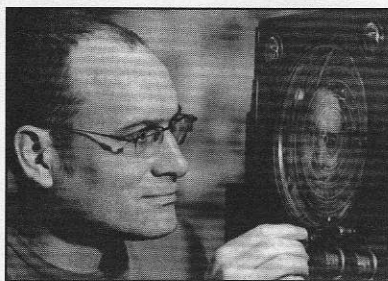
Still another important aspect of a story is the historical context of that particular field. "Like in the case of telegraphy going all the way back to the first forms of communication that involved expanding time and space, which means smoke signals, signal flags, light flashes all the way to electric forms of telegraphy," says Jenkins.

This series of presentations offer a rare opportunity to hear about the dramatic evolution of electrical technology from the Museum that celebrates it.

"It's like the difference of sailing a boat around the Hawaiian Islands verses going down beneath the surface of the water," says Jenkins. "There's a whole other world of information down there, just out of sight." ✎

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Frank Ordway

Hitting our stride.

When I started this job in late 2005, I was not entirely sure what I was getting into. But after some months of assessment and planning, it was clear that the Museum had a bright future.

Message from the Executive Director

Well, I am happy to report, that the future is now. In the first 4 months of 2007, we have set all-time marks for admissions, membership, education program attendance, while KMRE continues to education and entertain our community. Working with partners like WWU we continue to bring exciting events to the Museum like the Bellingham Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Society annual Robotics Festival on May 12th.

Even with all the events and other activities, our focus continues to be on our Education Program. We have been heartened and inspired by the support and partnerships we are developing with schools and PTAs throughout Northwest Washington. It is our goal to serve every grade school from Everett north to the U.S. boarder, and we are well on our way to doing so.

When I started this job, I joined a group of Board members, volunteers and staff who were committed to the dream of creating a world-class museum. As I sit here in the Spring of 2007, the dream is coming true.

Thank you, AMRE members, for your generosity and commitment. ✎

AMRE Presents 'Science Everyone Should Know' ✎

The Museum offers a variety of fascinating hands-on workshops and special focus tours to curious students of all ages. Our science workshops explore and explain the fundamental principles and applications of electricity, magnetism and wireless technologies. Our historical workshops follow an arc of innovation and invention covering over four centuries of human achievement.

Students are encouraged to experience the Museum's unmatched collection in a

variety of ways.

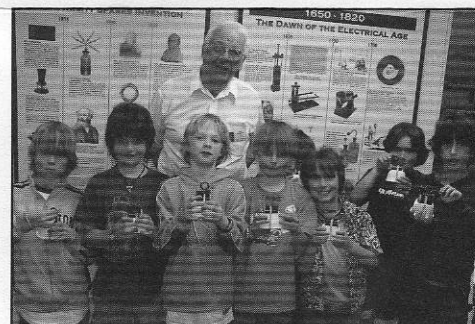
Science Saturdays

Every Saturday the Museum offers one of our introductory hands-on science workshops. *Science Saturday* topics include: The Shocking World of Static Electricity, Mysteries of Magnetism, Resonance & Sound Waves, Motors & Generators, Introduction to Shortwave Radio, even How to Build a Crystal Radio from scratch and more!

AMRE provides a fun and educational environment in which students feel at ease. Students explore science and the history of innovation through investigation, demonstration and discovery. Our goal is to inspire each student to seek opportunities to innovate and invent in their own lives.

Making the Grade

Our workshops are anchored in the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for science and inspired by our unmatched collection of scientific apparatus. Combining our collection with current teaching standards allows the Museum to offer unique and effective educational programming. We offer formal workshops, special focus and general tours to provide students and teachers with a variety of programs to choose from. ✎



Instructor Carl Nemeth helps Owen Davis and his fellow spark-heads celebrate Owen's 9th birthday with the magic of electricity.



AMRE Crystal Radio Instructor Louisa McCluskey and student Sierra Bishop present her newly created crystal radio, complete with customized decoration.

Museum Offers Shocking Birthday Experience ✎

Give your child a birthday experience they'll never forget!

Event and birthday packages are available at the Museum, including private space, customized hands-on workshops, electric party favors, multi-media entertainment, refreshments, and special group tour!

Let us show your child a world of curiosity and the fun of discovery in a one-of-a-kind museum that celebrates it. Contact us at 360.738.3886 or www.amre.us for more details.

The Miracle Worker

Museum FM Station Dials in To New Manager

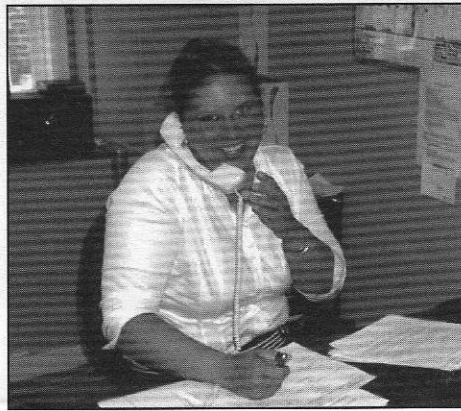
Alena Feeney-Adam credits a good portion of her interest in radio to her parents—or rather the fact her parents didn't own a TV. As a little girl growing up on Hawaii's Big Island, much of her childhood was spent doing things away from the glare of the television screen, such as reading, playing and—of course—listening to the radio.

"My earliest memory is playing with a turntable," she said. "I'd always play around with the albums, and spin them backwards and do things with the music. My dad was really into Motown, so I could use some of his albums if I didn't scratch 'em up."

With a long-running passion for music and radio, it comes as no surprise that Feeney-Adam is the new general manager at KMRE, the American Museum of Radio and Electricity's Low Power FM radio station, a position she started in January. "Alena has been good luck for the Museum since the moment she walked through our door," smiles Jonathan Winter. "She's a force of nature."

While she may be a fresh face at the KMRE studios, she is not a novice to the airwaves or the radio industry. In fact, Feeney-Adam has posted a considerable amount of time behind or near the microphone, including a five-year stint at Seattle's The Mountain 103.7 FM as part of that station's promotion and marketing department, and later worked for Seattle-based DMX Music in that business' programming department for three years. More recently, she graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in music business and law, and worked at the University's radio station (KUGS) as both a disc jockey and Music Director.

"This varied background will serve her well," said Jamie Hoover, general manager at KUGS. "Alena is dedicated, talented, enthusiastic, and was a great ambassador for KUGS," Hoover said. "She was successful at establishing and maintaining supportive relationships



Alena Feeney-Adam

Staff Profile Alena Feeney-Adam

by
 Dan Hiestand

with our community and I'm confident she will be able to do the same for KMRE as well."

Feeney-Adam said her prior experience will be helpful. "Having a background in commercial radio and then in college radio, I really have an opportunity to see what the differences are—how radio as a medium can communicate to the masses," she said. "I feel like I'm on the ground-level right now, that there is so much opportunity to create a community radio station for Bellingham."

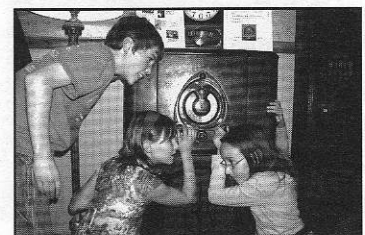
Her passion and her hopes for KMRE are rooted in her childhood. "I was always listening to the radio, and—especially in Hawaii—it was a unique connection to the community," she said. "As a listener, I started to really develop a love for radio by connecting with the music and connecting with the people that were on air."

She hopes to foster the same spirit of partnership between KMRE and the greater Whatcom community. "I feel we have a responsibility to involve the community in our programming and its infrastructure in every aspect," she said. "My vision is to reach the people who want to be involved with radio and bring them into the fold." This means creating a stronger presence for both the Museum and KMRE in the community to

encourage listener-created content. "Developing new live programming—such as the Chuckanut Radio Hour—complimenting the station's existing programming, will also be a priority," she said. "I want people to feel welcome here, and that it isn't just a little radio station that's off on it's own," she said. "We want to start getting out into the community and letting people know we are here and we're open to ideas." Frank Ordway, Executive Director, feels Feeney-Adam will play an important role for the Museum, and is excited about her arrival. "This is the first time we have had someone with the skills that Alena has focusing on the development of KMRE," Ordway said. "We see KMRE as a prime conduit for interest in the Museum and a great way to reach out to the community. We intend to provide a unique outlet for other performing arts and educational organizations in town."

Alena is currently arranging the soundtrack for a locally made film, and continues her Saturday night disc jockey duties for KUGS. However, her lofty goals at KMRE keep her occupied much of the time.

"KMRE has always had the focus as being 'The Voice of the American Museum of Radio and Electricity,'" she said. "I'd also like the people of Bellingham feel it's becoming their voice, too." ✎



Tuning-in classic radio serials in 1930s Living Room Diorama.



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The Liberty Bell

When was the last time the Liberty Bell rang? For what surprising and historic occasion? *For the unexpected answer visit us at*

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Where Discovery Sparks Imagination

The American Museum of Radio and Electricity is dedicated to the preservation of important artifacts from the dawn of electricity through broadcast radio's Golden Age. Recognizing that these artifacts and the stories behind them have immense cultural, historic, aesthetic, and scientific importance, the Museum displays thousands of objects in a series of exciting, interactive exhibits designed to entertain and educate people of all ages.

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