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Date: Friday, July 27, 2012

To: Chairs, Faculty of Arts

From: Lesley Cormack, Professor and Dean of Arts

Re: **Martha Cook Piper Research Prize**

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I would like to announce that Robert Losey from the Department of Anthropology has been awarded the U of A's Martha Cook Piper Research Prize. This prize commemorates the significant contribution Martha Cook Piper made to the research community while she was Vice-President (Research) and Vice-President (Research and External Affairs) at the U of A between 1993 and 1996. Two prizes are awarded each year to faculty members who are at the early stage of their careers, who enjoy a reputation for original research, and who show outstanding promise as researchers.

With his award, Robert will be investigating current and past human-animal relationships among indigenous groups in Eastern Siberia (Russia). His work involves interviewing sealers and their families in order to better understand the economic and spiritual importance of seals and sealing among local Buriat and Evenk groups. Robert also works with a large research team to investigate humans' domestication and interaction with dogs in the past.

Congratulations, Robert!