




Combining Traditional Knowledge with Western Science
Community-Based Remote Sensing in Western Alaska
Jeffers Memorial Lecture • 2026 VJAS Research Symposium

 May 2, 2026

 12 pm – 1:20 pm

 Hampden-Sydney College

Want to see how science helps communities—right now?

What happens when we combine **drones, satellites**, and other tech with **local knowledge**? This talk shows how researchers, students, and Alaska Native communities’ team up to understand environmental change and protect cultural heritage in some of the most remote places on Earth.

3 Big Things You’ll Take Away

1) Climate change you can measure

How remote sensing helps track environmental shifts and how climate change is affecting the land.

2) Tech that supports people in real life

How community-based approaches can assist with **Search and Rescue operations**.

3) Protecting culture with science + collaboration

How teams help protect important cultural sites like the **500-year-old Nunalleq village**.

Meet the Speaker

Sean Gleason, Ph.D.



Elliott Associate Professor, Hampden-Sydney College

Co-founder & Head of Research & Development, Nalaquq, LLC (Alaska Native-owned technology startup in Quinhagak, Alaska)

Research focus: geospatial science, remote sensing, and community-based knowledge in Indigenous Arctic contexts.

If you’re into... you’ll like this talk

STEM • Environmental science • GIS & mapping • Drones/UAVs • Climate • Anthropology • Community partnerships • Research careers