



# Anthropolog

Newletter of The Department of Anthropology  
National Museum of Natural History

Spring 2008

## FROM THE CHAIR

### Capturing a Global Perspective

At the time of this writing, the Department of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History is in the midst of implementing a hiring process that will have major long-term impacts on research, collections, and public programming in the Museum. No such process stands in isolation and the objectives being implemented are drawn from the Museum's five-year planning document and an external review of the Department. In 2004 the Museum created a strategic plan called *Understanding Our World*. Within the plan, anthropological research was subsumed under three initiatives:

1. Human origins, adaptations, and radiations into new environments
2. Present-day human/environmental interactions
3. Cultural and linguistic loss and transformation in the global environment

These research themes are closely linked to our commitment to the centrality of collections, and a dynamic exhibit and public interaction agenda. The five-year plan includes several important elements that we are in the process of putting into action. For now, however, I want to mention just one element—the hire of four new curators.

More than a year ago, following the retirement of several staff members, the Department underwent an external review by a distinguished panel of anthropologists from prestigious organizations. The report from this panel was submitted to the Museum in June of 2007. Among the recommendations for curatorial hires, the panel specifically mentioned specializations in endangered languages, North American ethnology, Latin American anthropology, and human-environmental interaction. These recommendations, and others contained in the report, were discussed by the Department staff and Museum administration.

With input from the Associate Director for Research and Collections and the Director, the Department began four searches in the theme areas of globalization, North American ethnology, endangered languages, and human interaction with the environment. The first search, for an anthropologist engaged in the study of the local and comparative aspects of how globalization transforms cultures, is now complete and the successful candidate will be announced as soon as possible. The process for the other positions is ongoing, with presentations and interviews each week.

In addition to anticipated new curatorial staff, we also have welcomed new staff into other critical roles. Please be sure to welcome **Michelle Reed**, the new department fund manager who handled federal and trust funds at the National Zoo; **Chris Dudar**, former contract osteologist and now head of the Repatriation Osteology Laboratory, and museum technicians



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**Sarah Feinstein** and **Greg Anderson** who bring backgrounds in museum studies and archaeology to the Repatriation Office; and **Troy Johnson** (International Projects coordinator) and **Jared Koller**, both new researchers in the Asian Cultural History Program. As we strengthen our commitment to capturing a global perspective, I look forward to a strong future for Anthropology at the Smithsonian.

**Dan Rogers**

## PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY MEETINGS

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Paleopathology Association took place on April 8-9 in Columbus, Ohio

Workshop: **Don Ortner** and **Bruce Ragsdale** (Research Associate): Too Much, Too Little, Wrong Size, Wrong Shape: Description and Diagnosis of Abnormalities in Bone.

77<sup>th</sup> Annual meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Columbus, Ohio, April 9-12,

Poster sessions:

B.L. Turner, M.K. Zuckerman, B.A. Carlson, J.D. Kingston, G.J. Armelagos, **D.R. Hunt**, T. Amgalantugs, **B. Frohlich**: Prisoners of War or Victims of Raids? Population Dynamics and Their Relationship to Dynastic Upheaval in Southern Mongolia c.1300-1350AD.

S. Mimnaugh, J. Ullinger, **D. Ortner**, and S.G. Sheridan: Up a Hill, Down a Mountain: Change in Ankle Joint Stability at Early Bronze Age Bab edh-Dhra', Jordan.

**Z. Assefa**, E. Hovers, O. Pearson, D. Pleurdeau, Y. Lam and C. T/Tsion: Survey and Exploration of Cave Sediments in Southeastern Ethiopia: Preliminary Results.

**C. Tryon**, A. Logan, D. Mouralis, S. Kuhn and L. Slimak: Building a Tephrochronological Framework for the Central Anatolian Paleolithic.

Papers:

**D. Ubelaker**: Museum Opportunities for Public Science Education.

**D.R. Hunt** and B. Spatola: History and Demographic Profile of the George S. Huntington Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

M.K. Zuckerman, B.L. Turner, B.A. Carlson, J.D. Kingston, G.J. Armelagos, **D.R. Hunt**, T. Amgalantugs, **B. Frohlich**: Diet and Disease in Times of War: Analysis of Mummified Human Remains from Southern Mongolia c.1300-1350 AD.

D. Durand and **D.R. Hunt**: Chin Size and its Relationship to Facial Prognathism in Humans.

W.L. Jungers, W.E.H. Harcourt-Smith, S.G. Larson, M.J. Morwood, T. Djubiantono, **M.W. Tocheri**, and R.E. Wunderlich: Hobbit Bipedalism: Functional Anatomy of the Foot of Homo Floresiensis.

Appointment/Panel

**Briana Pobiner** was appointed to be the Museum Liaison for the Education Committee of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. She attended the teaching evolution training session, Fossils, Bones, & Primates: Enriching High School Teaching.

**Marilyn London** sat on a panel that consisted of members of the AAPA Career Development Committee, who fielded questions from students and recent graduates about job application procedures, job opportunities, and other career-related topics.

## SAA MEETING

The following Department of Anthropology staff members gave presentations at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada, March 27-30:

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**William Billeck:** Temporal Variation in Small Glass Bead Assemblages in the Plains.

**Ronald Bishop:** The Role and Relevance of Research at American Museums.

Arthur Demarest, Melanie Forne, **Ronald Bishop**, Marc Wolf and **Erin Sears:** High Elites, Economy, Production, and Exchange along the Late Classic Maya Western Trade Route.

Daniela Triadan, **Ronald L. Bishop**, and **M. James Blackman:** The Ritual Termination of the Royal Palace at Aguateca: Sourcing the Ceramics.

**R. Eric Hollinger**, Phoebe Hauff, and Georgette Kidwell: Visible, Infrared Sourcing of Red Pipestone Artifacts in Smithsonian Collections.

Gwyn Madden, **R. Eric Hollinger**, Cheri Botic, and the Santa Rosa Rancheria, Tachi Yokut Tribe, Cultural Committee: Re-Examination of a Cave Burial from Kern County, California.

**Dorothy Lippert:** Biological Analytical Realities: Bridges to Indigenous Experience.

**Briana Pobiner** organized the symposium Beyond Zinj: Variability in Butchery Patterns at Early Stone Age Sites.

**Briana Pobiner.** 1.5 Ma Modified Bones from Koobi Fora: Insight into Early Hominin Carcass Processing Behavior.

Joseph Ferraro, Tom Plummer, **Briana Pobiner**, Jim Oliver and Laura Bishop: Late Pliocene Zooarchaeology of Kanjera South, Kenya.

Kovarovic, K. and **Pobiner, B.L.:** Poster: Bones of Ol Pejeta: Neotaphonomic and Ecological survey.

**Rick Potts:** Discussant for the symposium, Beyond Zinj: Variability in Butchery Patterns at Early Stone Age Sites.

Suzanne Pilaar and **Melinda Zeder.** Sheep and Goat Domestication in the Eastern Fertile Crescent: The Application of Dental Aging Techniques to Documenting Domestication.

**J. Daniel Rogers** and Tim Kohler organized the symposium, Parallel Worlds: Inter-Disciplinary Agent-Based Models of Socioecological Processes and Complexity.

Cioffi-Revilla, Claudio and **J. Daniel Rogers.** Agent-Based Modeling of Long-Term Human and Social Dynamics in Inner Asia.

### PALEOANTHROPOLOGY MEETINGS

The following presentations were made at the Paleoanthropology annual meetings, March 25th and 26th, Vancouver, Canada:

**Z. Assefa**, E. Hovers, O. Pearson, D. Pleurdeau, Y. Lam and C. T. Tsion. Survey and exploration of cave sediments in southeastern Ethiopia: Preliminary results.

**C. Tryon**, A. Logan, D. Mouralis, S. Kuhn and L. Slimak. Building a tephrochronological framework for the central Anatolian Paleolithic.

### CAPITAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

On March 29-30, The Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS) and its Affiliated Societies held the third biennial pan-affiliate conference, Capital Science 2008. It was held in the conference facility of the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA. More than 20 Affiliated Societies participated. The following staff and affiliates presented papers in a session on behalf of the Anthropological Society of Washington, which was one of the founding societies of WAS.

**Martin C. Solano:** Sex Differences in Skeletal Trauma Among the 19th Century Working Class.

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**Ryan W. Higgins:** Limb Proportion Inheritance and Ancestry Determination from Fetal Crural and Brachial Indices.

**Marilyn R. London and Erica B. Jones:** Complete Fusion of the Mandible to the Cranium During Childhood in an Eskimo Woman from Southwestern Alaska.

**David R. Hunt and Deborah Hull-Walski:** All That Remains – Multidisciplinary Study of a Mid-19th Century Iron Coffin and Identification of the Individual Within.

**Lynn Snyder:** Faunal and Human Remains from a 2nd Century BCE Well in the Athenian Agora; Evidence of Animal Sacrifice and Infanticide in Late Hellenistic Athens?

**J. Christopher Dudar:** Archaeological Discovery of a Previously Undocumented Case of an Anencephalic Infant from a 19th Century Upper Canadian Cemetery.

**Matthew W. Tocheri:** Concerning the Evidence for “Hobbits”: An Overview of Homo Floresiensis.



Left to right: David Hunt, Martin Solerno, Chris Dudar, Marilyn London, Lynn Snyder, Deborah Hull-Walski, Ryan Higgins, Matt Tocheri.

## CONGRESSIONAL TOUR

Congressman Scott Garrett (R-NJ) and twenty of his staffers toured the Anthropology Department on April 7th. **Douglas Ubelaker** discussed his work with forensics and **Bruno Frohlich** showed the interdisciplinary applications of the CT scanner and discussed his Mongolian mummy research. Visiting Egyptologist **Lana Troy**, from the University of Upsala in Stockholm, read the hieroglyphics from the department’s 2,900 year-old wooden coffin of a temple singer named Tentkhonsu.



Wooden Coffin of Tentkhonsu, Department of Anthropology.

## CONGRESSIONAL NIGHT

Several members of the Anthropology Department participated in the NMNH’s March 1 Congressional Night.

**Kathleen Gordon:** Human Origins/What Does it Mean to be Human?

**Bill Billeck:** Repatriation Research at the NMNH

**Abby McDermott:** Going North: Smithsonian Arctic Research

**Candace Greene:** Lakota Winter Counts: Research and Communities

**Melinda Zeder:** Archaeobiology Program

**Bruno Frohlich:** Mummies, Fossils, Bones, Marine Mammals, Old Books (CT scanning)

**Kari Bruwelheide:** Forensic Anthropology/Written in Bone



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## DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**Dan Rogers** traveled to Paris, Texas, to attend an organizational meeting on the proposed Valley of the Caddo Museum and Cultural Center on April 21. Prior to the meeting, Dan, along with other specialists, was on hand to identify and comment on items of historical value or anthropological importance brought by the public. This meeting was the topic of Bill Hankins' article, "Dan Rogers to speak at organizational meeting," in the online edition of *The Paris News* (April 21) <http://www.theparisnews.com/>.

**Jane Walsh**. 2008. "Legend of the Crystal Skulls: The Truth behind Indiana Jones's Latest Quest." *Archaeology* magazine (May/June, pp. 36 - 41). Jane's article was the cover story of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the magazine. It describes her collaborative research on crystal skulls with the British Museum and Musée Quai Branly in Paris and what they have discovered. Her article is being translated into other languages, including German, Portuguese, and Spanish. She earlier wrote on this subject in the *AnthroNotes* lead article "What is Real? A New Look at PreColumbian Mesoamerican Collections" (Spring 2005, pp. 1-7, 17-19).

### Crystal Skull Madness

The subject of Indiana Jones' quest in the new movie, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," has led the media to seek out **Jane Walsh** who has devoted a decade to researching crystal skulls in museum collections and their authenticity. Jane has been interviewed and quoted extensively. Most recently she was interviewed on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" (May 19), for a special documentary, "Mystery of the Crystal Skulls," on the SciFi Channel (May 18), and by the Paris bureau of the *Wall Street Journal*. Jane was also quoted in the article "Indiana Jones and the Heap of Old Junk" by John Lichfield, published in the British online newspaper *The Independent*. In addition, *The Telegraph* (UK), highlighted Jane's research (on April 21) on crystal skulls proving

that these objects could not have been made with pre-Columbian tools.

### Consultation

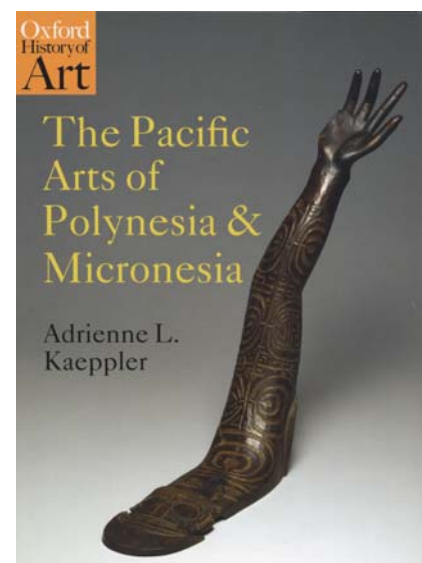
**Jane Walsh** traveled to Teotihuacán Mexico, where she was on location with Picture Films, which is working on a documentary on crystal skulls and 19<sup>th</sup> century fakes. Jane is an advisor on this project, jointly supported by the BBC and Smithsonian Networks and will be featured in the documentary.

## DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY

### Publications

**Kaeppler, Adrienne**. 2008. *The Pacific Arts of Polynesia and Micronesia*. Oxford History of Art Series. Oxford University Press.

This heavily illustrated volume, part of the Oxford History of Art series, is a comprehensive introduction to the artistic traditions of the many cultural groups of Polynesia and Micronesia, focusing on the artistic types, styles, and concepts shared by the two island groups. The book sheds light on religious and sacred rituals and objects, carving, architecture, tattooing, personal ornaments, basket-making, clothing, textiles, fashion, the oral arts, dance, music and musical instruments, and canoe

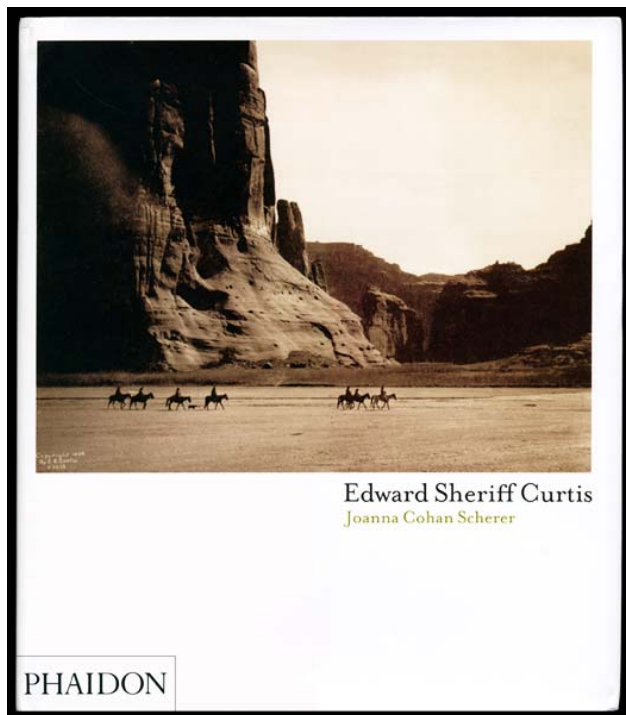


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construction. Each chapter begins with a quote from an indigenous person from one of the island areas covered in the book and features both historic and contemporary works of art. A timeline for migration into the Pacific includes the latest information from archaeology, as well as the influx of explorers and missionaries and important exhibitions and other artistic events. These Pacific artistic traditions have had a considerable impact on modern western art through the influence of artists such as Gauguin. This book is featured on Oxford University Press's new blog [http://blog.oup.com/2008/03/polynesian\\_tattoo/](http://blog.oup.com/2008/03/polynesian_tattoo/)

**Crocker, W.H.** 2008. Canela Vengeance: Formerly Compulsory, Currently Dissipated. In S. Beckerman and P. Valentine, eds., *Revenge in the Cultures of Lowland South America*, pp. 139-161. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.

**Sherer, Joanna C.** 2008. *Edward Sheriff Curtis*. Phaidon Press. The book includes 62 photographs with detailed captions, an introductory essay, and a further readings section.



**Laughlin, Robert M.** “Las flores y sus fragancias entre los mayas tzotziles” (“Flowers and their fragrance among the Tzotzil Maya”). In Alejandro Sheseña Hernández, Sophia Pincemin Deliberos, Carlos Uriel del Carpio Penagos, coordinators, *Estudios del patrimonio cultural de Chiapas*, pp. 295-300. Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas.

**Laughlin, Robert M.**, and Sna Jtz’ibajom. 2008. *The Monkey Business Theatre*. The Linda Schele Series in Maya and Pre-Columbian Studies. University of Texas Press.

**Robert M. Laughlin’s** 2008 root edition of his 1975 publication *The Great Tzotzil Dictionary of San Lorenzo Zinacantán* titled *Mol cholobil k’op ta soz’leb, El gran diccionario tzotzil de San Lorenzo Zinacantán*, was presented on February 14 to an overflowing room in the Casa de Cultura of Zinacantán, and on February 19 at the Universidad Intercultural de Chiapas in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, with a large crowd peering through the window bars. The reaction was quite emotional; women with tears in their eyes caressing the book. On February 20 **Bob** presented his dictionary to the Secretaría de Pueblos Indios or Chiapas State Bureau of Indian Affairs. The dictionary also is described in *The Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología (CIESAS) Boletín Ichan Tecolotl*, March 2008, no. 211, pp. 6-7.

For the Tzotzil and other Indians this book is considered to be a monument, a treasure trove, in honor of their language and culture, an inspiration for the younger generation who know their parents’ memories of being forbidden by their own teachers to speak their maternal tongue in school. During the first presentation, high school students poured through the dictionary, relishing the prayer phrases, baby talk, the scolding speech at court, the great number of onomatopoeic words describing animal and insect sounds, sounds of human natural functions. It will surely become an Indian best seller, priced for them at less than \$5.

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### Presentations/Meetings

**Adrienne Kaepler** was in Canberra, Australia, February 14 to 27<sup>th</sup>, where she presided at the board meeting of the ICTM (International Council for Traditional Music). She also participated in a UNESCO symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage and in a UNESCO Memory of the World Conference. In the Canberra and Sydney Museums and Libraries she conducted research for the proposed Cook-voyage exhibition that opens in 2009 in Bonn, Germany.

**Mary Jo Arnoldi** was the moderator for the 81st quarterly meeting “A Hat of Many Colors: The Smithsonian Forum on Material Culture at Twenty” on May 14 at the Renwick Gallery.

**Robert M. Laughlin** paid a second visit to the Mazatecs of Mexico, in the towns of San Martín Soyaltepec, Oaxaca, and Nuevo San Martín, Veracruz, March 9-10. He showed over 200 slides he had taken in 1957-1958 when half the population’s land and homes were flooded by the creation of the Papaloapan Reservoir. For these Mazatecs the photographs are considered to be tremendously important as they are the only existing record of that dramatic period.

**Michael Atwood Mason** presented a paper titled “Cuban Oricha Songs: Codification, Monologic Discourse, and Transnational Power Plays” at a conference at Florida International University on March 8. The Conference, “Orisha Song and Dance: Alternate Modernities and Transnationalism,” brought together scholars from around the nation to discuss how Nigeria-based religious culture functions in today’s cosmopolitan, globalized world.

**Michael** served as an expert witness in a US District court case in Ft. Worth, Texas, on March 10, presenting an overview of Afro-Cuban cultural practices and specific details about the form, function and meaning of sacrifice within the culture.

### **DIVISION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Doug Ubelaker** has been appointed book review editor for the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. Doug was also named to the editorial boards of the journal *Human Evolution* and the *International Journal of Anthropology*.

**Doug** has been invited to join the Unidentified Decedent Advisory Group of the National Missing and Unidentified Person System, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice.

### In the Media

The forensic research of **Doug Owsley** was featured in the television program “Written in Bone” on March 29 on the History Channel. It was part of the *Save Our History* series.

**Don Ortner** was quoted in the online *Geotimes Banner* (February 2008) in the article “TB or Not TB” regarding what may be the earliest known case of TB in a now extinct hominid found in what is now the Turkish village of Kocaba. Don believes that TB is just one possibility and that other forms of meningitis could account and for the lumps of tissue that formed in the skull.

*WTOP* news station aired a story on April 20 that delved into a centuries-old murder mystery that involves a skeleton discovered by archaeologists in Anne Arundel County. The article quoted **Doug Owsley** and **Kari Bruwelheide**.

### Presentations/Meetings

**Doug Ubelaker** attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington D.C., the week of February 21. He completed his term as vice president in charge of membership and was elected treasurer of the organization. At the meeting, Doug presented the paper, co-authored by Roberto C. Parra, “Dental Aging Methods and Population Variation as Demonstrated in a Peruvian Sample.” He also co-authored, with Ann H. Ross and Erin H. Kimmerle, the paper, “A Test of Methods: Implications of Dimor-

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phism, Population Variation, and Secular Change in Estimating Population Affinity in the Iberian Peninsula,” presented by Ross.

**Kari Bruwelheide, Doug Owsley, and Chris Dудар** attended a workshop on the use of FORDISC 3 software – a program used to statistically evaluate cranial morphology across populations. The workshop was hosted by the University of Tennessee, in Bethesda, Maryland, February 19.

Predocorial Fellow **Kerriann Marden** of Tulane University gave a talk titled “On Robbers and Ritual: Using Taphonomy to Reconstruct the Treatment of Human Remains at Pueblo Bonito” for the Anthropology Seminar Series on March 12. The commingled, disordered condition of the human skeletal remains found at Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon has most often been attributed either to carnivore scavenging or to pre-Hispanic grave robbers searching for turquoise. The results of the present study suggest instead that bodies were intentionally rearranged as an integral aspect of the Chacoan mortuary process.

## ARCHAEOBIOLOGY PROGRAM

### In the Media

The research of **Linda Perry**, research collaborator, was featured in the article, “Archeobiology Reveals Chili Peppers Older than Originally Thought,” by Kelly E. Saxton, *Herbalgram*, vol 77 (February/March): 22-23. *Herbalgram* is the journal of the American Botanical Council, a group that promotes the use of herbs and medicinal plants for health purposes.

The cover story of the spring issue of *American Archaeology* highlights the research of **Dolores Piperno**. The article, “How North American Agriculture Began,” presents findings from Piperno’s work in Panama and Mexico. The magazine is geared toward a popular audience and is produced by the Archaeological Conservancy, the national non-profit devoted to acquiring and preserving archaeological sites in the U.S.

### Botanical Research in Egypt

Research collaborator **Linda Perry** spent a month in Egypt where she and colleagues studied plant remains from the predynastic site of Hierakonpolis (3800-3500 BC) located in Upper Egypt close to the town of Edfu. They used a combination of macrobotanical and microbotanical methods to study ancient diet and plant use by the people living at Hierakonpolis.

### Grants

**Dolores Piperno** and co-principal investigator Mark Bush have received a \$410,000 NSF grant for a joint Smithsonian and Florida Institute of Technology project titled “Collaborative Research: Pre-Columbian Human Impacts on Amazonian Ecosystems.”

**Linda Perry** traveled to Brazil where she spent two weeks on a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant, in collaboration with the Center for the International Exchange of Scholars. At the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi in Belém, she taught a short course on archaeological starch grain analysis. At the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) in Manaus, she worked with students on the extraction of microfossils from sediment samples. She gave lectures on “Archaeobotanical Analysis in Neotropical Sites as Illustrated by the History of Capsicum,” and “Reassessing the Paradigm of Manioc use in the Neotropics.”



Students in the lab learning techniques of starch extraction from lithic tools.





Linda Perry (third from right) with colleagues and students the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi in Belem, Brazil.

## ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER



### In the Media

The Arctic Studies Center is featured in the article, “Connections to the Past and Present: The Arctic Studies Center,” by Robert Payo, published in the online magazine *Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears* (April 2008), a professional development magazine for elementary school teachers.

**Igor Krupnik** traveled to London to participate in the workshop, *The Inhabited Arctic: Humanities and Social Science Research in the Circumpolar North*, on March 4, organized and funded by the British Academy. The workshop featured several overview papers analyzing the status of British scholarly research in Arctic ethnology, linguistics, museum studies, human geography, and history of science. As an invited discussant, Igor spoke on “Arctic Social Studies: Vectors, Hotspots, and Quests,” which offered a summary of major developments in today’s polar social research.

**William Fitzhugh** and **Igor Krupnik** represented the Smithsonian at the joint meeting of the Inter-agency Arctic Research Policy Principals and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission (US ARC) at the National Science Foundation on May 12. The purpose of the annual meeting, chaired by NSF Director Dr. Arden Bement, was to approve several new joint initiatives in the Arctic and to spearhead new activities in Arctic observations, resource management, health surveys, and civil infrastructure. The session included high-level representatives from all of the federal agencies with active programs in Alaska and the Arctic.

A new issue on the agenda is support of northern indigenous languages, cultures and identities. Smithsonian scientists play a critical role in this field and are instrumental in inter-agency decisions and planning. The Principals meeting was later followed up by the 86<sup>th</sup> session of the US Arctic Research Commission that dedicated special time to the status of a ‘Languages and Cultures’ initiative. **Igor** presented a general overview of the activities and suggestions for further actions. The Smithsonian and the Anthropology Department will be actively engaged in all further steps and will be featured prominently with their involvement in the inter-agency program, Documenting Endangered Languages, in partnership with NSF and NEH; ASC activities in Alaska; the Alaska Native Cultures exhibit in Anchorage; and other ongoing efforts.

Archaeologist **Noel Broadbent** was invited by science historian Dr. James R. Fleming at Colby College in Vermont, to be a guest lecturer and advisor on polar archaeology from April 23 - 25. Noel gave an evening lecture on the ill-fated Andree Ballooning Expedition to the North Pole in which all three expedition members perished.

### Films Screenings

The Arctic Studies Center and the Anthropology Conservation Lab organized an Arctic film series this spring, held at the MCI Theater at the Museum Support Center. **Stephen Loring**, **Bil Fitzhugh**, **Igor Krupnik** provided commentaries.

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Fieldwork

**Stephen Loring** will be spending August and September with a group of Innu students under the auspices of the Tshikapisk Foundation (an Innu experiential education initiative) and the Innu community of Natuashish. They will be conducting an intensive archaeological survey in the central Labrador lakes region, adjacent to the George River.

**Bill Fitzhugh** has returned to Mongolia to continue his work on the Mongolian Deer Stone Project. In July, Bill's research assistant **Abby McDermott** will join him in Quebec to resume archaeological excavations at a Basque site. Former ASC research assistant **Christie Leece** and Laurie Penland of the Smithsonian's Scientific Dive Office, will join the team as well.

**ASIAN CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAM**

**Paul Michael Taylor** will be the honored recipient of the Kaur Foundation's "Leadership Award" on June 20 at the Organization of American States. As a Sikh American women's organization, the Kaur Foundation's goal is to serve the community at large by promoting a positive Sikh identity and building intra-community and institutional partnerships. With the Sikh community, Paul curated the NMNH exhibit *Sikhs - Legacy of Punjab*, which has introduced Sikh cultural heritage to a broader audience. For this exhibit project and Paul's understanding of the Sikh and personal relationships he has created within this community, Paul is being recognized for his "Herculean" efforts to promote diversity and advance the Sikh community.



Paul Michael Taylor

Ceramists of Gangjin City Lecture

**Paul Michael Taylor**; Carole Neves, director, the Smithsonian's Office of Policy and Analysis; and Ju-Hong Hwang, mayor, Gangjin City, Republic of Korea, sponsored an invited lecture and reception celebrating "Ceramics of Gangjin City," in the Castle Library on May 9. This event, which received support from the Korean Heritage Foundation, received extensive press coverage in Korea and in Korean-American papers.



Ribbon cutting to begin the celebration of Gangjin ceramics at the Castle Library on May 9. Co-hosts Carole Neves, Mayor Ju-Hong Hwang, and Paul Michael Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> from right in photo).

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## HUMAN ORIGINS PROGRAM



### In the news

**Rick Potts** was quoted in a *Washington Post* article on March 8<sup>th</sup> commenting on Alan Weisman's popular book, *The World Without Us*. Weisman's book postulates what would happen to the planet if all 6.5 billion humans instantly disappeared. While the idea is interesting to consider, Rick pointed out that no global species of animal dies out in a flash. While population crashes in our history have occurred—for example 50,000 to 80,000 years ago our species may have dwindled down to about 10,000 adults of reproductive age, almost all of them in Africa—we have bounced back. A dramatic event like a meteor strike capable of killing off all humans would also kill off far more species than just us and have a disastrous effect on the rest the planet.

**Matt Tocheri** was quoted on March 6<sup>th</sup> in *National Geographic News* and *Scientific American Observations*, commenting on a recent controversial publication suggesting *Homo floresiensis* may have been severely malnourished modern humans. Matt's own research on the evolution of the wrist and his publication in a *Science* article last year describing the "Hobbit" wrist bones demonstrate that the unusual features of the *H. floresiensis* wrist are "primitive" to the more derived features of modern humans and Neanderthals wrists and *not* pathological in origin. The retention of early hominin features is strong evidence for supporting the "hobbits" as a new species.

**Matt's** research on the Flores hominin wrist bones is currently featured on the American Museum of Natural History's Science Bulletin interactive webpage. The Bio News Bulletin highlights recent research that supports the "distinct species" hypothesis for the "Hobbits."

An HD video version will also play in the AMNH's Hall of Human Origins in New York City.

[http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org/?sid=h.s.flores\\_fossils.20080324&src=b](http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org/?sid=h.s.flores_fossils.20080324&src=b)

### HOP Supports New Museum in Mozambique

The Human Origins Program is helping establish a new museum in Mozambique. SI Research Collaborator **Julio Mercader** (Univ. of Calgary) and **Rick Potts** were awarded a grant from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation to support the new museum and Mercader's archeological research program. Other supporters include the US Embassy in Mozambique, The Mozambique Ministry of Education and Culture, the Canada Research Chairs Program, and the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane and Universidade Pedagogica in Mozambique.

The Museu Local will officially open in August and be a repository of ancient artifacts and an interactive learning center. "The museum is housed in a restored building: the first schoolhouse in the district of Lago, and is currently displaying the archeological and historical findings of Mercader's team. The museum also features an oral history digital archive, recorded and compiled by members of his team, which is a precious homage to the past generations of African storytellers." More information can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/april2008/African-artifacts>

### Publications

Braun, D.R., **Pobiner, B.L.**, Thompson, J.C. 2008. "An Experimental Investigation of Cut Mark Production and Stone Tool Attrition." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35, 1216-1223.

**Richmond, B.G.**, W.L. Jungers. 2008. *Orrorin tugenensis* Femoral Morphology and the Evolution of Hominin Bipedalism. *Science* 319: 1662-1665.

**Tocheri, M.**, C. Orr, M. Jacofsky, and M. Marzke. 2008. "The Evolutionary History of the Hominin Hand since the Last Common Ancestor of *Pan* and *Homo*." *Journal of Anatomy* Vol. 212, pp.544-562. Special issue dedicated to human evolution.



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### Presentations and Meetings

**Rick Potts** gave one of the plenary talks at the National Research Council workshop, Earth System Context of Human Evolution, held in Irvine, California, February 22. **Rick** also attended the National Research Council committee meeting for “The Earth System Context for Hominin Evolution” held in Tucson, AZ.

**Matt Tocheri** was an invited speaker for the Anthropology Colloquium Series at the University of Central Florida. He gave a presentation titled “Riddles of the Wrist: What Do Human and ‘Hobbit’ Hands Tell Us about Hominin Evolutionary History?”

**Matt** gave a Sigma Xi Lecture at the US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center in Natick, MA. **Matt**’s talk was titled “Riddles of the wrist: What do our hands tell us about human evolutionary history?”

**Matt** also gave an invited talk at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as part of the spring seminar series of the Center for Functional Anatomy and Evolution. His talk was titled “Why is wrist anatomy important for understanding hominin evolution?”

**Briana Pobiner** participated in a three-part continuing education course on Darwinism and Religion at Georgetown University.

**Christian Tryon** gave a talk titled “Ancient rocks and modern humans: Geological and archaeological investigations of hominin behavioral evolution in the Late-Middle Pleistocene” to the Department of Anthropology, New York University.

**Christian** was a co-author on two poster presentations:

- Watson, J., **Tryon, C.**, Vicéns, M. A new method for faster and more accurate processing of samples for micro-tephrochronology. 37<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Archaeometry, Siena, Italy.
- Blome, M.; Cohen, A.; **Tryon, C.** A synthesis of African Paleoclimate 150-35 ka. GeoDaze

2008, 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Geoscience Symposium, University of Arizona, Tucson.

### Other News

**Rick Potts** visited Addis Ababa and developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Museum of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian government Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage. The MOU covers assistance to the Ethiopian Museum to sustain a fossil casting laboratory for educational and scientific purposes, permission for the NMNH to display casts of the abundant fossil discoveries coming from Ethiopia over recent years, and a partnership to develop educational materials based on Ethiopian discoveries and paleoanthropological field sites.

**Briana Pobiner** became a member of the Symposium Committee of the Society for Africanist Archaeologists.

**Briana** was interviewed by Bo Yeon Kim, a Bryn Mawr College senior, who is writing her undergraduate thesis on Paleolithic art in museum exhibitions. **Briana** also hosted Chandler Glover, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from the Stroudsburg school district in Pennsylvania, who was conducting a job shadowing project.

### Field Research

**Rick Potts, Briana Pobiner, and Jennifer Clark** will be conducting field research at Olorgesailie, Kenya, this summer. **Matt Tocheri** will be working with collections at National Museums of Kenya and participating at excavations on the Indonesian island of Flores.

**Briana** will continue with the project BONES: Bones of Ol Pejeta, Neotaphonomic and Ecological Survey at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in central Kenya. She will be working with former Smithsonian post-doc Kris Kovarovic of the University College London. Their long-term study involves doing modern bone transects to document changes in large mammal ecology (especially predation and habitat preferences) using taphonomic and ecomorphological information from modern bones. The ultimate goal is to create models to apply their findings to the fossil record.



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## Transitions

Congratulations to contractor **Lance Levenson**. He graduates this month from GWU with a degree in Anthropology and minors in Theatre, Chemistry and Judaic Studies. He also received an award for his thesis on primate canines. Wow Lance!

Last but not least – great news for **Christian Tryon**. He accepted a position at NYU! In September, he will join the faculty of the Department of Anthropology, New York University as an Assistant Professor. Congratulations Christian!

## PALEOINDIAN PROGRAM

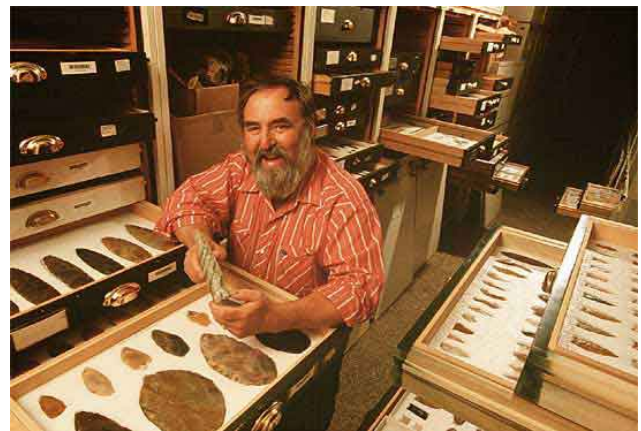
**Dennis Stanford** was one of the scholars interviewed in the History Channel program “Journey to 10,000 B.C.,” which aired on March 9. Dennis talked about his current research on early migrations to the Americas, around 16,000 years ago, based on Solutrean stone tool technology found in what is now France and Spain. **Mike Frank** demonstrated early flintknapping techniques. The program describes what is known about the earliest migrations to North America based on the archaeological evidence. It also includes a state-of-the-art green-screen computer animation that re-creates the great mammoth hunts.

**Dennis** was quoted in the March 14 issue of *Entertainment Weekly* (p. 20) in the article “Don’t Know Much About Prehistory” regarding the new movie *10,000 BC*. *Geotimes* also interviewed him about the movie.

**Doug Owsley** and **Dennis Stanford** attended the Paleoamerican Origins Workshop sponsored by the Center for the Study of the First Americans, the Texas Archaeological Research laboratory, the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey, and the Smithsonian Institution on February 14-16 at the University of Texas, Austin. Doug’s talk was on the “The Physical Anthropological data for Human Entry into the Americas.” Dennis, a

co-organizer of the meeting, gave two presentations: “The Atlantic Coastal Route” and “Update on the Miles Point site, Delaware.”

**Dennis** hosted Sergei Slobodin from the North-East Interdisciplinary Research Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, in Magadan, Siberia. Sergei and Dennis are working on the technological relationship between the 11,000 year old stemmed projectile points found in archaeological sites on both sides of Bering Sea. They, along with senior adjunct scientist **Pegi Jodry**, MCI head of technical services, Jeff Speakman, and photographer Chip Clark, also worked on the Uptar fluted point found at a site near Magadan. This artifact was published in *Science* in 1996 as the first fluted point found in Siberia and was hailed as evidence for an Asian origin of the Clovis tradition (approx. 13,000 years ago). However, this week’s analysis indicates that the “flute scar,” which is diagnostic for Clovis technology, was a result of impact damage and was accidental, indicating that the specimen is not related to the Clovis tradition. The Clovis tradition appears to be unique to North America.



Dennis Stanford

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## ANTHROPOLOGY OUTREACH OFFICE

**Ann Kaupp**, president of the Society for Anthropology and Community Colleges (SACC), a section of the American Anthropological Association, organized the SACC annual meeting, which took place at the Holiday Inn Central in Washington, DC, from March 14-18. Sixty-eight college and university anthropologists and several college students from around the U.S. and Canada, attended the four-day meeting, which included a board meeting, evening reception, business meeting, two days of paper presentations, a bus tour of Washington, D.C., guest speakers, and a field trip to the Smithsonian.

Guest speakers included Smithsonian historian Pam Henson (“Nineteenth Century Anthropologists at the Smithsonian”) and AAA Director of Public Affairs Damon Dozier (“Creating and Managing Effective Advocacy Campaigns”). Monday’s fieldtrip to the Smithsonian included a visit to the National Museum of the American Indian where curator Gabrielle Tayac talked about “Indians of the Chesapeake Bay Area.” At NMNH, Chair **Dan Rogers** gave welcoming remarks. **Dennis Stanford** spoke on “An Alternative View on the Peopling of the Americas” and **Doug Owsley** and **Kari Bruwelheide** gave a joint presentation titled “Bioarchaeological Perspectives on 17<sup>th</sup> Century Life in Jamestown.”

This conference provided an excellent opportunity to carry out the Smithsonian’s mission to diffuse knowledge. The educators experienced the passion and enthusiasm that our scientists have for their research. They, in turn, were an enthusiastic audience.

## COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROGRAM

**Deb Hull-Walski** and **Dave Hunt** attended the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, March 1. They presented a paper titled “All That Remains” that described the research conducted on the remains of a young boy found in a 19<sup>th</sup> century iron coffin to determine his identity and cause of death. Their presentation was part of the symposium, Preserve That Past and You Will Know the Future: Conserving and Researching Archaeological Collections.

**Robert Leopold** attended a workshop on Mesoamerican language archives hosted by the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Texas in Austin, April 18-19.

**Jake Homiak** participated in the 81<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting “A Hat of Many Colors: The Smithsonian Forum on Material Culture at Twenty” on May 14 at the Renwick Gallery. Jake spoke on “When Two Sevens Clash: Celebrating the Rastafari Millennium.”

**Dave Hunt** attended the Twenty-Fifth Annual Visiting Scholar Conference on Archaeological and Biological Variation in the New World, at the Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, April 25-26. Dave was a discussant for the archaeological panel, in which he and two other scholars summarized and evaluated the presentations given over the two days of the conference.

### Publication

**Ogenski, Stephanie**, Fernando Osorio and Pilar Hernandez. “Film Base to Pixels: The Juan Cachu-Ramirez Collection –A Cross-Over Education Experience.” *Topics of Photographic Preservation*, Volume 12, pp.74-76. American Institute of Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

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## Second Bust Returned to the Osage

**Dave Hunt** delivered the bust of Shunkamolah to the Osage museum in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, for an unveiling ceremony on May 1. Shunkamolah, along with Black Dog, was instrumental in reintroducing the Native American Church to the Osage Nation at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This bust is the second of a series of nine Osage Indian busts in the Anthropology Department's Physical Anthropology Collections that will be reproduced and given to the Osage Museum. The first bust, delivered in 2005, was of Albert Penn, also a key figure in the reintroduction of the American Indian Church to the Osage. The unveiling last month was coordinated with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and events for the Osage Tribal Museum, the longest continuously running Indian museum in the US. Dave was an invited guest for the two-day festival.



Dr. Steven Pratt, a professor at the University of Central Oklahoma, and the bust of Shunkamolah, his great grandfather, after the unveiling at the Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska. Dr. Pratt is the new Roadman for the Hominy, OK, Native American Church. He is wearing the Washington Peace Medal given to Shunkamolah when he came to Washington D.C. in 1912.

## **REPATRIATION OFFICE**

### Publication

Killion, Thomas, ed. 2008. *Opening Archaeology: Repatriation's Impact on Contemporary Research and Practice*. The proceedings of the School for American Research Seminar, August 2004. School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe. Included in the volume are papers by **Stephen Loring** (The Wind Blows Everything off the Ground: New Provisions and New Directions in Archaeological Research in the North) and **Dorothy Lippert** (The Rise of Indigenous Archaeology: How Repatriation Has Transformed Archaeological Ethics and Practice).

### Outreach

**Marilyn London** traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, February 28-29, to participate in the Ford Smithsonian Scholars in the Schools Program, sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. Marilyn gave six presentations on the anthropology of the skeleton and the role of bones in the protection of the organs of sense to over 300 9th graders at Glenciff High School. She also participated as a speaker in a community outreach program attended by the President of the School Board (Nashville), staff members from the Tennessee State Department of Education, representatives from the Ford Motor Company Fund, and educational staff from several schools in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools system.

**Marilyn** also traveled to Pensacola, Florida, April 7 & 8 for the Scholars in the Schools program. She gave three ninety-minute presentations, including hands-on activities for the students of West Florida High School and Woodham Middle School who were concentrating in criminal justice and biology and anatomy.

**Dorothy Lippert** helped organize the Smithsonian Institution Women's Council (SIWC) sponsored program on sexual assault prevention and self defense on March 20 at NMNH. The speakers were representatives from the D. C. Rape Crisis Center.



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### Transitions

Museum Technician **Cheri Botic** completed her four-year term with the Repatriation Office. Prior to being hired in 2003 she served as an intern for the Office. Computer Specialist **Kim Neutzling** left the Repatriation Office after six years for a position at the National Park Service. Cheri and Kim's research skills, attention to detail, efficiency, people skills, and enthusiasm for work will be greatly missed. We wish them both much success.

**J. Christopher Dudar** joined the office as the Physical Anthropologist overseeing the Repatriation Office Osteology Laboratory. Prior to joining us as a staff member, Chris worked as a contract Osteologist in the Repatriation Office. He completed an H.B.Sc. (Biology) and Master of Science (Human Biology) at the University of Guelph, Ontario. For his doctoral degree at McMaster University, Chris used DNA and historic records from pioneer cemeteries to detect kinship burial areas, and held the Harry Lyman Hooker Senior Fellowship and Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Fellowship. Chris also was awarded a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Florida, conducting an ethnohistoric investigation on the Navajo Reservation while working with Dr. John Moore. He has published in the *Journal of Forensic Science*, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, *Current Anthropology*, and the *Papers of the Canadian Methodist Historical Society*.

**Sarah Feinstein** and **Greg Anderson** joined the Repatriation Office as Museum Technicians in term positions in April. They bring backgrounds in museum studies and archaeology to the office. We look forward to working with them.

If you have not met Chris, Sarah, and Greg, please stop by a say hello.

### Repatriation

On May 21, 32 representatives of the Pueblo of Jemez came to the museum to repatriate 205 catalog numbers of human remains in the NMNH collections. While here, they met with Cristián Samper, Hans Sues, and the Repatriation Office staff. Two days prior to the repatriation, **Risa Arbolino** coordinated the packing of the remains with four representatives from the Pueblo of Jemez. The human remains were collected from the site of Guisewa, during a brief archaeological excavation conducted in 1910 by Edgar Hewett of the School of American Archeology and by F.W. Hodge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and the site of Amoxiumqua, during excavations sponsored by Bureau of American Ethnology and the School of American Archaeology in 1910 and 1911. A repatriation report titled *Assessment of the Cultural Affiliation of Human Remains Potentially Affiliated with the Pueblo of Jemez at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution* by **Risa Arbolino** and Carrie Feldman found that the human remains from Amoxiumqua and Giusewa were culturally affiliated with the Pueblo of Jemez and recommended that they be offered for return to the tribe.



The delegation from the Pueblo of Jemez at NMNH, where they attended a repatriation ceremony on May 21.



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## Tlingit Canoe Built for the New Oceans Hall

The forthcoming Oceans Hall will have an anthropology presence with four display cases featuring a story about the Peoples of the North Pacific Rim and their abiding relationship with salmon. What will dramatically stand out in the exhibit will be a traditional ocean-going canoe built in Alaska that will hang suspended over the exhibit area.

Tlingit master carver Doug Chilton used traditional tools and techniques to shape a red cedar log, donated by Sealaska Heritage Institute, into a 26-foot-long canoe. The traditional story depicted on the canoe is the “Raven Stealing the Sun,” a neutral design among traditional Tlingit moieties. Chilton is a member of the Raven moiety from the Deisheetaan Clan. He and other Alaska Native artists spent nearly ten months carving and finishing the canoe at the Sealaska Plaza in downtown Juneau. In mid-June the canoe will be given a naming ceremony and paddled along the Potomac River before going on exhibition in September. **Stephen Loring** is curating the anthropology section of the Oceans Hall and made the arrangements to have the canoe built for the exhibit.



Close-up of the Raven design.



The canoe shown after completion at the Sealaska Heritage Plaza, Juneau, Alaska, before bound for the Smithsonian. Photos from Doug Chilton.

**Contributors:** Risa Arbolino, Bill Billeck, Noel Broadbent, Kari Bruwelheide, Jennifer Clark, Maggie Dittmore, David Hunt, Adrienne Kaeppler, Igor Krupnik, Bob Laughlin, Dorothy Lippert, Robert Leopold, Marilyn London, Stephen Loring, Stephanie Ogenski, Don Ortner, Linda Perry, Dolores Piperno, Briana Pobiner, Rick Potts, Daniel Rogers, Joanna Cohan Scherer, Dennis Stanford, Paul Taylor, Doug Ubelaker, Jane Walsh.

**Editor and Compiler:** Ann Kaupp

**Reviewers:** Betty Meggers; Maggie Dittmore

**Chair:** Daniel Rogers

**Department Website:** [www.nmnh.si.edu/](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/)