



Anthropolog

Newletter of The Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History

Winter 2008

NMNH AWARDS CEREMONY

On December 12 in Baird Auditorium, NMNH, members of the department were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and service to the museum.

Peer Recognition Award

Chang-su Houchins received the *Dedication to Culture Award* for “her dedicated leadership as curator in the development of the Korea Gallery and as a guiding force for the Korean Heritage Project. Chang-su’s multiple nominators have praised her scholarship, her broad knowledge, her adaptable leadership, her attention to detail and her fund-raising prowess. These skills helped bring the Korea Gallery to its successful unveiling in June. As a Korean-American, she had personal contacts that were invaluable in obtaining objects for the exhibit and financial support. The Museum community is proud to recognize her professionalism and devotion to accurate portrayal of the culture of her motherland while inspiring her co-workers in the process.”

2007 Career Service Awards

30 Years of Service: **Bruce Smith**

20 Years of Service: **Doug Owsley** and
Deloris Walker

10 Years of Service: **Barbara Watanabe**

TRANSITIONS

Archives specialist **Vyrtis Thomas** retired in January after 33 years of dedicated service to the National Anthropological Archives. A luncheon was held for Vyrtis at Phillips Restaurant on the waterfront where her family and over 40 friends and colleagues honored her tenure at the Smithsonian. Vyrtis (known to friends as “VT”) was responsible for the care and preservation of photographic collections, photo-related reference inquiries, and duplication orders for photographs and microfilms. Researchers will recall that Vyrtis had an uncanny ability to identify the source of almost every photograph in our collection, a talent that researchers appreciated when they called on her to locate images that were published without proper credits or captions.

Vyrtis could perform miracles because she had a photographic memory; she could also rely on the extensive annotations she had made to our reference collection of *BAE Bulletins* and *Annual Reports*. Researchers and staff will miss her thoughtful and comprehensive reference assistance and her cheerful, knowing presence in the reading room. We wish Vyrtis well in her retirement.

Robert Leopold

Like so many of you, I have worked with VT from the beginning of her career when she was the “baby” of the Archives; however, in addition to working with her





for 33 years, I have also had the pleasure of serving as her supervisor. As such, I know how hard she worked, how helpful she was, and the deep extent of her dedication.

Paula Fleming

I have known and worked with Vyrtil Thomas for more than 30 years and have the highest regard for her as a friend and colleague. Vyrtil has always been one of the most knowledgeable people in the archives and her demeanor has always been kind, generous and informed, encouraging people to make the most of NAA's resources, while remembering their past requests for files and the location of related items, and suggesting possibilities for other lines of inquiry. We are very sad to see her go, but wish her all the best in what surely will prove to be a successful second act. Thank you, Vyrtil.

Jane Walsh

THE 2007 AAA ANNUAL MEETING

The 106th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association met in Washington, D.C., November 28-December 2. The following people presented:

Robert Leopold served as co-organizer and discussant on a panel called "What Should I Do With My Fieldnotes?"

Candace Greene organized an invited session on the research potential of anthropological museum collections, which was sponsored by the Council for Museum Anthropology. Of the eleven speakers, four were from the Department of Anthropology. **Adrienne Kaeppler** chaired the session and spoke on "Exhibiting Captain Cook: Two Centuries and Still Going." Melinda Zeder presented a paper titled "Fleshing-out Old Bones: The Value of Archaeobiology Collections," and **Bruce Bernstein** talked about "Collected Connections: The Space-Time Continuum and Achieving the Potentials of Research in Anthropology Collections." **Candace Greene** closed the session with the paper "Training in Collection Use: A Proposed Summer Institute."

The Department of Anthropology hosted a well-attended reception for the Council for Museum Anthropology at the museum on Friday evening, in coordination with an open house so that attendees could visit labs and offices to see a range of departmental activities.

Jake Homiak chaired the invited session "Expeditions, Anthropology and Popular Culture: Reinventing First Contact." Screenings of films discussed in this session were shown in the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History on November 30, sponsored by the Human Studies Film Archives, in association with the Society for Visual Anthropology and the American Ethnological Society.

JoAllyn Archambault chaired the invited session, High Table Discussion: Activism in North American First Nations."

Emeritus Curator **Robert M. Laughlin** presented a paper, "The 'flowers' of religious use in modern Mayan communities."

Emeritus Anthropologist **Joanna Cohen Scherer** organized the Society for Visual Anthropology, 23rd An-

nual Visual Research Conference, held at the AAA meeting, and attended the Board of Directors meeting.

Ruth Selig and **Ann Kaupp**: Discussants in the invited session “Anthropology Goes to High School and Other Experiences with Teen Learners.”

Ann Kaupp was invited to participate in the Employer Exposition, providing information about Smithsonian and anthropology career opportunities.

SHA ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting took place in Albuquerque, NM, January 9 – 13. Several staff members gave presentations.

M. James Blackman, **Patricia Fournier-Garcia** and **Russell Skowronek**, and **Ronald Bishop**: “Four Centuries of Production and Trade in Majolica Ceramics.”

Bill Billeck: “Drawn Glass Bead Variation in the Nineteenth Century Plains.”

Laurie Burgess and **Christopher Sperling**: “Glass Beads from Gloucester Town.”

Aron Crowell: “Ethnicity and Periphery: A World System Perspective on Russian Colonialism in Alaska.”

Bill Fitzhugh: “Ship to Shore: Landscapes Above and Below Water at the Late 17th C. Basque Site at Petit Mecatina, Lower North Shore, Quebec” as part of an invited symposium on the Archaeology of Maritime Landscapes.

Deborah Hull-Walski and **Randal Scott**: Poster: “Early Metallic Coffins and Production Foundries.” Deborah also attended the Curation Committee meeting.

M. James Blackman and **Ronald Bishop** participated in a symposium on Archaeological Science and Historic-era Ceramics: A Conversation about Current Understanding and Emergent Perspectives.

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Maya Conference

At the *XVII Encuentro Internacional Los Investigadores de La Cultura Maya* conference in Campeche, Mexico, on November 13, **Ron Bishop** delivered the initial presentation of the conference titled *Materialidad y evolución social en el norte y noroeste de las áreas bajas mayas*, co-authored with **M. James Blackman**, Antonio Benavides C., Socorro del Pilar Jiménez Alvarez, and **Erin L. Sears**. The paper highlighted the advantages of team-based scholarly research.

At the conference’s inauguration ceremony **Ron Bishop** was formally recognized for his contributions to understanding the cultural patrimony of the region. He was presented a commemorative plaque by the governor of the state, which he accepted on behalf of his departmental colleagues, **M. James Blackman** and **Erin L. Sears**, as well their national and international collaborators working in Campeche.

Dan Rogers traveled to Norman, Oklahoma, to conduct ethnographic research with Caddo ceramics artist **Jeri Redcorn** on pottery that combines ancient designs with modern interpretations. Dan also conducted research at the Oklahoma Historical Society on early archaeological work conducted between 1905 and 1915 at Spiro Mounds and at contact period sites.



Jeri Redcorn

Publication

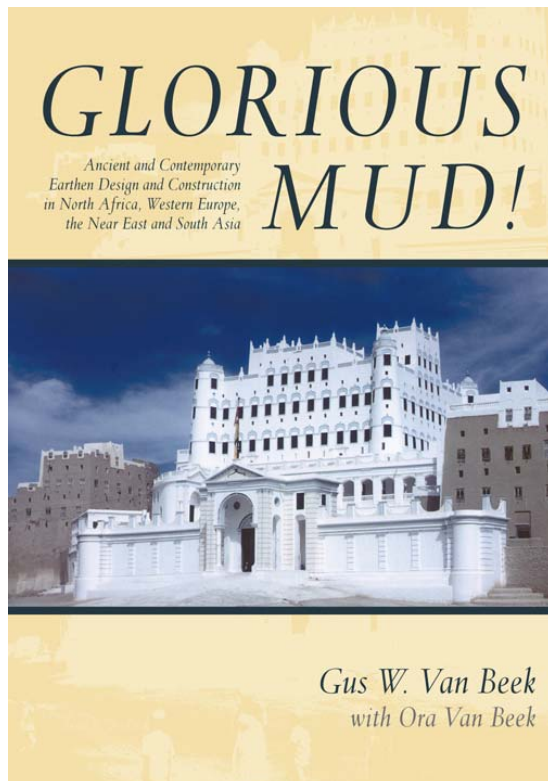
Van Beek, W. Gus with Ora Van Beek. 2008. *Glorious Mud! Ancient and Contemporary Earthen Design and Construction in North Africa, Western Europe, the Near East, and South Asia*. Smithsonian Contribution to Knowledge. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.

This new publication was spotlighted in the February issue of *The Torch*, in the article “Glorious Mud! Celebrates Earthen Architecture” by Rita Zeidner (p. 6). Department staff who contributed to this book were **Marcia Bakry**, who redesigned all the maps and **Betty Meggers** who assisted with the final review of the manuscript. **Maggie Dittimore** was acknowledged for assisting with bibliographic and other research data.

Ora Van Beek organized a reception for Gus at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington in Rockville, Maryland, on January 10, attended by friends and colleagues, including Marcia, Betty, Maggie, and Chinaco Sandoval.



Reception for Gus Van Beek at the Hebrew Home. Left to right, Meredith Ray McQuoid, editor of the volume, friend Robin Turner, photographer Chip Clark, Ora Van Beek illustrator Marcia Bakry, and contractor Ron Gardiner.



DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY

Adrienne Kaeppler took part in the Americas Assembly conference of the World Dance Alliance – Americas in Bahia, Salvador, Brazil, November 14-18. She gave a paper titled “Hawaiian Dance as a System of Knowledge” and presided at the Board meeting. **Adrienne** also attended the inaugural meeting of the Musics of East Asia Study Group of the ICTM (International Council for Traditional Music) in Shanghai, China, December 20 – 22, 2007. She gave the keynote address titled “Music of Desire and the Death of the Exotic.”

Dr. Marie Yvonne Curtis, an art historian from the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, was a Visiting Researcher with **Mary Jo Arnoldi** for the month of November 2007. Dr. Curtis was conducting research on issues of cultural patrimony in the context of the arts of present-day Baga and Nalu peoples in Guinea.

Mexico Publishes Spanish Edition of Tzotzil dictionary

The Tzotzil-Spanish, Spanish-Tzotzil root edition of *The Great Tzotzil Dictionary of San Lorenzo Zinacantán* by **Robert M. Laughlin** was just published as *Mol cholobil k'op ta soz'leb, El gran diccionario tzotzil de San Lorenzo Zinacantán* in Mexico City by the CIESAS (Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social) and CONACULTA (Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes). It includes the grammatical notes, simplified by John B. Haviland, and all the plant names in Laughlin's *The flowering of man: A Tzotzil botany of Zinacantán*. This dictionary is of "grandfather Tzotzil," compiled in the early 1960s, containing many archaic words and few Spanish loan words. The author did not modernize the vocabulary, failing to include such new Tzotzil words as "wow!" Laughlin's Zinacantec collaborators were the first fully literate Tzotzil speakers. The Tzotzil Mayan language, representing over half a million people, now has undergraduate students who will benefit greatly from this 500-page dictionary, as will the general Tzotzil public, being priced at less than \$5.

Curator Emeritus **Bill Crocker** was the focus of an article by Shepard Krech III, research associate, for the "People of Note" section of the *Groton* newsletter (February 2008, pp. 26-27).

JoAllyn Archambault was mentioned in the article "Indigenous section OK'd by anthropological group" in *Indian Country Today* by Jerry Reynolds (posted December 28, 2007). JoAllyn helped establish the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists, a new American Anthropological Association member's section, which was approved by the board of directors on December 5. She previously had helped establish the American Indian Native American Alaska Native interest group within AAA.

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Don Ortner and **Doug Owsley** were lauded as mentors by Notre Dame University summer student interns Lauren Holcomb and Shannon Mimnaugh in the University of Notre Dame Newswire December 3 article "Smithsonian and ND in Unique Partnership" by Ted Fox.

Don Ortner was quoted in a story in *The New York Times* about genetic study linking Columbus to the origin of sexually transmitted syphilis in the New World. In the January 15 article, Ortner questions whether the organisms causing the first syphilis epidemic in the New World were new or whether they were a part of a long history of the disease's evolution.

In early December, **Doug Owsley**, **Kari Bruwelheide**, and intern **Amanda Camp** worked at Archaeological & Cultural Resources, Inc. in Williamsburg, Virginia, studying human skeletal remains from Historic St. Luke's Church in Smithfield VA. These were burials disturbed during historic preservation work around the church. They also went to Colonial Williamsburg to complete documentation on remains from the 17th c. site of Carter's Grove.

ARCHAEOBIOLOGY PROGRAM

In the Media

Research Collaborator **Linda Perry** was interviewed by the Modern Italian Network on Columbus Day. She spoke about New World foods and how they traveled to Europe and got incorporated into Italian cuisine.

The chili pepper story by **Linda Perry** of the Archaeobiology Program and Kent Flannery (University of Michigan, published in *PNAS*, is featured in a "World Round-Up" timeline in the November/December issue of *Archaeology* magazine. <http://www.archaeology.org/0711/trenches/world.html> The entry is as follows:

Mexico

One of the many great reasons to travel to Oaxaca is the cuisine, especially the rich, smoky, hot mole sauces. New research suggests that the Zapotec Indians were cooking similarly complex, tasty food between 500 and 1,000 years ago. In two rock shelters near the town of Mitla, archaeologists found the remains of 10 varieties of domesticated chili peppers, in addition to maize, beans, and squash. The ancient Zapotec didn't, however, leave us any recipes.

Linda Perry's *Science* chili pepper story came in as #49 out of 100 top science stories noted by *Discover* magazine in its January 2008 issue.

Bruce Smith of the Archaeobiology Program was quoted in the *New York Times* (February 12, p. D3) in the article "52 B.C. is New Date for Farms in Egypt," by John Noble Wilford. The discovery, said Smith, filled in "a very important and poorly known phase of development of agricultural systems which led to the pyramids and later civilizations."

Presentations/Meetings

Bruce Smith and **Mindy Zeder** of the Archaeobiology Program just returned from a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia as members of the Committee for Research and Exploration of the National Geographic Society, which supports field-based scientific research around the world. During this off-site grant meeting, Zeder and Smith visited a number of archaeological sites and nature reserves and met with past and potential CRE grantees.

Linda Perry gave a presentation on "Chili Peppers in the Americas" at the Precolumbian Society of Washington D.C. on January 4.

Post-Doctoral Fellow **Canan Cakirlar** presented a talk on "Aquatic Mollusk Remains from Hissarlik: An Archaeomalacological Approach to Environment and Economy at Troy" for the Department of Anthropology Seminar Series on February 15.

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER



Presentations

Stephen Loring and Research Associate **Ted Timreck** participated in the American Indian Heritage Lecture Series given in the Baird Auditorium. **Stephen** spoke on "Another Ghost of Courageous Adventurers: New Revelations about Paleoindian Lifestyles in Vermont" on November 2. **Ted** introduced his film "Hidden Landscapes: Memory, Myth and Archaeology in the Construction of the Story of Early Native American History in the Far Northeast" on December 7. This lecture series was sponsored by NMNH and Archaeological Conservancy.

Igor Krupnik was a guest speaker on February 12 for the 'Marine Advisory Program' IPY lecture series at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus in Nome, Alaska. His lecture, "The Changing Arctic: IPY 2007-2008 and Northern Residents," was addressed to the local Nome audience and was also transmitted to the nearby villages. Igor also gave an interview to the local KNOM radio station in Nome that covered the goals of the International Polar Year and the many IPY-related activities conducted in the area. Igor is currently on a trip to the Bering Strait region where he is visiting local communities that participate in his International Polar Year study of indigenous knowledge of sea ice and sea ice use (SIKU).

Visiting professor Dr. Lana Troy gave a presentation titled "Reading the Coffin of a Temple Singer" for the Department Seminar Series on December 6.

Publications

Loring, Stephen. 2008. At Home in the Wilderness: The Mushuau Innu and Caribou. In A.T. Bergerud, Stuart N. Luttich, and Lodewijk Camps, eds., *The Return of Caribou to Ungava*, pp. 123-134. McGill-Queen's University Press.

By 1950 the George River caribou herd in northern Quebec-Labrador had shrunk to less than 15,000 ani-

mals but by 1985 the herd had grown to over a million, making it the largest ungulate herd in the world. This book provides a detailed and documented study of the history, biology, and the population dynamics of the George River herd. The cyclical nature of northern caribou populations has long been of interest to anthropologists modeling the Pleistocene, as well as to contemporary northern communities who rely on caribou for subsistence. **Stephen Loring** has contributed a brief historical essay about the Innu of Labrador who have for over 7000 years hunted the George River herd.



Hunting caribou at Kamestastin, 2006. Photo: Stephen Loring.



Innu camp in the George River country, 2000. Photo: Stephen Loring.

ASIAN CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAM

New Asian Art Publication Project

Paul Michael Taylor and **Christopher Lotis** traveled to California to begin a new research and publication project, in cooperation with and funded by the University of Southern California, on Dr. Chester Chang's collection of Asian art. The *Joongang Ilbo*, one of Korea's largest newspapers, published an interview with Taylor and Lotis about this project on January 16th. The speeches they gave at the Korean American Day event in Los Angeles were also covered by the media.

Korean American Day

The Smithsonian held a Korean American Day on January 13, sponsored by the **Asian Cultural History Program**, the **Department of Anthropology**, The Korean Heritage Foundation, and the Freer and Sackler Galleries, with a performance by SAGYE, the Korean Gayagum Quartet. Korean American Day honors the arrival in Hawaii of 102 pioneer Korean immigrants on January 13, 1903, and the contributions that Korean Americans have made to the United States. In May and June of 2007, the Smithsonian participated in the Washington Korea Festival to celebrate the opening of the Korea Gallery, co-curated by **Paul Michael Taylor** and **Chang-su Cho Houchins**.



Paul Taylor is fifth from the left in the top row.

HUMAN ORIGINS PROGRAM



News and Interviews

On November 29, *National Geographic News* reported a recent study outlining the social behaviors of early human ancestors as being similar to those of modern gorillas and orangutans. For confirmation and commentary on the subject, the magazine quoted **Rick Potts**, who noted the difficulty of reconstructing early human ancestors' sex and social lives.

Lectures & Meetings

Matt Tocheri gave a colloquium talk in New Orleans on Thursday, January 31st for the Department of Anthropology at Tulane University. Matt's talk was titled, "*Riddles of the Wrist: What Do Human and 'Hobbit' Hands Tell Us about Hominin Evolutionary History?*"

Christian Tryon gave three talks this winter:

"The archaeology of modern human origins: The view from the African Rift Valley" at the Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium of the National Academy of Sciences, November 8-10 in Irvine, California.

"Archaeological context for the origins of *Homo sapiens* in the African Middle and Late Pleistocene," University of Arizona Department of Anthropology, January 31.

"Volcanic ashes as chronological tools for the archaeologist: Examples from Pleistocene sites from Kenya and Turkey," IGERT Program in Archaeological Science at the University of Arizona, February 1.

Jennifer Clark gave a presentation to the Sisters in Science program of the Cora Kelly Elementary School, Alexandria, Virginia, On December 17th.

Publications

Richmond, B.G. (2007) Biomechanics of phalangeal curvature. *Journal of Human Evolution* **53**: 678-690.

Begun, D., **B.G. Richmond**, D.S. Strait. (2007) Comment on "Origin of Human Bipedalism As an Adaptation for Locomotion on Flexible Branches"? *Science* **318**: 1066-1067.

Tocheri, Matt. 2007. "Joining in Fellowship with the Hobbits." *AnthroNotes* 28(2).

Visitors

In January, **Briana Pobiner** was interviewed by Jack Brown of Rocky Run Middle School in Fairfax County, Virginia. He was interviewing a paleoanthropologist for his school science project. Briana gave him tour of the Terry Collection and the HOP lab.

Committee Nomination

Briana L. Pobiner was nominated to the Education and Outreach Committee of the Society for Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) at their annual conference in Austin, TX in October 2007.

PALEOINDIAN PROGRAM

Important Archaeological Site will be Preserved

Dennis Stanford reports that Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve, working with the Archaeological Conservancy, has raised enough money to purchase the Lamb Spring site, one of the oldest human habitation sites, approximately 8,000 years-old, located outside of Denver near Littleton, Colorado. Former curator **Waldo Wedel** excavated the site in the early 1960s; Stanford continued excavations in the late 70's. Plans are to build an on-site museum with on-going archaeological/paleontological research and an education center. The Preserve, which has 501c3 status, is seeking an endowment to insure the project's success. Stanford is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve.

Dennis and **Pegi Jodry** both gave public presentations in the American Indian Heritage Lecture Series in the Baird Auditorium. **Dennis** spoke on “Ancient Peoples and Ancient Shorelines: New Discoveries in the Search for the Earliest North Americans” on November 30. **Pegi** presented the last talk of the series titled “Ancient People and Climate in the Colorado Rockies” on December 14. This lecture series was sponsored by NMNH and Archaeological Conservancy.

The December 2007 issue of *The Torch* featured **Dennis Stanford’s** paleoIndian research in the article “A simple stone tool helps bolster research into the origins of the earliest Americans” by Mara Jonas (p. 8).

ANTHROPOLOGY OUTREACH OFFICE

At the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, **Ann Kaupp** began her one-year term as president of the Society for Anthropology of Community Colleges, a section of the American Anthropological Association. One of her responsibilities is organizing the society’s annual meeting, which will take place in Washington, D.C., March 14-18, 2008.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

Project Archaeology held its first facilitator training workshop in the Department of Anthropology on February 8 and 9, 2008. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, the workshop was attended by twenty individuals representing several institutions including the Maryland Historical Trust, Montgomery College of Maryland, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Department, D.C. Public Schools, Versar, Inc., and Kansas State University. **Ann Kaupp**, **Abby McDermott**, **Kim Neutzling**, **Briana Pobiner**, and **Rebecca Simon**, from the Department of Anthropology, completed the training. National Project Archaeology director Jeanne Moe, and archaeologist Gwynn Henderson from the Kentucky Archaeological Survey conducted the two-day training. **Maureen Malloy**, coordinator for Project

Archaeology in the Chesapeake region, organized the workshop, with support and assistance from **Ann Kaupp**, **Zee Payne**, and **Deloris Walker**.

Project Archaeology is a comprehensive archaeology and heritage education program for everyone interested in learning or teaching about our nation’s rich cultural legacy and protecting it for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Using an innovative hands-on approach to history, Project Archaeology teaches scientific inquiry, citizenship, personal ethics and character, and cultural understanding. For more information about Project Archaeology contact Maureen Malloy at malloym@si.edu.



Participants engaged in education activities. Staff member Abby McDermott is seated in the bottom photo.

COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROGRAM

In the Media

On Dec. 1, a story about a “boy in the iron coffin” was published in *Eastern Shore News* (newspaper for the Eastern Shore area of Maryland, where several locals are White’s descendants.) The article was reprinted in the *Salisbury Daily Times* (MD) and the *Delmarva Daily Times* (MD). In December **Dave Hunt** and **Deborah Hull-Walski** gave two presentations highlighting the investigation and identification of William Taylor White (the boy in the DC iron coffin). These presentations were to family descendents and community members of Accomack and Northampton Counties as well as the genealogical society of the Virginia Eastern Shore. **Dave** and **Deborah** will be presenting this work at two upcoming professional meetings, the Mid Atlantic Archeological Conference at the end of February and to the Washington Academy of Sciences at the end of March.

“Inside the National Anthropological Archives: An Interview with **Robert Leopold**” appeared in *Anthropology News*, January 2008, pp. 32-33.

Committee Appointment

Robert Leopold has been invited to serve on the Committee for the Future of Print and Electronic Publishing, which advises the AAA’s Executive Board on publishing policy, funding, and future online directions.

Presentations

Eric Hollinger and **Greta Hansen** co-authored a paper titled ‘The Smithsonian Institution: Working Together to Mitigate Risks from Pesticide Contaminated Collections’ with Smithsonian colleagues Odile Madden and Paula DePriest from MCI and Jessica Johnson and Jae Anderson from NMAI. The paper was presented by Madden at the international seminar titled Cultural Heritage Between Conservation and Contamination - The Issue of Biocidal Products in Museum Collections and Monuments, held in Berlin, Germany, November 29-Dec. 1.

David Hunt participated in the January 30 Material Culture Forum on The Lost Material World of James Smithson. He spoke on “An Overview of 1873 Forensic Analysis of Smithson’s Remains.”

CAP is participating in the Latin American and Caribbean Collections Management Training Program. On March 3 ten students will be visiting MSC and receiving a tour directed by **Dave Hunt** of the collections at NHB. From March 18-20, Mercedes Delgado, an archaeologist with QALLTA, Centro de Investigacion para la Preservacion y Promocion del Patrimonio Cultural in Lima, Peru, will be working on collections management projects at MSC.

Forensic Work

Dave Hunt has been working closely with the DC Office of Chief Medical Examiners on the unfortunate case of the four children found dead in their apartment in Southeast Washington, DC. He also has been working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on the facial reconstructions of four victims of the Green River Serial Killer (from Washington State). These individuals are the last few of the 45+ adolescents and young adults who were killed by confessed murderer Gary L. Ridgway.

Publication

Robert Leopold wrote a review of *Homo Politicus: The Strange and Barbaric Tribes of the Beltway*, by Dana Milbank (NY: Doubleday, 2008), published in *Washington Post Book World*, Sunday, January 6.

Teaching

Dave Hunt and **Marilyn London** taught Advanced Skeletal Biology (Anth 149/249) for the university consortium in D.C. Students were from George Washington University, American University, and the University of Maryland.

Deb Hull-Walski is teaching a George Washington University Museum Studies Graduate Seminar with Lisa Palmer of the Fish Division. The class is Collections Management: Practical Applications.

Candace Greene is teaching the George Washington University course Anthropology in the Museum.

Collaboration with the Metropolitan Museum of Art
In November, **Dave Hunt** traveled to Egypt to work with colleagues of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to assess the skeletal series coming from the excavations of the mastabas of Dashur. These skeletons are of the same population group as the Lisht skeletal series that the department's Physical Division curates. Hunt and Met colleagues will analyze the Dashur series of approximately 600 skeletons and compare them with the Lisht skeletal series. A publication is planned on the Lisht and Dashur site excavations.



Tops of burial chambers at the queen's pyramids west of the main pyramid of Sesostris III, Dashur.



Excavation of late period intrusive burials in the west plaza of the Sesostris III pyramid, Dashur.

REPATRIATION OFFICE

Board membership

Dorothy Lippert has accepted an invitation to join the Editorial Board for *American Anthropologist*, the journal of the American Anthropological Association. Her term will extend through 2012.

Sitting Bull Repatriation

On December 5, 2007, the great-grandson of legendary Lakota leader Sitting Bull visited NMNH for the return of a lock of hair and leggings that belonged to his great grandfather. A U.S. Army surgeon had obtained the lock of hair and the leggings from Sitting Bull's body shortly after he was killed in 1890. A repatriation report written by **Bill Billeck** and former staff member **Betsy Bruemmer** had found Ernie LaPointe and his three sisters to be the closest living lineal descendants. Bill and repatriation staff member **Cheri Botic** coordinated the repatriation.

Ernie LaPointe traveled from South Dakota for the return of the objects, accompanied by his wife, Sonja LaPointe; Susan Small, curator for the Little Bighorn National Monument; and several others. Roland McCook of the Smithsonian's Repatriation Review Committee also attended the return.

While at the Smithsonian, the LaPointe's visited the anthropology collections at the Museum Support Center as well as the National Anthropological Archives, where they met with Jake Homiak. The Winchester rifle that Sitting Bull surrendered at Fort Buford, North Dakota, in 1881, was examined and photographed to assist in making a replica for display at the Little Bighorn National Monument. At the National Anthropological Archives, an 1870 and 1882 set of ledger drawers by Sitting Bull that record his deeds as a warrior were examined by the family members.

"I appreciate from my heart what the Smithsonian has done," said Mr. LaPointe. The Associated Press carried the news story, which was picked up by a number of media outlets.

On December 15, 2007, the anniversary of the death of Sitting Bull, a ceremony was held in South Dakota for the lock of hair and leggings. The ceremony was attended by Ernie LaPointe, as well as his sisters, Marlene Little Spotted Horse-Anderson and Ethel Little Spotted Horse-Bates. Among the invited guests were Bill Billeck and Roland McCook.



Ernie LaPointe, Bill Billeck, and Paul Risser at the official transfer of Sitting Bull's lock of hair and leggings to the lineal descendants. Photo by Chip Clark.



Sharon Small, Bill Billeck, Sonja LaPointe, Ernie LaPointe and Bill Madsen examining autobiographical ledger drawings by Sitting Bull in the National Anthropological Archives. Photo by Jake Homiak.



Ledger artwork by Sitting Bull.

Contributors: Joalyn Archambault, Bill Billeck, Ron Bishop, Kari Bruwelheide, Jennifer Clark, Paula Fleming, Candace Greene, Eric Hollinger, David Hunt, Adrienne Kaeppler, Igor Krupnik, Bob Laughlin, Robert Leopold, Stephen Loring, Maureen Malloy, Don Ortner, Linda Perry, Rick Potts, Daniel Rogers, Abelardo Sandoval, Joanna Cohan Scherer, Gregory Shook, Vicki Simon, Bruce Smith, Dennis Stanford, Paul Taylor, Christian Tryon, Doug Ubelaker, Jane Walsh, Melinda Zeder.

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