SUMMER INSTITUTE IN MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY IN ITS THIRD YEAR

The Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology hosted 12 graduate students for an intense four-week training program focused on the use of collections in research. SIMA offers a unique combination of classroom instruction and individual research projects, utilizing our collections as a field site. This year’s students came from 10 universities and reflected the interdisciplinarity of the field today, with cross-fertilization of methods and ideas centered around objects.

SIMA, supported by a grant from the Cultural Anthropology Program of the National Science Foundation, is directed by Candace Greene in collaboration with Joshua Bell and Gwyneira Isaac and with the assistance of Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe. All taught lessons, while CAP staff guided students through object research and the intricacies of archives, new research modes for most. Collections interns from George Washington University and archives interns from three universities provided support while learning about working with researchers and collections practices. Mary Jo Arnoldi took a morning off from Chairman duties to offer a wonderful hands-on seminar looking at Kenyan baskets. In addition to NMNH resources, students connected with scholars and used collections at NMAI and NMAfA for particular projects. The students also engaged with CFCH, spending a day at the Folklife Festival interviewing and observing the craftspeople to gain insights on what objects mean to people.

The SIMA curriculum included training in research methodologies and design, historical overviews of disciplinary practice, creation and use of museum records, ethnographic perspectives, and issues in contemporary material culture and museum studies. Visiting faculty Nancy Parezo (Arizona), Aaron Glass (Bard Graduate Center), and Howard Morphy (Australian National University) brought additional perspectives and gave Mary Jo Arnoldi leads SIMA students in a seminar activity centered around Kenyan baskets. Photo courtesy Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe.

[Note: The Chair’s Column will resume in the fall issue.]
NAA interns helped to introduce SIMA students and other researchers to the archive’s holdings. Photo courtesy Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe.

Carrie Beuchamp supervises while Christopher Richards (U Florida) photographs an Ewe Adanuvo cloth. Photo courtesy Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe.

Sample research projects from SIMA 2011 included:

- **Denise Green** (U British Columbia) considered the effect of economic changes in the late 19th century, especially wage labor, on Nuu-chah-nulth ceremonial life, as revealed through the biography of a cedar bark cape.

- **Robert Kett** (UC Irvine) examined the disciplinary epistemologies that shaped early Olmec archaeological excavations and produced both scientific objects and understandings of southern Mexico.

- **Lucero Radonic** (U Arizona) used Yaqui collections to explore the role of Mexican and US museum anthropology in the transformation of the Yaqui deer dance from banned ritual to enregistered emblem in Mexico’s popular imagination.

Candace Greene has received notice that SIMA has been recommended for an additional 3 years of funding from NSF.

students the opportunity to work with other leading figures in object research. Lessons ranged from note-taking strategies and visual documentation to recognizing meanings inscribed in objects and how objects both shape and are shaped by social processes.
IN THE MEDIA

In July Doug Ubelaker was interviewed extensively on the topic of forensic anthropology for the first program of the Smithsonian Channel’s new series, “Forensic Firsts.” The six episode series tells the story of Forensic Anthropology and its development over time into the science that it is today. Filming also took place in the CT scanning lab with Janine Hinton. Press Officer Kelly Carnes helped with the arrangements.

David Hunt was quoted in the article “Cold Comfort, CT Scans help a forensics expert put a face on skulls from unsolved cases,” by Rachel Saslow, published in the Health & Science section of The Washington Post (pp. E1 and E4), July 12, 2011.

Bruce Smith was interviewed on the NPR cooking show “Splendid Table” about the early history of corn. The interview aired on July 30 http://splendidtable.publicradio.org/listings/110730/

Dennis Stanford has been quoted in online publications, including www.guardian.co.uk and www.sciencedaily.com, relating to a bone fragment approximately 13,000 years old found in Vero Beach, Florida, that has an incised image of a mammoth or mastodon. This is the oldest and only example of an image of a proboscidean found in the Americas. Dennis is co-author of an article on this finding published in the online Journal of Archaeological Science. The SI Newsdesk website features the find in the article “Scientists Reveal a First in Ice Age Art” http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/scientists-reveal-first-ice-age-art

Dennis Stanford is quoted in the article “Mathews man dredged up ‘oldest formal artifact found in the Americas’” by Elsa Cooke Verbyla, published in the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal (August 10, 2011, p 1 and 13A) Also published online at http://www.gazettejournal.net/index.php/news/news_article/mathews_man_dredged_up_oldest_formal_artifact_found_in_the_americas/

Adrienne Kaepple is featured on YouTube, showing anthropological collections from the U.S. Exploring Expedition located at MSC. The program is American History TV’s “American Artifact Preview: 1838-1842 Exploring Expedition.” C-SPAN filmed Adrienne in February. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AelkmYQcn8
The first video of the series: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y27TPtX8D-w&feature=relmfu
Go to C-SPAN video library for complete interview http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/SExpl

As part of the 100 Year Anniversary of the NMNH, a new webpage titled “Explore Our Collections; Moai or Easter Island Stone Figure” discusses the Easter Island research of Adrienne Kaepple and Douglas Owsley http://www.mnh.si.edu/onehundredears/featured_objects/easter_island_stone_figure.html

Briana Pobiner was quoted in the online article “Finding showing human ancestor older than previously thought offers new insights into evolution” (June 29) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-06/nyufsh062811.php.


Discover Magazine’s special issue titled “Evolution - Rethinking the Story of Life,” found on the newsstands in Nairobi, Africa, contains an interview with Rick Potts titled, “How We Won the Hominid Wars” (page 56) by Jill Neimark. Rick is also quoted in the article “Homo Sapiens, Meet Your New Astounding Family” by Jill Neimark, originally published in the May 2011 issue of Discover and published online on July 28, 2011.
The exhibition catalog *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska* received a great review in the Spring/Fall 2011 issue of *Museum Anthropology Review* by Aldona Jonaitis, former director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North. She described it as “one of the finest recent publications on Native American art and culture. It is gorgeous, interesting, educational, and a model for how established major museums can work successfully with originating communities to create an exhibition and a catalog that replaces the troubled history of museums and Native people with a celebration of collaboration and cultural vitality.”

“Smithsonian Exhibit Honored,” an article about the *Living Our Cultures* exhibition, appeared in the *Anchorage Daily News* on 07-17-2011. The exhibition was also featured in “$100-Million Makeover” that appeared in the June 2011 issue of *Alaska Magazine*.


**PUBLICATIONS**


A fragmented fossil bone incised with the figure of a proboscidean was recently found at Vero Beach, Florida, near the location where Late Pleistocene fauna and human bones were recovered from 1913–1916. This engraving may represent the oldest and only existing example of Terminal Pleistocene art depicting a proboscidean in the Americas. Forensic analysis suggests the markings on the bone are not recent.


**Taylor, Paul Michael,** Christopher Polglase, Najaf Museyibli, **Jared Koller,** and **Troy Johnson.** 2011. *Past and future heritage in the pipelines corridor: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey = Kulturuli
memkvidreobis zeglebi milsadenebis derep’ansi, carsuli da momavali: Azerbaijani, Sak’art’velo, T’urk’eti. (English/Georgian edition)
Past and future heritage in the pipelines corridor: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey = Boru kämärärga dähлизинäh keçmis và gäläcäk irs: Azärbaycan, Gürcüstan, Türkiyä. (English and Azerbaijani edition.)


For two weeks in June, approximately sixty language researchers visited the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) as part of the Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages. Breath of Life is an event that pairs Native American language learners with linguists to work together during lectures, grammar workshops, and visits to archives and material cultural collections.

Developed by the Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival, the Breath of Life Archival Institute has been training language researchers since 1992. This was the first time that Breath of Life met outside of California. Washington DC was selected as a venue because of the incredible wealth of language materials available here, principally in the NAA. Participants represented over 20 different languages and tribes, including Chumash, Mojave, Shawnee, and Muskogee.

The NAA collections offered participants the opportunity to see manuscripts and photographs that they didn’t know existed and were particularly meaningful both personally and for language revitalization projects. For many participants, this was the first time they had worked in archives. Collections consulted included the vast linguistic research of John Peabody Harrington, Albert Gatschet, Truman Michelson, and other BAE researchers.

Hosting this major project required wide departmental involvement with full commitment from staff across the Collections and Archives Program. Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe, Daisy Njoku, and Leanda Gahegan served as a core logistical team, set up by Candace Greene, Acting Director of the NAA. Stephanie Christensen digitized more than 1,300 pages of language material carefully selected for individual participants by Curator of Linguistics Gabriela Perez-Baez. During the
institute this broader team provided individualized instructional sessions and orientation presentations. The unprecedented size of the researcher group (up to 50 researchers a day) required the NAA to set up two satellite reading rooms at the Museum Support Center to handle the sixty participants, managed by NAA staff with assistance from four interns.

Participants were excited to tour the ethnology object collections through a series of tours led by Joshua Bell, Gwyneira Isaac, Bill Merrill, Stephen Loring, and Jake Homiak. David Rosenthal and Felicia Pickering accommodated return visits with help from interns. Several participants connected most strongly with the object collections, explaining to us the critical connections among language, cultural practices, and natural resources.

**DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY**

Gabriela Pérez Báez presented a talk titled “Alternativas para la Documentación Lingüística” on July 7 at the Centro de Estudios y Desarrollo de las Lenguas Indígenas de Oaxaca (Center for the Study and Development of the Indigenous Languages of Oaxaca) in San Jerónimo Tlacochahuaya, Tlacolula, Oaxaca. This presentation was part of the curriculum of a certificate program in language documentation attended by some 30 bilingual education teachers from Chatino, Chinantec, Mixtec, Triqui, and Zapotec communities.

Joshua Bell participated in two sessions of the ‘Valuing the Land’ segment of “Shout,” Smithsonian Educations Online Conference series on July 13th. In the first session, Community Narratives: Citizens Recording History, Joshua, with James I. Deutsch (CFCH) and Alex Griswold (SAO) discussed the value and methods of recording oral histories. They particularly focused on why people should speak to people about oral histories of forests. This was followed by a second session, Stories of the Forest: Human Impacts of Deforestation, in which Joshua discussed aspects of his work in the Purari Delta of New Guinea, researching the social impacts of logging. [http://www.smithsonianconference.org/shout/conference-value/](http://www.smithsonianconference.org/shout/conference-value/)

JoAllyn Archambault won a Youth Access Planning Grant for a project at Acoma Pueblo. The Acoma Haak’u Museum hopes to investigate the possibility of an implementation grant for teaching science to K-12 grades in three schools that serve Acoma youth on the reservation. The science curriculum already exists in age appropriate packages for classroom and on-line presentation through the Smithsonian’s SCEMS and NSRC programs. The planning grant will allow JoAllyn and a SCEMS staff person to travel to New Mexico to meet with the appropriate educators.

Mary Jo Arnoldi participated in a Smithsonian Resident Associates program titled “Looks Aren’t Everything,” on August 11. Participants viewed the RACE exhibit while having the opportunity to interact with

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**by Leanda Gahegan and Candace Greene**

![Candace Greene talking to a participant during the Breath of Life orientation at the NAA. Photo courtesy Stephanie Christensen.](image)
Mary Jo Arnoldi (exhibit curator), Alcione Amos (Anacostia Community Museum), Gabrielle Tayac (NMAI), Konrag Nag (Asian Pacific American Program), and Pawan Dhingra (Asian Pacific American Program).

Adrienne Kaeppler attended the events associated with the biennial conference of the International Council for Traditional Music in St. John’s, Newfoundland, from July 11 to 20. As president, Adrienne conducted three days of board meetings. Adrienne also conducted the opening ceremony, the general assembly, and the closing ceremony, and chaired two sessions. Approximately 500 participants from 57 countries attended. The next meeting will be held in Shanghai, China, in 2013.

Adrienne Kaeppler travelled to Hawaii and then Tonga for four weeks of fieldwork, focusing on research and materials for the Barkcloth Conservation Project currently underway at the museum. While in Hawaii Adrienne selected two community scholars who will be working on the project as interns for ten weeks in the beginning of 2012. Working with Greta Hansen on this project are Michele Austin-Dennehy, Natalie Firnhaber (former staff member), Lynne Gilliland (retired paper conservator from NMAH), Martha Smith (retired paper conservator from Freer/Sackler), and Pat Henkle, volunteer.

Alan Bain organized the all-day symposium titled United States and World Fairs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Pacific Division, held at the University of San Diego, June 15. The Smithsonian speakers included Lars Krutak and Patricia Afable. Lars Krutak presented a paper titled “Living ‘Cliff Dwellers’ at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition: An Enduring Metaphor of a Twenty-First Century Indigenous People,” focusing on aspects of his Ph.D. research amongst the Rarámuri (Tarahumara) of Northwest Mexico. Research Associate Patricia Afable gave a talk on “Documenting the New colony through the Objects: The Smithsonian’s Philippine Collections from the early 20th century International Fairs.” She also was co-author with Deana Weibel of a paper titled “Performers, Interpreters, and the Showman Onstage and Offstage at the Pay Streak’s ‘Igorrote Village’.”

Kayan woman of Uma Bawang longhouse, Sungai Asap, Sarawak, displaying medicinal joint tattooing. Photograph courtesy Lars Krutak, January 2011.

Lars Krutak attended the 7th World Congress on Mummy Studies at the University of San Diego (June 12-16). He gave an invited paper titled “Marking with Needles and Lancets: The Antiquity of Therapeutic Tattooing,” which explored the history of medicinal tattoo praxis through paleopathological and ethnographic evidence, including recent field studies (2011) amongst the Kayan of Sarawak (Malaysian Borneo), who practice a form of tattoo-acupuncture for various joint injuries.

Lars Krutak presented a lecture titled “Magical Tattoo” at the Sacred Gallery in Manhattan’s SoHo district on July 30th. This presentation focused on the religious beliefs associated with indigenous tattooing practices; beliefs that ultimately inspired the creation of these enduring symbols.

Lars also participated in a Smithsonian Residents Associate program titled “Skin Deep: The History and Art of Indigenous Tattooing” on July 27. He retraced the history and spirituality of tribal tattooing practices worldwide. Video clips from Lars’ documentaries about tattoos supplemented the presentation.
Tongan Basket Maker Visits the Collections

Tongan basket maker Mele Vaikeli and Peace Corps volunteer Elena Noyes visited the Tongan collections at the Museum Support Center on July 5th with Adrienne Kaeppler and Joshua Bell. Mele is a retired schoolteacher and a member of the Women’s cooperative Langa Fonua, which was founded by Queen Salote Tupou III in the 1960s. Mele and Elena were brought from Tonga to participate in the Peace Corps Program segment of the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. During the festival Mele gave demonstrations of plaiting mats and other subjects.

Mele was particularly pleased to see and examine the kato mosi kaka basket collected during the US Exploring Expedition in 1840. Mele had never seen this basket type before; its fabrication had ceased in the mid-19th century. Although many basket types are still made in Tonga and new ones are produced quite regularly, this type is especially difficult to make. Its materials come from the cloth-like filament that is found near the top of coconut palms, called kaka. This material is separated into threads or strands and twined into flatish baskets. The strands are used in their natural color as well as dyed black to form designs, usually of triangular shape, that form motifs called manulua - two birds flying together. The triangles are outlined with beads made of white shell and a brown substance that has not been identified. The manulua design is a metaphor that relates to high genealogical rank on both sides of an individual’s parentage.

The kato mosi kaka baskets were used by high ranking women to carry personal items. Having the opportunity to see one of these rare baskets and to learn how it was made, Mele is going to attempt to make one of these baskets herself. Adrienne will be visiting Tonga in September and will have the opportunity to see Mele’s progress and see how the “voice” of the basket is being recovered. Adrienne wrote about this basket type in her book The Pacific Art of Polynesia and Micronesia, where she described Polynesian baskets as “containers of metaphors.” She continues to collect baskets for the Smithsonian collections. At the end of the Folklife Festival, Mele gave her remaining raw materials to the anthropology collection, as well as some of the objects that she made. Josh collected the information that goes with the materials and objects and will be used in the catalog documentation.

by Adrienne Kaeppler

Dena’ina Language Films

Dena’ina Language films, produced by Michael Desautels, a documentary films intern, are a major initiative of the Alaska Office of the Arctic Studies Center under the NMNH Recovering Voices Program. See page 19 for more details.
**DIVISION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Written in Bone Exhibit the Focus of Iraqi Visit*

Five members of the Iraq Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH) Board of Directors (museum directors, archaeologists, and academics), Jessie Johnson (academic director of the IICAH and former SI employee), and three members of the Advisory Council for the Institute were accompanied by four representatives from Winterthur and the Department of State for a visit to NMNH on July 21.

The purpose of the visit was to learn about the concept of exhibit development, including establishing a particular exhibit theme; the curator’s perspective in developing a story line; the role of conservation; and the creation of an educational component.

The *Written in Bone* exhibit was the focus of this learning experience. Visitors received a tour of the exhibit and forensic lab and a tour of Doug Owsley’s physical anthropology lab, where they discussed what can be learned from the human skeleton. They also engaged in a discussion about museum practices.

NMNH staff who participated in the Iraqi visit were **Doug Owsley, Kari Bruwelheide**, and **Vicki Simon** of the Anthropology Department, Catharine Hawks (NMNH conservator). Siobhan Starrs (exhibits), and Gale Robertson (Education).

The Iraq Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH), located in Erbil, the largest city in the Kurdish Region, is training Iraq’s museum and heritage professionals in the preservation and conservation of their national treasures, including archaeological sites like Babylon. The IICAH is a collaboration between the US Embassy Baghdad, the U.S. Department of State, Winterthur Museum, the University of Delaware, and the Walters Art Museum and was established in 2008. The student body includes men and women, Arabs and Kurds, Muslims and Christians, Sunni and Shia from several cities and museums across Iraq.

**Doug Ubelaker** presented an invited keynote lecture “Technological Applications in Forensic Anthropology” at the Nano Technology Conference in Brooklyn, New York on August 29.

**Dave Hunt** gave a lecture to 60 of the 2011 Siemens STEM Institute fellows on Aug 2nd. These fellows are chosen as exceptional secondary and middle school educators and have a summer of professional development through Siemens Foundation and Discovery Education Institute. The fellows were given a briefing on the non-invasive research that the Siemens CT scanner in the Anthropology Department provides to the Smithsonian Institution; in particular, the departments of the National Museum of Natural History and the Anthropology Department.

**Kristen Pearlstein, Marilyn London, and Rhonda Coolidge** served as instructors for the National Museum of Health and Medicine’s 24th Annual Forensic Anthropology Course in Baltimore, July 11-15. (This course was formerly known as the AFIP’s Annual Forensic Anthropology Course).

**Marilyn London** taught a three-week intensive course at the University of Maryland in July. The course, Introduction to Forensic Sciences, was offered through the Young Scholars Program, which brings in high school students from around the country. **Marilyn** also taught Human Skeletal Anatomy, a six-week course, at the University of Maryland this summer.
Repeat of Past Surveys Reveals Stunning Results for Mongolian Burial Mound Project

by Bruno Frohlich

I was in Mongolia from May 23 to June 20, resuming research on 3,000 year-old burial mounds, a project begun in 2003. In the northern Aimag Province of Hovsgol, human mummified remains have been found in caves in the Gobi Desert and the Altai Mountain Range. Forensic case work conducted by me and colleagues over the years has revealed that the remains belong to Buddhist monks who were executed between ca. 1930 and 1950 by the Mongolian Stalinist regime.

This field season, our international team focused on verifying our survey data collected since 2003. Recent field seasons have brought to light inaccuracies in the original surveys, which underrepresented the number of burial mounds that exist. With the accumulation of experience and the application of high resolution satellite images, the team repeated past surveys and the results were stunning!

In some areas we found up to twice as many mounds as recorded earlier, and in more remote areas, mounds were observed for the first time. These satellite images will enable us to obtain highly accurate estimates of mounds in geographical areas that we had neither the time nor opportunity to observe directly. The application of remote sensing also proves valuable in studies related to land use patterns, such as planning for mining, construction, and other destructive procedures that may require “rescue archaeology.” With mining, for example, reaching enormous proportions in Mongolia, especially in the Gobi Desert and the eastern part of the country, recording the location of burial mounds is of significant historical importance.

The Mongolia burial mound project is multidisciplinary and includes many collaborators from all over the world. These include, among others, academics, researchers, and students from the University of Auckland, New Zealand (human osteology, archaeology), Yale University (archaeology), Mongolian Academy of Sciences (archaeology, anthropology, and history), University of Zurich, Switzerland (ancient DNA), Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian institution (stable isotopes), Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian branch (archaeology), and the Smithsonian’s Anthropology Department (archaeology).
The Mongolian burial mounds project will continue over the next few years and result in the production of several publications, including one or more books, both in the Mongolian and English languages that will add to our understanding of this time period in Mongolian and Russian history.

The research in Mongolia is possible through the sponsorship of the Smithsonian Institution, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, National Geographic Society (Exploration Council and Waitt Foundation), National

**Adventures in Mongolia: A Brief Survey**

by Kristen Pearlstein

Mongolia is beautiful and spacious; a place where you can breathe… most of the time. I was there for five weeks early this summer as an assistant to Bruno Frohlich and the other researchers involved in the Mongolian burial mound project. The vastness of the landscape tends to capture people’s imagination and I am often asked what was it like? This question is difficult to answer. Short sentences do not capture the brilliant blue of the sky as it stretches across the horizon without the interruption of trees or buildings. Nor do they capture the compulsive need to scramble up one more mountain or slide down one more ravine in search of hidden burial mounds.

Finding these mounds is like staring at an autostereogram and waiting for the 3D image to pop out at you. On a mountain covered in piles of rocks, we need to find the specific piles that designate Khirigsuurs. At first, nothing stands out but the jumbled chaos of the raw material. And then… an upright stone catches the eye, followed by another, and another, and another; the four corners of a square burial. A few minutes later the circular mounds seem obvious, clearly defined by their near perfect shape. For two weeks, this was our routine; we scrambled up hills, over boulders, and across fields to record the center of each Khirigsuur.

There were setbacks, of course. There was the pesky deflating tire. There was the torrential downpour that cut short our camping excursion to the ice covered Lake Khovsgol. There was the stripping of second gear that made crossing the rugged landscape impossible and stranded us in Moron. There was Bruno’s insistence that sardines are good for me. But these issues merely served as reminders that field work is always unpredictable.

I always regret leaving the field; after weeks of being outside beneath that silent stretch of sky, the city of Ulan Bator feels like a circus. There are no discernable traffic laws and everyone is on their horn. Crossing the street is nearly impossible without the human shield of a larger group. It is dusty. However, restaurants range from French, Thai and Korean to more traditional Mongolian fare (mutton) and the grocery stores carry peanut butter. I spend a lot of my time in the capital thinking about food. These last three weeks were spent primarily in the basement of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in a small, dark room with only one high window. Our task was to record metric and non-metric traits in skeletal remains from previous seasons of excavation. My companion was a lynx mummy with a questionable smell. Even there, in the musty dark, I was focused and happy, knowing that my work was contributing to the larger multidisciplinary team.
**PROGRAM IN HUMAN ECOLOGY AND ARCHAEOBIOLOGY**

Torben Rick was awarded a National Geographic Society Research and Exploration Grant in the amount of $19,860. He is co-PI with Anson Hines on the project titled Native Americans, Archaeology, and Ecological Ghosts of Chesapeake Bay.

**ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER**

**Field Season Researching Ritual Landscapes in Western Mongolia**

*by Bill Fitzhugh*

I along with Dan Cole (NMNH Information Technology Office) and Richard Kortum (East Tennessee State University) completed a six-week field program, “Rock Art and Archaeology: Investigating Ritual Landscapes in the Altai Mountain region of Western Mongolia.” Sponsored by NEH, the SI, and the National Museum of Mongolia, the project is centered on a huge rock art complex in the Khotan Lake region. A field party of 25, including Mongolian, American, and British scientists and students, collected data on thousands of rock art images and scores of archaeological sites from the Paleolithic period to modern times. A central goal is to gather chronological and cultural information on the historical and archaeological context of Biluut, one of the largest rock art complexes in Central Asia. This summer’s field studies made important progress in this direction, including uncovering archaeological finds and art from the Pazyryk (Scythian/Saka) culture, dating ca. 2500 B.P.

*Excavation of a late Bronze Age khirigsuur at Khotan Nuur. Photo courtesy W. Fitzhugh.*

*Research team examines rock art at the Biluut complex, Khotan Nuur. Photo courtesy W. Fitzhugh.*

*Bovid engraving at the Aral Tolgoi art complex, Khotan Nuur. Watercolor by Theresa Markiw.*
Field Season Confirms an Inuit and Basque Partnership in the 17th Century

by Bill Fitzhugh

In late July and August, our team continued excavations at the Hare Harbor Basque and Inuit site on Petit Mecatina in the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence. Lauren Marr and Janine Hinton of the Department joined us along with excavators and underwater archaeologists from the University of Montreal. Land operations included excavation of a fourth Inuit dwelling whose walls, surprisingly, were constructed of rocks embedded in charcoal. Hearths for charcoal production and an Inuit midden also were excavated. Underwater finds included Basque ceramics, ship parts, barrels, shoes, grass mats, and a large sample of archaeofauna, mostly codfish.

This summer’s project conclusively established that the Inuit were integral partners with the Basque/European whaling and codfishing operation, dating to ca. 1680-1730. This was the heyday of the Inuit expansion south of Labrador into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a move that coincided with the onset of the Little Ice Age and the expansion of Arctic marine fauna south into the Gulf. The presence of Europeans and access to iron and trade goods provided further incentive for settling in an area traditionally occupied by Innu (Indians). Evidence of this previously unknown southern Inuit migration was reinforced by our discovery of three other Inuit villages in the northeastern Gulf. An added treat to an exciting expedition was a chance encounter at Harrington Harbor with Walter Adey and his team of diver-biologists on board Walter’s boat Alcai I. This was probably the first (and last) time two Smithsonian research vessels will ever be found at the same time in one place north of Chesapeake Bay!
We began our excursion to participate in Bill Fitzhugh’s archaeological Gateways Project in the Quebec Lower North Shore with a flight to Portland, Maine. There, we met Wilfred Richard, our expedition photographer, Portland resident, and our ride north. We loaded our things into his recently-purchased car and began our excursion. Our radio stations changed from NPR to CBC within a few hours as we drove north to North Sydney, Nova Scotia, where we boarded an all-night ferry bound for Port-aux-Basque, Newfoundland. Once in Newfoundland, we traveled another three days to arrive at our archaeological site at Hare Harbor, Quebec, on board the ASC’s research boat, *Pitsulak*.

The sleeping arrangements on the *Pits* were cozy! We slept in cubbies located in the kitchen (galley) above the dining table. With the lulling rocking of the boat, we never slept better. We ate most of our meals on the boat. The cuisine was quite good, mainly as a result of two of our crew who brought along bottles of wine and even their own yeast for making bread — we knew we were in good hands. We learned to love Red River hot cereal, which has a crunchy, seed-like texture — best compared to boiled birdseed. When rations were low, we even learned to like hardbread, which definitely lived up to its name. For a Newfie dish called Fish and Brews, the hardbread is soaked in water over-night to soften. We even came to appreciate the healing qualities of hardbread as it helped ease nausea caused by motion sickness.

When we weren’t working, we were able to visit the closest town, Harrington Harbor, a small and cozy place that has no roads because the terrain is too rocky. Bill’s friends in Harrington Harbor were nice enough to let us take showers and wash clothes, which only happened once a week. During the visit to the local community museum we were happy to find Will and Bill’s poster about the ten-year Gateway Project at our site. During our days off we also took the time to pick bake apples—a kind of swamp berry.

On our way home, we stopped at the only verified Viking site in North America, L’Anse aux Meadows. As we entered the site, Bill went over important details missed in the informational film, most notably provenance of the few artifacts found. After looking at the archaeological site, we went to the reconstructed site and visited with its bearded re-enactors. As we looked at the blacksmith shop, Lauren was selected to “make” her own nail, which involved controlling the bellows—a tough and warm job! Next, we took the liberty of dressing up like Vikings and battling it out — a ritual we are thinking of using when any disagreements arise at the Arctic Studies Center.

A common question asked to outsiders in Newfoundland, is “have you been screeched in?” The ritual is
used mostly to embarrass out-of-towners, which, once completed, makes the *screeched* an honorary Newfoundlander. Lauren and Janine took the challenge. To start to feel like a Newfoundlander, you must dress like a Newfoundlander, which means Janine was adorned with ever-so-flattering waders and Lauren wore a rain hat. Once in Newfie garb, we had to eat a piece of Newfie steak (fried bologna), a capelin (a sardine-like fish), and a small piece of Lassie bread. Some did not have the stomach to become an honorary Newfie, but Janine and Lauren found the strength to hold down the capelin. After eating like a Newfie, we had to repeat a number of tongue twisters which we won’t repeat, to, uh, keep the ceremony secretive. The best part (for the observer) and worst part (for Janine and Lauren) was kissing a cod fish. But be warned, you can’t just go up to any codfish and kiss it; no, you have to woo it, otherwise it would just be wrong. Janine choose to say, “How are you doing, handsome?” a line sure to get a kiss from any codfish. The last step in becoming a Newfie was drinking a shot of screech (foul-tasting rum), which, after a codfish kiss, goes down easy. As full-fledged officially unofficial Newfies, we are wiser and our stomachs are stronger.
International Congress of Arctic Social Studies

On June 22-26, Igor Krupnik participated in the 7th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VII) in Akureyri, Iceland. The ICASS congresses are regular 3-year events organized by the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA). They create a major forum for polar social scientists from various fields – anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, social studies, economics, and political sciences – to overview the status of the social science research in the circumpolar areas. ICASS VII attracted some 450 participants from over 25 nations, including large contingents of your researchers, indigenous educators and cultural activists, students, and guests. The official theme of this Congress was “Circumpolar Perspectives in Global Dialogue: Social Sciences beyond the International Polar Year” (IPY 2007-2008).

At the congress, Igor chaired a full-day session dedicated to the late Ernest S. Burch, Jr., the long-term Smithsonian Research Associate and one of the leading northern ethnologists. He also delivered a keynote presentation, “What Did We Learn in IPY and Who Learned It?” and chaired a plenary roundtable, “Arctic Social Sciences Beyond IPY.” The latter was a major discussion on the forthcoming ‘big initiatives’ and the future of polar social sciences in the first decade following the IPY.

International Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change

Igor Krupnik took part in a three-day workshop titled Indigenous Peoples, Marginalized Populations and Climate Change: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Traditional Knowledge in Mexico City, July 19-21. The workshop, attended by 70 international participants, was organized jointly by UNESCO, the United Nations University, Mexican National Institute of Ecology, and the United Nations Development Program. Igor was invited to present an opening plenary paper on Indigenous Knowledge and climate change and to serve as the co-chair of the workshop, together with Minnie Degawan, an indigenous Kankanaey-Igorot activist from the Philippines. The workshop was organized as a part of the preparation of the 5th Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), due in 2014.

The workshop’s main outcome will be an extended technical report for the Working Group 2 of the IPCC team that is preparing a special volume on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. The Report will summarize the current data on indigenous peoples’ response to climate change from Asia, Africa, South America, the Arctic and the Pacific Region.

On another note, APECS (Association of the Polar Early Career Scientists) requested the use of one of Igor’s 2010 abstracts as a ‘template’ for young polar scientists preparing papers for international conferences http://apecs.is/conference-tips/abstracts
ASC-ALASKA

Friends of the Smithsonian in Anchorage

Laura Brouse-Long, Director of the James Smithson Society and Friends of the Smithsonian (Contributing Membership), visited the Alaska office in August to host a reception for Friends of the Smithsonian in Anchorage. The evening’s events in the Living Our Cultures exhibition included a reception, lecture on Tlingit weaving and basket making with artists Teri Rofkar and Shelly Laws, and a viewing of the Living Our Cultures exhibition.

YouTube Films for Living Our Cultures Exhibition

On the NMNH YouTube page, there is a new “playlist” of films for the Living Our Cultures exhibition that offers short films based on public programs at ASC in Anchorage. Three films are currently posted with eight more to come over the next few months. http://www.youtube.com/user/smithsonianNMNH#p/c/33278BF298794573 These films will represent four series of public programs: language workshops, cultural heritage workshops, Smithsonian Spotlight talks, and community-based archaeology. Three of the films will represent the collaborative research behind the exhibition.

Presentations

Dawn Biddison presented the paper “Sharing Our Heritage: Smithsonian Collections and Indigenous Community Collaboration in Alaska” in the session Exhibit Design and Indigenous Self-Representation at the June conference Indigenous People and Museums: Unraveling the Tensions, which was an Inter-Congress of the World Archaeological Congress held at the Eiteljorg Museum and IUPUI in Indianapolis.

Aron Crowell presented the paper “Indigenous Language Learning and Documentation in the Bering Strait Region” at the 2011 Beringia Days Conference in Nome, Alaska, held by the National Park Service’s Shared Beringia Heritage Program in September.

Spotlight Presentations

At the Living Our Cultures exhibition, Aron Crowell gave tours once a month for the general public and the ASC hosted three Smithsonian Spotlight presentations. In June, Unangax̂ (Aleut) artist and educator Ethan Petticrew gave a talk on the history and cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples of the Aleutian Islands. In July, Unangax̂ (Aleut) artist and educator Patty Lekanoff-Gregory, joined by her daughter Delores, gave a talk on the history and technique of making traditional bentwood hats, which she learned from the late Andrew Gronholdt. Visitors joined Patty to examine a hunting hat accessioned in 1925 by the National Museum of the American Indian. A short film based on the

Unangax̂ (Aleut) artist Patty Lekanoff-Gregory displays a bentwood visor that she made. Photo courtesy Roy Corral.

Tlingit artists Teri Rofkar and Shelly Laws wearing ceremonial robes that they made. Photo courtesy Chris Arend.
event will be posted to the NMNH YouTube page next month. In August, Tlingit artists Teri Rofkar and Shelly Laws gave a talk on weaving regalia and basketry. For this event, five items were taken out of the exhibit cases for study: a pair of Chilkat leggings from NMNH and from NMAI a woven clan hat, a weaver’s tool kit, a basket, and a small weaving in progress. Visit http://www.youtube.com/user/smithsonianNMNH to view a short film about the event.

Documentary Films for Recovering Voices

Michael Desautels, a summer documentary films intern, worked with ASC staff and Smithsonian Spotlight speakers to create six short films. Four of his films are based on the Dená’ina language workshop, the first in a series that represents one of the ASC’s major initiatives under the NMNH Recovering Voices program. The first of these films, “Sharing the Dená’ina Language” is a general overview of the project. http://www.youtube.com/user/smithsonianNMNH#p/c/1/vvYlpcpN4ZE8

The three other films, which will be posted to the Dená’ina Language Institute’s site, are language learning films based on objects from the Smithsonian collections: snowshoes, a dog pack and a fire bag. The films also present information about each object provided by community members, with archival images and film footage. Michael’s other two films are based on the Smithsonian Spotlight presentations described on page 18.

Other ASC Interns and Fellows

Olaug Irene Rosvik Andreassen finished the Anchorage segment of her six-month Smithsonian Museum Practice Fellowship in June and moved on to the ASC office at the National Museum of Natural History. Her research has been on how the Smithsonian collaborates with source communities and the collection digitization processes. In Anchorage she studied the Living Our Cultures exhibition project, and in D.C. she is looking at the planning for the Recovering Voices program. For more information on her project, email Olaug at andreassenO@si.edu.

Kaare Erickson continued his spring internship into the summer, before heading north for a field season at the Cape Espenberg Archaeology Project located outside of Shishmaref, where his grandmother was born and raised in a sod house. He is an MA student in Anthropology at the University of Alaska Anchorage; his position is funded by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. During the summer, Kaare worked on cataloging the library of over 2000 volumes donated to ASC by Ernest “Tiger” Burch.

Heather McClain also continued her spring internship into the summer, before heading off to graduate studies at the University of Denver on a full scholarship. During the summer, she continued creating content for the Sharing Knowledge website and Living Our Cultures gallery interactives. She worked with Dená’ina historian Aaron Leggett to create a podcast for the gallery that will be posted to the NMNH podcasts page by the end of September. Heather also acted as second camera for public programs film work with documentary films intern Michael Desautels.
Paleoarchaeology Field Season in Kenya

Briana Pobiner spent over two months in Kenya, this summer involved in two different research projects. Under the direction of Rick Potts, she continued her examination of 990,000-year-old animal fossils from Olorgesailie at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi, looking for traces of human butchery and other taphonomic activity. For her other project she traveled to Laikipia, Kenya, to conduct research on modern animal bones at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Here she is studying the relationship between the living animal community and the “bone” community, tracing long-term changes in the animal community and predator pressure using modern bones. This project is receiving funding support from the NMNH Restricted Endowment. She was joined at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy by her research collaborator, Kris Kovarovic from Durham University (UK), who is a former Human Origins Program post-doctoral fellow.

Popular Archaeology gives Major Coverage to HOP Research in Kenya


The managing editor of Popular Archaeology Magazine, Dan McLerran, communicated to HOP the following: “I am very impressed with the Olorgesailie Field Blog, and have been following it on a daily basis. Much of the information for the news piece is based on the rich narrative in the dispatches. I believe these dispatches show a transparency and willingness to share with the public to an extent that isn’t matched anywhere else for the topic of human origins.”

Check out the HOP Blog at http://humanorigins.si.edu/research/east-african-research/olorgesailie-field-blog/2011-olorgesailie-dispatches

Presentations

Rick Potts gave a public lecture on his research at Olorgesailie over the past 25 years at The National Museum of Kenya on August 31. His lecture was announced in the Society section of the Nairobi Star (September 3/4 2011; society@nairobistar.com).

Rick Potts, Briana Pobiner, and Research Associate Alison Brooks attended the EAAPP (East African Association for Paleoanthropology and Paleontology) conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, August 8-12, and presented the following papers:

Brian G. Richmond, Kevin G. Hatala, William E. H. Harcourt-Smith, Vincent Rossi, Adam Metallo, Cynthia M. Liutkus, Briana L. Pobiner, Adam Gor-
don, Heather Dingwall, David Green, Brian Zimmer, Godfrey Olle Moita and Jim Brett. “Engare Sero, Tanzania: results from initial studies of a large assemblage of early modern human footprints.”

**Briania L. Pobiner** and **Rick Potts.** “Public engagement with the science of human evolution: the approach of the Smithsonian’s Human Origins Program.”

**Research Associates Alison Brooks** and **John E. Yellen.** “The Middle Pleistocene Middle Stone Age of East Africa”

**Matt Tocheri** is scheduled to give a presentation titled “The ‘Hobbits’ of Human Evolution: The Science Behind the Debates Surrounding the discovery of *Homo floresiensis*” for the Director’s Discovery series on September 28.

**LATIN AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM**

**Betty Meggers** was elected a Corresponding Member of the Instituto Histórico y Geográfico del Uruguay.

Research Associate **Paulina Ledergerber** travelled to Ecuador from July 17th to July 4th to continue her study about the solstices’ festivals. She was notified in June by the Ecuadorean Academy of History that she was unanimously elected as their Corresponding Member. The Ecuadorean Academy of History is similar to the Academy of Sciences and over a 100 years old.

**ANTHROPOLOGY OUTREACH OFFICE**

We are very pleased to have been awarded funding for the Youth Access Planning grant. The focus is Research Collaborator **Colleen Popson**’s AnthroQuest: Exploring Our Human Story learning game for ages 10-17 that she has been developing for several years. Her recent NSF proposal for this project received highly favorable reviews, and she was invited to resubmit a proposal, which she will be doing in January. The Youth Access Planning Grant provides an opportunity to test the AnthroQuest materials with middle and high school students. Matching funds come from a Women’s Committee Grant the Anthropology Outreach Office received to conduct staff video interviews about the early anthropology collections. Museum collections and staff expertise will be important components of the AnthroQuest project. The AnthroQuest team members are Ann Kaupp, Colleen Popson, Ruth Selig, and a contract educational researcher.

**COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROGRAM**

**Human Studies Film Archives**

**Pam Wintle** has accepted an invitation to join the International Advisory Board for the American Indian Film Gallery hosted by the University of Arizona. The gallery will be an online collection of over 450 digitized archival films relating to Native Americans. Her moving image archival expertise will be used in advising on establishing an archives for the physical films, evaluating new titles, and recommending best practices for presenting these films online.
HSFA summer intern, **Adrianna Link** (PhD graduate student in the History of Science and Technology at Johns Hopkins University) wrote two posts for the SIRIS blog, inspired by JJ Abrams’ new feature film *Super 8*. The first post, focusing on the technology of super 8mm film, was picked up by the Technology blog editor at the *Atlantic Monthly* ([http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/06/the-summer-of-super-8-a-look-at-the-films-technological-origins/240219/](http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/06/the-summer-of-super-8-a-look-at-the-films-technological-origins/240219/)). The second post addresses the use of super 8mm film for documentation of scientific research. These can be found on the home page for the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS):


A film from HSFA’s collection was screened as part of the South East Asia and Pacific Audio Visual Archives Association’s annual meeting, June 6-10, in Kuala Lumpur. The film, shot ca. 1927 in Thailand, of the King and his family and a kite flying festival was of great interest to the attendees and previously unknown to the Thai representatives.

One of Jorge Preloran’s films in the HSFA collections being preserved by the National Film Preservation Foundation is featured in their recently released 2010 *Report to Congress*. The report can be found online: [http://www.filmpreservation.org/userfiles/image/PDFs/nfpf_ar2010.pdf](http://www.filmpreservation.org/userfiles/image/PDFs/nfpf_ar2010.pdf). The film, *Claudia*, is located on p. 3.

### National Anthropological Archives

**New NAA finding Aids Online**

Frank H. H. Roberts photographs ([http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/MS4851_photos.pdf](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/MS4851_photos.pdf))

Marvin Harris papers ([http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Harris,%20Marvin.pdf](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Harris,%20Marvin.pdf))

John Reed Swanton photographs of Southeastern American Indians ([http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Photo%20Lot%2076%20Swanton.pdf](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Photo%20Lot%2076%20Swanton.pdf))


Humphrey Lloyd Hime photographs of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan exploring expedition ([http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Guide%20to%20the%20Humphrey%20Lloyd%20Hime%20Photographs.pdf](http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/Guide%20to%20the%20Humphrey%20Lloyd%20Hime%20Photographs.pdf))


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**Jorge Preloran.**

Photo by Lorenzo Kelly in the HSFA Jorge Preloran Collection.

**Item 2010-12.9,** from the George L. Waite “Desert Sheiks” lantern slides.
**Recent acquisitions to the NAA**

Joan Mencher papers
Conrad Arensberg papers
Geoffrey O’Grady papers and audio tapes
Philip Ravenhill papers
Sydel Silverman papers
Records of the Human Biology Association
Carl Etter papers and photographs relating to Ainu folklore and culture
Edward S. Curtis and Florence Curtis Graybill photographs and papers
Ezra Zubrow photographs of the Rio Grande Pueblos, 1967
George L. Waite “Desert Sheiks” Lantern Slides, 1930
Mura Bayly photographs and papers relating to Indonesia and the South Pacific, 1910s

For more information about these acquisitions, please contact Gina Rappaport (301) 238-1322, rappaportg@si.edu. For general reference inquiries, please contact Leanda Gahegan at (301) 238-1310, naa@si.edu

**REPATRIATION OFFICE**

**President Obama Nominates Dorothy Lippert**

President Obama nominated Dorothy Lippert as a member of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as of July 8 [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/08/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/08/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts) Dorothy is the subject of the article “Archeologist with S.A. roots nominated by Obama” by Gary Martin, published in *MySA* (San Antonio) online news on July 12. The article states that “Lippert was chosen “Outstanding Teen” in 1985 in a program sponsored by the San Antonio Express-News.

**911 Remembered**

As an invited guest of the National Park Service, Marilyn London attended the Dedication of the Flight 93 National Memorial on September 10 and the Tenth Commemorative Service for the Passengers and Crew of Flight 93 on September 11 in Shanksville, PA. Marilyn was invited to participate because of her role as the manager of the DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) morgue that was used for identification of the victims after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

**New Contractor**

**Rhonda Coolidge** is a contractor with the Repatriation Osteology Lab as of June 2011. She has had a research student appointment with Dave Hunt since December 2006, which began while she was in the Anthropology Masters program at GWU. Dave now serves on her doctoral committee for the Applied Anthropology PhD program at the University of South Florida, Tampa. She has completed her coursework and has returned to DC to do her dissertation research on the Terry Collection and other collections at NMNH.


**Editor and Compiler**: Ann Kaupp

**Reviewer**: Betty Meggers

**Chair**: Mary Jo Arnoldi

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