Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our own Robert Laughlin, ethnologist par excellence and curator emeritus, who was honored at the recent AAA meetings for his 30-year research on the Maya culture and for helping to create the Tzotzil-Tzeltal cultural cooperative Sna Jtz’ibajom (The House of the Writer). The celebration included an Invited Roundtable Discussion, “Crossing Mesoamerican Borders: The Linguistic, Ethnographic, and Practical Contributions of Robert M. Laughlin,” a joint session with Sna Jtz’ibajom; “Robert Laughlin and Friends in Zinacantán, 1961 to 1988: A Photo Essay” by Frank Cancian; and a “Monkey Business Theatre” presentation and discussion. The events were sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology and Daniel Rogers gave a presentation titled “Lasting Connections: Some Reflections on Robert Laughlin as Colleague and Anthropologist.”

I am also delighted to announce that many of our staff have recently received grants in support of their research and outreach activities. Mary Jo Arnoldi, Joshua Bell, Ives Goddard, Jake Homiak, Gwyneira Isaac, Michael Mason, Gabriela Perez-Baez, and Torbin Rick are PI’s or Co-Investigators on seven of the interdisciplinary grants awarded by the Smithsonian’s Grand Challenges Consortia in 2010. These research and outreach projects include funding for pan-institutional programming in conjunction with the exhibit, RACE: Are We So Different? which opens at NMNH June 18th and is on view until early January; funding for research towards an exhibition on Malian mud architecture as part of the larger interdisciplinary research grant, Earth Matters; funds to organize an interdisciplinary symposia on the cultural legacy of Taino peoples in the Caribbean; funding for research on language loss and indigenous knowledge systems; funding for research and outreach on the Anacostia River and its watershed; a research project on Channel Islands biodiversity in California; and funds towards building a global marine network at the SI.

In addition to Grand Challenges awards, Don Ortner and Dolores Piperno received Smithsonian Scholarly Studies Grants to conduct research on the Tell Jemmeh materials and to conduct genetic work on maize, respectively. From the Under Secretary for Sciences...
Restricted Endowment Fund, Joshua Bell received funding for research on the USDA’s 1928 Sugarcane Expedition to New Guinea; Candace Greene received funds for cataloguing the papers of the ethnobotanists Brent Berlin and Elois Ann Berlin; and Dennis Stanford was awarded funds for an excavation of a paleoindian site in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The SI Women’s committee awarded three grants to members of the department. Bruno Frohlich received funds to develop a Computed Tomography (CT) website (Rebecca Snyder and Kristina Sisk are the IT collaborators). Don Ortner also received a Women’s Committee grant for the Tell Jemmeh project and Ann Kaupp received funding for her project on early Anthropology Collections at the Smithsonian.

Co-PIs Richard Kortum and William W. Fitzhugh received an NEH grant for 2010-2012 for Rock Art and Archaeology: Investigating Ritual Landscapes in the Mongolian Altai, awarded to East Tennesee State University and the Smithsonian. Lars Krutak received a Special Projects Grant from the Daniele Agostino Derossi Foundation to conduct research on Sarawak tattooing.

Mary Jo Arnoldi
Chair, Anthropology

RECOGNITIONS

Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire edited by William W. Fitzhugh, Morris Rossabi, and William Honeychurch (SI Arctic Studies Center / University of Washington Press, 2009) was selected as one of the twenty “Best of the Best of University Presses: Books You Should Know About” titles at the annual American Library Association in June 2010. In the ALA’s Choice magazine (January 5, 2011), Genghis Khan is recognized as an Outstanding Academic Title in 2010.

Hordern House (Australian specialist publisher in fine books and art) has chosen Adrienne L. Kaeppler’s 2010 publication Polynesia. The Mark and Carolyn Blackburn Collection of Polynesian Art as the February 2011 Book of the Month.

Mindy Zeder was honored as the Journal of Anthropological Research 31st Distinguished Lecturer at the University of New Mexico in November 11-12. She delivered a public lecture titled “Pathways to Animal Domestication” and a seminar talk, The Advent of Resource Management in the Taurus/Zagros Arc.

Rebecca Richards, who was here last summer through the NHRE program working on the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition material, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. She is the first indigenous Australian to receive this award. http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/aboriginal-student-first-to-win-rhodes-grant-20101216-18zqz.html
**IN THE MEDIA**

On December 20 and 21st, **Rick Potts** was interviewed by the Associated Press, USA Today, and *Earth Magazine* concerning the ancient DNA evidence of the ‘Denisovans,’ a recently discovered genetic lineage of early humans who may have interbred with modern human populations as they spread to southeast Asia.

While in Olorgesailie, Kenya, in January **Rick** was interviewed by BBC Television concerning HOP research about climate change, human evolution, and the emergence of modern human behavior. The 4-part interview will be part of the BBC’s television series on human evolution, which is to air in the fall.

In February **Rick** was interviewed by South African Broadcasting concerning the donation of the casts of *Australopithecus sediba* to the Smithsonian. He was also interviewed by AP concerning new evidence of bipedal behavior in *A. afarensis*.

**Rick** gave a radio interview with the Rev. David Anderson regarding human evolution on Nov. 16th.

**Doug Owsley** and his team’s study of the remains of Clent Chavers of Amelia County, VA, led to a murder conviction of his wife Ulisa Chavers, who is in prison for killing her boyfriend. Owsley’s discovery of small bone fragments from Chavers’s severed head found in the shallow grave proved that he did not die of natural causes.

**Doug Owsley** was interviewed in Texas by Michael Graczyk a of The Associated Press about a grave that may belong to a “pioneering Texas Ranger who died 174 years ago after an attack by Native Americans.”

**Doug** and **Kari Bruwelheide** were invited by the Texas Historical Commission to assist in the excavation of this grave found during a restoration of a cemetery for plantation slaves in Marlin, TX. (Researchers think old grave belongs to ranger, Feb. 10, 2011.)

*The Sarawak Tribune* (January 20, 2011) published an illustrated two-page interview with **Lars Krutak** (Repatriation Office) titled “Going Skin Deep with the Tattoo Hunter” regarding the history and meaning of tribal tattooing practices worldwide, and especially those that are indigenous to Sarawak.

**Stephen Loring** was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* (Toronto) on 23 December 2010 in an article Caribou crisis in Labrador, about the consequences of the devastating crash in the caribou population in northern Quebec-Labrador.

*PBS News Hour* launched a new science website in mid-November and featured the **Human Origins Program**’s twitter feed (@HumanOrigins) as one of the top 19 science twitter feeds. **Briana Pobiner** manages the twitter feed.

**Briana** was quoted in *The Telescope* website for educational institutions in the December 6 online article *Time travel 101* Archaeology professor helps students explore the past by Juliet Freyermuth, a journalism student who interviewed Briana in November.

*LiveScience* interviewed **Briana** about a recent publication in the *Journal of Human Evolution* about human chewing damage on bones.

The tattoo research of **Lars Krutak** is discussed in the article *Tattoo Quests* by Marilyn Tan, published in *Borneo Post online*, February 13, 2011, where Lars is also quoted.
This publication examines one of the greatest private collections of Polynesian art, featuring both ceremonial and functional traditional forms in diverse media, from delicate ivory ornaments and decorated barkcloth to formidable weaponry and imposing sculpture in coral, wood, and stone. The geographic spread of the collection is vast, covering the Pacific Ocean from Hawai‘i to Rapa Nui (Easter Island) to Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the many islands in between. Many of the pieces have noteworthy historical antecedents, such as items associated with the eighteenth-century voyages of Captain Cook and the Dupetit-Thouars material from the Marquesas, first collected by the nineteenth-century French admiral of that name. Polynesia also contains a glossary and a collection catalog of about 200 pages organized by island area and artifact type. The catalog provides a description of each artifact and its use, along with documentation and provenance.


The Munsee language as spoken on the Moravianstown Reserve in the late 1960s had extensive phonological,
lexical, and morphological variation among the small number of surviving speakers. Some of this variation can be attributed to the diverse origins of the population, and some apparently results from recent change, but lexical variation in particular was accepted by speakers as an integral feature of Moraviantown speech. Each speaker had a personal dialect, whose distinguishing features were often explicitly recognized by others. [Epigraph.] Emily Johnson’s mother says wáhw, but I say wáhwal.

—Rebecca Snake, when asked the word for ‘egg’ (1970).

Based on fieldwork in Canada on Munsee (one of two Eastern Algonquian languages called “Delaware”), which was originally spoken in the lower Hudson Valley and nearby areas.

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THE 2010 AAA ANNUAL MEETING

Staff who gave presentations or chaired meetings include:


**JoAllyn Archambault** chaired the board and business meetings of the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists and attended the Assembly of Section Presidents. Co-organized, with Bernie Perley, a panel and gave a paper about the Dakota, Lakota anthropologists Beatrice Medicine and Ella Deloria.

**Jade DeLaPaz**: Paper: OMG Guess What?!: The Indispensability of Gossip in Community Building (on the role of gossip in community structure of a salmon cannery in Larsen Bay, Alaska), in the session on Circumpolar Circulations.

Ethnologist and curator emeritus **Robert Laughlin** was honored for his 30-year research on the Maya culture and helping to create the Tzotzil-Tzeltal cultural cooperative Sna Jtz’ibajom (The House of the Writer). The events included an Invited Roundtable Discussion, “Crossing Mesoamerican Borders: The Linguistic, Ethnographic, and Practical Contributions of Robert M. Laughlin,” a joint session with Sna Jtz’ibajom; “Robert Laughlin and Friends in Zinacantán, 1961 to 1988: A Photo Essay” by Frank Cancian; and a “Monkey Business Theatre” presentation and discussion. The session sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology. **Daniel Rogers** gave a presentation titled “Lasting Connections: Some Reflections on Robert Laughlin as Colleague and Anthropologist.” [See Bob’s article Going Native: The Anthropologist as Advocate, in the fall issue of AnthroNotes 31(2): 7-9.]
On August 24, 1814, Joshua Barney held a heroic stand against the British in their march on Washington. Barney and some 720 men—320 Chesapeake flotilla-men, 300 militia and 120 marines—with five cannons held their line near the intersection of Bladensburg Road and what is now Eastern Avenue. The site of this battle, on land that now belongs to the National Park Service in the District of Columbia, has been under excavation since May 2010 by a group of volunteer archaeologists and students.

I was approached last year by the Benjamin Harrison Society to assist students in documenting this important historic site of military engagement. The Society’s educational program “I Dig History” promotes effective mathematics, geography, science, and technology for students. Their student volunteers and my archaeology colleagues worked side-by-side and engaged in some pretty high-tech methods, including EMI and GPR, thanks to Jim Doolittle, USDA. We finally turned to old fashioned digging, which proved to be the best approach in the rubble filled soils. Within a few days we found a three-brick wide foundation and a cedar plank floor buried 40 cm below the surface. We followed this “red-brick road” in a series of test pits until we ended up with an outline of a building measuring 20 feet by 40 feet in size. The foundation bricks had been carefully laid without mortar (English bond style), three bricks deep, and cedar flooring that was flush up against the inside of this wall.

The two 18-pounders used by Barney’s men had been placed in the road with a perfect line of fire at the British column a few yards from the John C. Rives barn. This building is clearly one of two barn-like structures pictured on maps of the Rives estate.

During the last days of the dig this past fall, Washington Post staff writer Steve Vogel and four kids, all volunteers, uncovered a beautiful herring bone brick floor in the northwest corner of the building, as well as a cement floor on the outside of the brick foundation. This brick floor was set on edge for strength. We realized that this was more than a barn. It was the Rives’ carriage house, stable and tack room. This building was still in use as a garage on Eastern Avenue, when tar was probably poured on the older wooden floor.

This spring we will look for the second building (not shown on later maps), which is located about 40 feet to the Southwest and lies partly under the Bladensburg Road of today. This site is exactly where Barney had his big guns and just to the west of these buildings is a drainage channel that leads back to “Barney’s Spring,” where Barney was severely wounded.

Eventually the Benjamin Harrison Society would like to establish a new monument at the original engagement site. A monument stands near the summit of Fort Lincoln Cemetery that honors only the Marine Corp. Hope-
fully, plans will develop to establish a park and interpretive panel for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 at the true site of Barney’s engagement with the British Army at the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814.

We have been having a wonderful time helping to uncover DC history, sharing the experience with volunteers and offering an educational experience to local kids. Last year our group excavated from May 22 until June 26 and then again from September 4 until October 30. We will return to the site this spring and fall and wind up the project by November 2011.


DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Dan Rogers gave a presentation, Trading for Power: Long Distance Exchange in the Empires of Inner Asia, in the Classical Archaeology research seminar series Silk Routes (overland and maritime): Exchange Contacts Between the Hellenistic to Late Antique Mediterranean World and Cultures Further to the East, at Oxford University on November 29.

Rogers also attended the AAAS meeting in Washington, D.C., February 17-21, where he participated in a symposium titled, Modeling Across Millennia: Interdisciplinary Paths to Ancient Socionatural Systems, chaired by Tim Kohler. Rogers gave a presentation titled Modeling Human-Environmental Interactions in Inner Asia: Households to Empires, co-authored by Claudio Cioffi-Revilla and Sarah Wise.

RECOVERING VOICES

From January 13th to the 23rd, Cristián Samper, Elizabeth Duggal, Alain Taghipour, along with NMNH board member and Smithsonian board members Whitney and Betty MacMillan and Craig and Barbara Barrett visited Papua New Guinea with curators Joshua A. Bell and Kristofer Helgen. The principle purpose of the trip was to get a sense of the NMNH and the wider Smithsonian’s work in the country, and explore possible projects. While in Port Moresby, PNG’s capital, the group visited the National Museum to see the collections and discuss possible forms of collaboration as part of the Recovering Voices initiative. The group also met with US Ambassador Teddy Taylor and US Embassy staff.

Primary School students perform in their traditional dance regalia at the Asaro Primary School. Photograph by Joshua A. Bell, January 16, 2011.
The group travelled to the highland town of Goroka, meeting with Kristofer Helgen, who was assisting with a field-biology training course run by Papua New Guinea Institute for Biological Research. Founded in 2008, PNGIBR is a nonprofit run by PNG scientists who conduct research and train PNG biologists and conservationists. Current projects being carried out by the group include research into hunting sustainability, the ecology and biology of the Long-beaked Echidnas and surveys of wildlife materials in cultural artifacts used in annual performances in Goroka.

At Asaro Primary School the group was able to see a performance of primary school students, who as part of a wider initiative by Governor Malcolm Kela Smith, are working to revive their cultural performance traditions and language as part of their school curriculum. Travelling up Mount Gahavasuka to see the PNGIBR training course, the group also got a first hand sense of the region’s bird and marsupial life. Before leaving Goroka, the group met with staff of the JK McCarthy museum, an extension of the National Museum.

Flying to the north, the group went to the Ramu Valley to see the operations of Ramu Agrindustries Ltd, specifically their expansion into oil palm. Travelling to Madang, on PNG’s north coast, the group visited the New Guinea Binatang Research Center http://www.untu.cas.cz/png/, which has a long-standing connection to the Smithsonian through entomologist Scott Miller. Touring the facility, the group learned about the team’s ant eradication experiment and food web studies and saw their insect and botany specimens. The group also learned about the new Swire Research Forestry 50 hectare plot at Wanang—part of the Smithsonian’s global network of forest plots, which is run by the Centre for Tropical Forest Science (http://www.ctfs.si.edu/site/Wanang). The group also visited the Ohu Butterfly Habitat, a community-based conservation project, connected to the Binatang Research Center. The group met with representatives of The Nature Conservancy to hear about their work regarding forest and reef conservation.

Throughout the trip, Bell took the opportunity to add to the museum’s collection, particularly contemporary bilums or string bags made from colored yarns, which increasingly incorporate advertising for global products.
The Recovering Voices team is pleased to announce and acknowledge the generosity of Whitney and Betty Macmillan’s gift of $4 million dollars. This money will help establish the initiative’s endowment and allow Recovering Voices to grow into a vibrant program.

Conferences

Joshua Bell, Rob Leopold, Gabriella Pérez-Báez, Michael Mason and Christyna Solhan attended Strategies for Moving Forward, the 2nd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa (February 11-13th). Representing Recovering Voices, Bell presented a paper titled Looking to Hear: Generative capacities of archival materials in language and knowledge documentation in the Purari Delta. Mason’s paper was titled Recovering voices: Collaborating with communities and engaging millions in the challenge of endangered languages. Pérez-Báez gave a paper on One project, thirty languages: the Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Mesoamerica.

Seminars

The following seminars were sponsored as part of the Recovering Voices initiative and held in the Rose Seminar Room:

Museums as Places of Encounter by John Terrell (Regenstein Curator of Pacific Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History) on December 10. Terrell discussed the Field’s long-standing engagement through their whare nui or meeting house named Ruatapupuke II with the community of Tokomaru Bay, Aotearoa/New Zealand from which the whare nui originated.

Johathan D. Amith (Gettysburg College) presented an ethnographic film in Nahuatl (English subtitles) titled Silvestre Pantaleón: The story of an elderly man from the Nahuatl-speaking village of San Agustín Oapan, Guerrero, Mexico, on January 20. Amith is an ethnographer, producer, and co-director.

Grand Challenge Grant: “Recovering Voices”

Joshua Bell (PI) with Co-PIs Doug Herman (NMAI), Marjorie Hunt, (CFCH), Gwyneira Isaac, and Gabriella Pérez-Báez, and Participants Ives Goddard, Aron Crowell and Tim McCoy (Mineral Sciences).

Funds awarded to the Recovering Voices initiative will help the pan-institutional and interdisciplinary team of researchers and museum professionals from the National Museum of Natural History, the National Mu-
seum of the American Indian, and the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage address one of this century’s key global challenges—the loss of languages and knowledge.

*Recovering Voices* combines Smithsonian scholarship and collections resources to 1) generate integrative methodology for language and knowledge maintenance; 2) conduct urgently needed ethnographic research and form community partnerships in five strategically chosen localities; and 3) develop three related Smithsonian exhibitions on language, language endangerment, and language revitalization.

Of the estimated 6,000 languages that exist around the world, 90 percent will have disappeared or be threatened by extinction by 2100. This crisis parallels the loss of biological diversity, yet remains largely unrecognized. The demise of thousands of languages and associated systems of thought presents a permanent and, if not countered, irrevocable cultural and scientific loss to humanity.

Drawing upon the Smithsonian’s scholarly expertise, comprehensive collections, public outreach capacity, and convening power, Recovering Voices will establish a synergistic methodological platform for conducting interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research to help us build effective collaborations with communities facing language and knowledge loss.

Initially we focus on five case studies: Purari Delta, Papua New Guinea; Hopi Pueblo, Arizona; San Lucas Quiavini Zapotec community in Oaxaca, Mexico and Los Angeles; Meskwaki tribe, Iowa and Oklahoma; and Native groups of Anchorage, Alaska. Research within and outside the Smithsonian, and in particular, the interaction between community representatives and the collections are considered a prime source of new knowledge to be documented following state-of-the-art field research techniques. By pursuing transparent relationships with knowledge-bearers within communities and by broadening source community and public access to cultural legacy materials Recovering Voices will make a tangible contribution to international efforts to protect linguistic diversity and cultural and ecological knowledge.

The data generated will further scientific understanding, enhance collections, inform outreach programs, and critically contribute to revitalizing language and knowledge transmission. This work feeds into a traveling exhibit at NMAI (2012), a Folklife Festival (2013), and an exhibit at NMNH (2014), through which we seek to transform public awareness and engagement with language and knowledge loss.

**Exhibit Workshop**

As part of the continuing development of the Recovering Voices exhibit at NMNH, a one-day workshop was held February 3, 2011 in the Rose Seminar Room. Thirty-five Smithsonian staff and external professionals participated in this productive meeting. Outside consultants included museum professionals, community language activists, educators, media designers, a radio producer and a poet. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together a broad community of experts from different fields to provide their ideas, perspectives and guidance on the working draft of the exhibit’s statement of purpose and main messages and approaches to the exhibit. A range of possibilities and themes were discussed, which will be incorporated in the exhibit team’s further thinking.

Taking advantage of the community of experts gathered for the 2nd International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, members of the Re-
covering Voices exhibit team (Joshua Bell, Rob Leopold, Michael Mason, Gabriela Pérez-Báez, and Christyna Solhan) met with 26 linguists and community language activists at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa on February 13th. The group provided invaluable feedback on the scope and content of the exhibit. The team is grateful for the help of Jim Yoshioka (National Foreign Language Resource Center, University of Hawai‘i), Lyle Campbell (Linguistics, University of Hawai‘i) and Nick Thieberger (University of Melbourne).

Collectively these consultations support the development of the 35% exhibition design and concept script, which is scheduled for September.

Iñupiaq Language and Culture Seminar in Anchorage, Alaska

by Aron L. Crowell

A recent Iñupiaq Language and Culture Seminar at the Arctic Studies Center in Anchorage brought together eight fluent speakers of Alaska’s northernmost Native tongue for four days of intensive discussions about NMNH and NMAI objects in the Smithsonian exhibition, Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska.

The workshop took advantage of the exhibition’s high-access design, which allows objects to be removed from display for handling and study in the adjacent Community Consultation Room (CCR). The CCR sessions created a unique audio, video, and textual record of the Iñupiaq language’s vanishing “high forms,” its rich lexicon of terms for traditional objects and cultural practices, and the nuances of variation among several dialects. Participants took delight in the chance to converse at length in their first language about items that included a Sledge Island walrus harpoon (unaaq) collected by Edward W. Nelson in 1880; a 1906 skin drum (qiïauñ) from Point Hope; and a woman’s caribou fur parka (qusunnaq) from Barrow, acquired by John Murdoch.

Participants in the workshop: Jana Harcharek, Sylvester Ayek, Herbert Foster, Sr., Willie Goodwin, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, Rachel Riley, Alvira Downey, and Faye Ongtowasruk. Photograph by Dawn Biddison.
during the 1881-1883 International Polar Year Expedition.

One goal of the project is to document a language that is now spoken fluently by fewer than 600 people, 92% of them over the age of 65. Another is to create language teaching videos for use in the North Alaskan schools. Principal advisers to the project – both among the youngest fluent speakers of the language – are Jana Harcharek of Barrow, director of the NSBSD’s Iñupiaq Education Program, and Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, director of the Eskimo Heritage Program in Nome. Elder participants included Willie Goodwin, Herbert Foster, Sr., and Alvira Downey of Kotzebue; Faye Ongtowasruk of Wales; Sylvester Ayek of Nome (born on King Island); and Rachel Riley of Anaktuvuk Pass.

The group recorded detailed, dialect-specific vocabularies and cultural traditions associated with each item, then individually took turns in front of the video cameras to “teach from the object” in short statements that will be transcribed and translated on DVD presentations for classroom use.

The ASC will work with bilingual curriculum developers to develop a guide and resource book for teaching the words and phrases spoken by elders. This Beringian Heritage project, which will be extended next year to include St. Lawrence Island Yupik, represents one of the Arctic Studies Center’s major initiatives under the NMNH Recovering Voices program. The project is funded by the National Park Service’s Shared Beringian Heritage program with additional support from Alaska Airlines, Kawerak, Inc. and the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD).
DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY

Following the departure of the rest of the NMNH group who visited Papua New Guinea, **Joshua Bell** stayed in Port Moresby (January 23 – 30th) to lay the groundwork for his research as part of the Recovering Voices Grand Challenges Grant. **Bell** also worked to translate a body of string band songs in I’ai that he recorded in 2002. These songs play off of a body of totemic names, which are used metaphorically to allude to ancestral and contemporary events. These songs and their allusions are slowly being replaced by pop music in Tok Pisin.

While in Port Moresby, **Bell** gave a talk on Serial Killer in the Purari Delta: Violence, Resource Extraction and their Networks at the Papua New Guinea Institute of National Affairs on January 28.

**Joshua Bell** served as Chair for the Association for Social Anthropologists in Oceania’s annual conference held in Waikiki, Hawai’i, February 8-12. In addition to his board duties, **Bell** chaired a symposium titled Forests of Oceania, co-organized with Paige West (Barnard/Columbia), and gave a paper titled ‘... for the enrichment of the world’s markets’: The Continuities and Discontinuities of Resource Extraction in the Papuan Gulf. While in Hawai’i, **Bell** also conducted collections and archival research in the Bishop Museum and the Hawaiian Agriculture Research Center as part of his larger project on the 1928 USDA Sugarcane Expedition to New Guinea.

**Mary Jo Arnoldi** gave a presentation, Strong Spirits, Wild Animals, Heroic Men and Beautiful Women –The Masquerade Arts of Mali, on Sunday, December 12th at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Her lecture was sponsored by the Museum’s Friends of African and Africa.

**Gabriela Pérez-Báez** presented a conference paper titled “El sistema de merónimos en el zapoteco del istmo” (The meronymic system in Isthmus Zapotec) at the XI Encuentro Internacional de Lingüística en el Noroeste, hosted biennially by the Department of Literature and Linguistics at the Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, November 17-20, 2010.

**Pérez Báez** presented a paper titled Morphophonemics of the Potential Aspect in Juchitán Zapotec at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 8, 2011.

Guest speaker **Lars Krutak** attended the Gathering of the Tribes (GOTT) Cultural Exposition (Jan. 14-16) at the Borneo Convention Centre in Kuching, Sarawak (Malaysia) to promote his new book *Kalinga Tattoo: Ancient and Modern Expressions of the Tribal* and present lectures that coincided with his photographic exhibition *Shamanic Skin: The Art of Magical Tattooing*. The photo installation partially drew upon images and oral histories he recorded during a research trip to Borneo in 2002.

Photograph courtesy of Abel Jaboh.
While in Sarawak, Krutak conducted four weeks of field research focusing on the vanishing art of indigenous tattooing across this Malaysian state. Funded by a Special Projects Grant provided by the Daniele Agostino Derossi Foundation and with sponsorship by the Borneo Research Council, Krutak interviewed and photographed over fifty elders who represent the last generation of traditional tattoo bearers amongst the Kelabit, Kenyah, Kayan, Kejaman, Lahanan, Sihan, Punan, Sa’ban, and Iban. Krutak plans to further document aspects of this research in a future publication.

One of the highlights of Krutak’s trip was a visit to the remote Sa’ban village of Long Banga. The Sa’ban are one of the smallest indigenous groups of Sarawak (<1000) and their tattooing traditions have not been documented in detail. Village elders provided Lars with an unpublished Sa’ban/Malay/English dictionary, the only one of its kind, with the hope that a publisher can be found to preserve this endangered language. Today, it is believed that there are less than 500 fluent speakers of Sa’ban.

A British TV crew spent two days interviewing and filming Jane Walsh about crystal skulls for a fall National Geographic investigative television series.

**Interns and Fellows**

**Natasha Jones** started her internship with Joshua Bell last August with the goal of learning more about Melanesia, material culture, and exchange. Since then, she has had the opportunity to study ethnographic collections from both Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Her most recent project involves compiling provenance and biographical information relating to NMNH zoological collections from Papua New Guinea, and their collectors as part of Bell’s Melanesia Networks Project. She is currently finishing her senior honors-thesis towards a B.A. in History at the University of Baltimore and looks forward to continuing her studies in cultural anthropology and human ecology after graduating this May.

**Kristina Short** began her internship with Joshua Bell last August. She is interested in learning more about Melanesia, its material culture and exchange processes. In this capacity, she has undertaken research into ethnographic materials associated with former Superintendent of the National Zoological Park Dr. William M. Mann’s 1915-1916 expedition to Fiji and the Solomon Islands. This project is aimed at providing a greater understanding of the relationships and histories materialized within collections from Melanesia at the National Museum of Natural History. Kristina is currently finishing her M.A. in Anthropology at The George Washington University and will graduate this May.

**Shane Dillingham** came here on December 15 as a pre-doctoral fellow, sponsored by Gabriela Pérez Báez. Shane is a doctoral candidate in the History Department at the University of Maryland, College Park, and her dissertation research is on The Roots of Mixtec Language Activism and Barriers to Bilingual Education Consolidation in the Mixteca Alta of Oaxaca, Mexico 1954-1990. Shane is splitting her time at the museum and at the NAA. She will be with us until April 15th.
Doug Ubelaker attended the first meeting of the Forensic Advisory Group of the International Committee of the Red Cross at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, November 21-25.

Ubelaker presented an Invited Plenary Presentation “Forensic Anthropology: Current Status – Future Directions” at the 43rd Annual Chacmool Conference in Calgary, Alberta, November 12.

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Bruno Frohlich got a new x-ray tube installed in the Siemens CT scanner, thanks to donations from Siemens Health Care and the Department of Anthropology.

Bruno Frohlich traveled to New Zealand in November - December where he worked with faculty and students at the University of Auckland on their joint Mongolian projects. These projects include research on Bronze Age burial mounds in the Hovsgol aimag, study of human mummified remains, and demographic reconstructions of pre-historic and historic Mongolian populations. Frohlich also gave a public lecture titled How to Solve the Mysteries of the Stradivari Violins, Explain Deformed Faces in Medieval Mongolian Mummies, and Much More at the Library Theater, the University of Auckland.

Frohlich with co-author Tsend Amgalantugs of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences gave a lecture titled Crime and Punishment: the Analysis of Mongolian Human Remains dating from 1500 BC to 1644 AD. at the 24th Annual Australasian Society for Human Biology conference, held in Auckland, New Zealand, November 28 to December 1. Bruno was interviewed about his and his colleagues’ Mongolian projects by Radio New Zealand as part of a series explaining some of the research being conducted in New Zealand with international researchers. The interview focused on NMNH employing non-destructive and non-invasive technologies such as CT scanning to study human remains and rare and precious objects.

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On Feb 13th, Dave Hunt, Marcie Heacker (Birds) and Suzie Peurach (Mammals) took an honor delegation of Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers, Sea Scouts) on an extended behind the scenes tour as part of the Boy Scouts “Report to the Nation” visit to the Nation’s Capital. The nine Scouts are nationally selected for their acts of bravery, saving lives, excelled duty, and/or honored service to present the Boy Scouts annual report to Congress. This was a very special year for the Boy Scouts – the 100th Anniversary of their founding. Dave is proud to participate in this annual event since he was an Eagle Scout, recipient of the Pro Deo et Patria Church Award, and a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow.
**ARCHEO BIOLOGY PROGRAM**

Catherine West is a post-doctoral fellow with Torben Rick in Archaeobiology and with Jeff Speakman and Christine France in the Stable Isotope Lab. She received her PhD from the University of Washington. Her project here involves using archaeological animal bones and shell to reconstruct the prehistoric environment of Kodiak Island, Alaska. Catherine began her fellowship in mid-September and will be here until June 15.

**ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER**

William Fitzhugh traveled to Alberta, Canada, January 16-21, to give lectures and consult at various institutions. At the University of Alberta, where he was hosted by the Department of Anthropology’s Baikal Research Program headed by Andrzej Weber, Bill gave a talk titled Mongolia’s Mysterious Deer Stones: Art, Power, and Ritual at the Bronze-Iron Age Transition. In Calgary he was hosted by the Alberta Archaeological Society and the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club to whom he gave separate presentations on Norse, Vinland, and Public Promotion: From Eirik’s ‘Greenland’ to Modern Times. While in Alberta, discussions were also held with the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, the Arctic Institute of North America, and the Glenbow Museum.

**Interns**

Richie Roy, who is in his second year at American University, is an intern this semester for the ASC. Richie is majoring in Anthropology with a preference for the sub-field of Archaeology. Richie is organizing field reports and carrying out other duties.

Meg Tracy is an intern until the end of May. She graduated with a degree in anthropology from the University of Montana in Missoula in 2008 and is applying to graduate schools to earn a master’s in archaeology. Meg is handling collection management projects concerning the Labrador collection.

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Stephen Loring was the invited guest speaker at the Red Bank Humanists in Red Bank, New Jersey, where he presented the Annual Darwin Day Lecture: The Penguin’s Egg: Reflections on Darwin, Natural History collecting, and what it means to be a Human Being.

A Hudsonian Godwit collected by Charles Darwin during the voyage of the Beagle. In the NMNH collection. Photo by Chip Clark, NMNH.
In an unprecedented collegial exchange of scientific information, Prof. Lee Berger, palaeoanthropologist from the Institute for Human Evolution at Wits, donated casts of the *Australopithecus sediba* to the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. Berger presented the casts on February 10th to Dr. Rick Potts, director of the Smithsonian Human Origins Program at the museum. The casts of these skeletons – which include two complete copies for public display as well as two copies for the Human Origins Program’s research collection – were donated in the spirit of fostering closer research collaborations between the researchers and institutions of the United States, and South Africa. A separate box of unpublished specimens was also presented containing fossils that will be published later this year.

*Australopithecus sediba* was discovered in 2008 in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site Mapala Cave, located outside Johannesburg. The specimens consist of an adolescent male, dubbed Karabo, and a mature female, found relatively close to one another, and dated to between 1.95 and 1.78 million years ago. It was announced as a new species of early human ancestor on April 8, 2010. These two first specimens announced represent the two most complete skeletons of early hominins ever discovered, and have been referred to as one of the most important discoveries ever in the search for human origins in Africa.

Rick was quoted, “The discovery of *Australopithecus sediba* is a powerful reminder of how much remains to be unearthed about the ancestry of humans. The fossils are significant because they comprise a new species that may tell us about the emergence of our own genus *Homo*. The generous donation of the replicas significantly widens the opportunity for the public and researchers to explore these spectacular finds.”

**Presentation**

Rick gave a talk on “What Does It Mean To Be Human?” to the International Student House in DC on February 3rd.

**Presentations/Tours at NMNH**

Rick gave a lecture in Baird Auditorium What’s Hot in Human Origins? on November 11th, as part of the Human Origins Program public lecture series.
Rick gave several tours of the Hall of Human Origins. One tour involved a special group invited by Congressman Jim Moran and another to the Harry Winston group involved in the new installation of the Hope Diamond.

“The Scientist is In” and “HOT (Human Origins Today)” presentations given in the Human Origins Exhibit Hall included the following speakers: Research Associate Alison Brook, GWU; Kay Behrensmeyer, NMNH; Robin Teague, NMNH; John Yellen, NSF; Erin Vogel, GWU and Betul Kacar Arslan, Georgia Institute of Technology.

The Paleoanthropology Seminar Series featured presentations by David Green (GWU), Kaye Reed (NSF), and Matt Tocheri. Matt’s February 23 talk was titled “Gorillas In The Midst: New Insights Into the Recent Origin and Evolution of the Grauer Gorilla.”

Appointment

Briana has been appointed as a member of the Public Education Committee of the Society for American Archaeology.

Research Travel

In early November, Matt Tocheri spent several days visiting the Institute of Human Origins at Arizona State University. While there, Matt studied and laser scanned casts of hand and foot fossils from the early hominin species, Australopithecus afarensis.

In late November/early December, Matt travelled to Jakarta, Indonesia, to continue his work on the skeletal remains of Homo floresiensis. During his visit, Matt was able to finalize details of a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding between the NMNH and the National Research and Development Centre for Archaeology in Indonesia (ARKENAS). This MOU will facilitate increased collaboration between researchers at both institutions, as well as new and continued excavations on Flores and other Indonesian islands. The MOU was later signed by Tony Djubiantono (Director of ARKENAS) and Jonathan Coddington (Associate Director for Research and Collections, NMNH).

In late December/early January, Matt travelled to Kenya and Rwanda, to continue his research on gorilla evolution and functional morphology. On January 7, Matt gave an invited talk about his work on gorillas at the Karisoke Research Center, which was founded by Dian Fossey more than 40 years ago. During his visit, Matt was also able to climb partially up Mount Gahinga, one of the Virunga Volcanoes, to visit a habituated group of wild mountain gorillas—an experience he highly recommends!

Photo by Matt Tocheri.
From January 11 to 31, **Rick Potts** and **Jennifer Clark** traveled to Kenya to work at the National Museums of Kenya and the Olorgesailie Prehistory Site on faunal and artifact collections excavated during the 2010 summer field season. The research has begun to document the earliest known transition between Acheulean and Middle Stone Age technology, along with microfaunal evidence of paleoenvironments connected with the oldest known MSA in Africa.

**Around the Lab**

Dr. Kidong Bae, Department of Anthropology, Hanyang University, and of the Chongok Prehistory Museum, Republic of Korea, visited on February 15th.

Post-doctoral fellow **Robin Teague** continues her research on the topic of the ecological context of early Pleistocene hominin dispersal to Asia and adding data to the faunal section of the Human Origins Program database.

Welcome new interns **Briel Kobak** and **Kate McGrath** who are working with **Briana Pobiner**. **Briel** is an Anthropology and Spanish major at GWU and researching visitor questions from the Evolution FAQ kiosk in the exhibition. **Kate** recently graduated from the College of Charleston, SC, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a Geology minor. **Kate** will catalogue, re-house, re-label, and re-organize the HO Education hominin fossil casts and archeological collections.

**Torie Neff** was an intern during winter break. She assisted Briana in organizing visitor-submitted questions from the Evolution FAQ kiosk in the *Hall of Human Origins* and compiling prior research on public acceptance of evolution to help contextualize these questions. She returned to Skidmore College where she is a biology major.

Volunteers **Sandra Humphrey**, **Arlene Ruiz** (UMD student), and **Catherine Denial** (GWU student) continue their work with the HOP program.

**Museum Celebration of Chip Clark**

The Human Origins Program wishes to note the celebration of the life of Chip Clark, held in Baird Auditorium on December 3. Jennifer Clark and Rick Potts spoke at the event honoring a dear colleague and friend of the Human Origins Program (and pretty much everyone else in the NMNH). Chip passed away suddenly on June 13, 2010, after 37 years of photographing field expeditions, research collections, unique and valuable objects, and the lives of the staff of the NMNH. If you wish to view a video of the presentation featuring Chip’s photography and stories shared by staff members and family, it is available here: [http://darwin.si.edu/darwin/_media/chipclark.html](http://darwin.si.edu/darwin/_media/chipclark.html)
On January 19 Ann Kaupp spoke to members of the Archaeological Society of Maryland’s Mid-Potomac chapter. A tour of the department was organized by Noel Broadbent, who took the group around to visit various staff and offices, including Laurie Burgess, Bruno Frohlich, Dennis Stanford, and docent Frances Seay, who gave a tour of the Written in Bone exhibit.

Ann wrote a short article about AnthroNotes for the winter issue of the Maryland Council for Social Chronicle.

The spring issue of AnthroNotes will be dedicated to the topic of anthropology and race in anticipation of the opening of the AAA’s Race exhibit in June. Contributors include Yolanda Moses, Johnnetta Cole, John Jackson of the Annenberg School for Communication and Nina Jablonski of the California Academy of Sciences.

Ruth Selig has returned “home” to the Department of Anthropology as a research collaborator, continuing as an editor of AnthroNotes. She is also working with the director’s office to help develop a new Natural History newsletter. Ruth retired on December 18, 2010 from the Office of the Secretary, where she had served as special assistant to the Acting Secretary (Samper) and most recently was senior writer/editor, working half-time for Secretary Clough.

Research Collaborator Jeanne Moe, director of Project Archaeology, gave a talk on Archaeology Education over the Long Haul: Impacts and Challenges on January 28 as part of the Anthropology Seminar Series.

Jeanne Moe successfully defended her dissertation on February 16. The title is “Conceptual Understanding of Science through Archaeological Inquiry.”

Maureen Malloy and Ann have been networking regarding Project Archaeology, meeting with the head of DC STEM Alliance, the coordinator of Social Studies for the Maryland State Department of Education, and SI educators.

COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROGRAM

Accessing Anthropology

A new web portal, Accessing Anthropology: The Collections and Archives Program at the Department of Anthropology, goes live this March. Funded by a WAG grant received by Stephanie Christensen, this web site will contain approximately 50 pages of information about the Collections and Archives Program, replacing the current CAP pages.

A new rotating gallery called Featured Collection will highlight new collections that have recently been digitized and made available online. New technology will enhance accessing information from the department’s collections databases of 2.5 million objects, 650,000 photographs, nearly 10,000 shelf feet of manuscripts, and more than 8 million feet of original film and video in the department’s holdings.

The site will also include illustrated information about the extensive Anchorage Loan Conservation Project and the Jorge Preloran Film Collection. An announcement will be sent out when the site has gone “live.”
New Acquisition: Edward S. Curtis Photographs
by Gina Rappaport

The National Anthropological Archives has received a remarkable donation of original negatives produced by the iconic photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis. Photographer, filmmaker, and author Edward Sheriff Curtis (1868-1952) grew up in the Midwest but moved with his family to the Washington Territory in 1887 (Washington became a state in 1889). By the late 1890s he had established himself as a successful portrait and landscape photographer in Seattle and in the early 1900s began an ambitious project to photograph all the tribes of North America. It is these photographs, many of which were published in his epic 20 volume set *The North American Indian*, for which Curtis is most famous. Curtis’ work was highly influential in shaping a sympathetic although highly romanticized vision of cultures believed to be “vanishing.” His images of Native Americans, master works of photographic artistry, have lent themselves also to ethnographic study, and both scholars and the public have come to consider Curtis as one of the foremost photographers of Native Americans. Though Edward Curtis’ prints and photogravures can be found in archives, museums, and for sale by dealers, his original negatives are extremely rare. It is believed that his entire inventory of studio negatives was destroyed, and indeed few have ever surfaced. The recent gift to the National Anthropological Archives by his grandson James Graybill of over 500 original negatives, many of which were published in *The North American Indian*, is therefore an extraordinary addition to the Smithsonian’s important collections relating to Native Americans, and provides an exciting opportunity for researchers to gain new insights into Curtis’ working methods.

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Archivist Gina Rappaport has been nominated vice-chair of SIASC (Smithsonian Institution Archives and Special Collections Council).
Deb Hull-Walski and Megan Avera attended the Society of Historical Archaeology meetings in Austin, Texas, January 5-8. Deb presented a talk (co-authors Megan Avera, Doug Owsley, Laurie Burgess) titled “Bodies in Transit: The W.G.W. White Burial Vault at Congressional Cemetery.” Deb also attended the SHA Curation Committee Meeting.

Emu Update
by Carrie Beauchamp

A major renovation of Anthropology’s EMu Collections Search webpage (http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/) was completed in January. This is the public version of the collections database, which now includes 99% of the archaeology and ethnology collections (over 428,000 catalog records) and 111,000 object photographs.

If you have not visited the site recently, you may notice many new features:

- users can determine which fields/columns appear in the list view
- users can re-sort records based on any field in the list view
- users can export subsets of data to .csv (which you can save, and then open in excel)
- the new layout/design fits within the broader NMNH website

Each month, an average of 561 unique visitors from around the world use the EMu Search site to explore the collection. It’s a great way to start your research, answer public inquiries, or discover a new favorite artifact!

Jeanine Nault, a second year graduate student in Museum Studies and Anthropology at GWU, is interning with Stephanie Christensen at the NAA. She is working on the Digitization of Endangered Languages Manuscripts project. Jeanine will be here until May 13, 2011.

REPATRIATION OFFICE

Repatriation Reports


Consultation

Bill Billeck and Chris Wolff visited Anchorage, Alaska from December 5-10 to consult with tribal representatives from the Aleutians about repatriation of their human remains and funerary objects.

Presentation

Bill Billeck, Repatriation Office Manager, gave a talk and a workshop on Taking the Long View: Twenty Years of Repatriation at the National Museum of Natural History at George Washington University on January 27. The program was sponsored by The George Washington University’s Museum Studies Program and Anthropology Department.

Teaching Classes

Claire O’Brien gave a lecture titled “Anthropology in Human Rights Investigations” on December 7 for Marilyn London’s Anthropology in Forensic Science class taught last fall at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Dave Hunt and Marilyn London taught Advanced Osteology at GWU this fall.

Marilyn London team-taught a course at the Shady Grove campus of the University of Maryland over the Winter Session. With Susan L. Steen, Marilyn taught “Exploring Your Family History, Anthropologically” in which students learned techniques from all four subfields of anthropology, including taking oral histories, documenting inherited traits, investigating cemeteries and archival records, and establishing family language use.

Chris Wolff is teaching Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology at George Mason University this spring semester.

OPEN HOUSE

On Friday, February 18th the department jointly hosted an open house with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS was in town for its annual meeting. The evening began with a tour of the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins led by curator Rick Potts. Afterward, the 70 or so guests in attendance went behind-the-scenes to visit the Anthropology department, where staff labs and offices were open. Programs and offices that participated were The Human Origins Program, the Arctic Studies Center, the PaleoIndian Program, Archaeobiology Program, Doug Owsley’s physical anthropology lab, the Repatriation Program, Collections Management, the National Anthropological Archives/Human Studies Film Archives, the CT scanner lab, Dave Hunt’s physical anthropology collections lab, Anthropology Outreach/Project Archaeology, and John Wesley Power Library of Anthropology. Guests had the opportunity to visits labs, interact with staff, and get a sense of the broad scope of the department’s activities.

DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 17, the department celebrated the season with its annual holiday party. The Rose Seminar Room was beautifully decorated with lights on the ceiling and walls and our major decorators, former staff member Paula Fleming and her husband Ed, included an electric toy train display this year.

Each year we also look forward to a very special mystery cake that Eric Hollinger plans months in advance as a party centerpiece. This year Eric produced a replica of the Museum Rotunda with columns, the elephant, gem displays, including the Hope Diamond, and other wonderful objects. Photographs on next page.
Eric Hollinger setting up the cake assemble he designed and made depicting the museum’s Rotunda.

The cake with the Rotunda elephant added.

Museum Director Cristián Samper, Mary Jo Arnoldi, and Adrienne Kaeppler admiring Eric’s feat.


Editor and Compiler: Ann Kaupp
Reviewers: Betty Meggers; Maggie Dittemore
Chair: Mary Jo Arnoldi

Department Website: www.nmnh.si.edu/