MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

The Anthropology halls have been a bit empty and somewhat forlorn these days with many of you gone for summer holidays or working elsewhere in the world on a variety of exciting research projects. I do hope that the time away has been productive, rejuvenating, and hopefully cooler.

As we all begin to return to the fold in the coming weeks we also sadly mark the passing of our colleague and friend, Betty Meggers. Ninety years young, Betty first came to the Smithsonian in her teens to work with Chaco Canyon materials and later went on to complete her PhD in archaeology at Columbia University in 1952. Betty had a long and fruitful career in the field and published innumerable articles and books. Indeed, this is an important achievement, yet, as I have talked to her colleagues and friends over this past month, the one achievement that came immediately to everyone’s lips was her unwavering dedication to Latin American archaeology and her steadfast support of generations of South American archaeologists.

Betty leaves an extraordinary legacy of engagement, one that we all should hope to emulate. In the fall we will gather to remember her in a more formal way, but I am sure that many of you have some favorite memory of Betty that goes beyond the academic. One of mine is her fabulous tiny chocolate chip cookies – always a hit at every Anthropology Christmas party. This always brings a smile to my face.

At the closing of this issue we just learned of Dr. Gus Van Beek’s passing. We will honor Gus in the fall issue of Anthropolog.

Mary Jo Arnoldi

This Issue is Dedicated to Betty Jane Meggers

Betty Meggers. Photo courtesy of National Geographic Society, 1996.
BETTY J. MEGGERS (1921-2012): A Latin American Perspective

Rememberances of Betty Meggers by two close associates — A. Jorge Arellano and Jeffrey K. Wilkerson — follow. Her close friend and colleague Abelardo Sandoval writes about the Latin American Archeology Program Betty directed, beginning on page 21. In the fall 2009/winter 2010 issue of Anthropolog (available online), we celebrated Betty’s 70 years at the Smithsonian.

In the passing of Dr. Betty J. Meggers, Latin American archaeologists have lost a dear friend. Betty was a true pioneer in the field of archaeology, and her contributions to the discipline have paved the way for further developments in our knowledge of prehistoric cultures in South America.

I met Betty, her late husband Dr. Clifford Evans, and Dr. Dennis Stanford at a Paleoindian seminar in Antofagasta, Chile in 1978. During that time, my research focused on geoarchaeology and Paleoindian studies in the Southern Bolivian Highlands. Since our introduction, we were in regular communication and saw each other again in 1985 during the Huari Administrative Structure Round Table at Dumbarton Oaks, at which I gave a lecture on the new findings at Tiwanaku. As we discussed the archaeological news coming from Bolivia, she was particularly interested in hearing about the creation of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at one of the most prestigious Bolivian universities, San Andrés. In 1988, I returned to Washington, DC, to give a lecture at the Quincentenary Symposium, Americans Before Columbus: Prehistoric South America, which Betty chaired, and which was organized by the National Museum of Natural History and the Organization of American States. The following year, I worked alongside Betty as a short term visiting scholar, thanks to the NMNH’s Department of Anthropology’s Latin American Archeology Program.

Like me, many other Latin American scholars have benefited from Betty’s sponsorship and support. As visiting scholars, they were able to review and finish their research with access to the Smithsonian’s vast libraries and laboratories. Betty’s main interests were in the humid tropics and the Amazon, so initially most of the visiting scholars were from Brazil. Betty’s interests then evolved, and she sponsored scholars from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, British Guyana, Santo Domingo and Costa Rica. Many of these visiting scholars became internationally well-known archaeologists and high ranking government officials in their own countries: Luis Guillermo Lumbreras, Lautaro Nuñez, Ruth Shady Solís, Igor Chmyz, Ondemar Dias, Eurico Miller, to name a few.

Betty exemplified the best qualities of the Smithsonian: empathy, sophistication, and an intense desire to share knowledge and resources with the global community. During her long career at the Smithsonian, she was a prolific writer. She was especially noted for her outstanding book Amazonia: Man and Culture in a Counterfeit Paradise. It remains the most comprehensive text on the Amazon basin, serving as an authority for students of anthropology and archaeology, and even in its exploration of controversial topics, it is regularly cited in books related to the Amazon and its environmental problems.

The last two years of her life, I had the privilege of sharing an office with Betty as I finished my research on the Eastern lowlands of the Bolivian and Ecuadorian Amazon. During these years, she faced increasingly poor health, yet she maintained her independence with remarkable courage and persevered in her research, always looking for new evidences from the lat-
Most people in the NMNH knew Betty from her office in the Department of Anthropology where she spent long hours six days a week for decades and attended to a constant stream of international visitors and students. Few, however, had the opportunity to see her in the field or the chance to contemplate her considerable impact on the evolution of anthropological archaeology and cultural ecology in Latin America. Throughout this vast area she is perceived as having made an extremely productive contribution to not only science but to the national patrimonies of the countries where she worked. Her over two dozen awards, medals and honorary degrees from South American institutions reflect her influence. She has effectively shaped how the Smithsonian is viewed in many parts of Latin America.

Betty’s emphasis upon the necessity of understanding the natural setting of cultures — and the intertwined temporal fragility of both — as a prerequisite for deciphering archaeological chronologies and distributions was not just novel but revolutionary when she first emphasized it. So too was her consideration of Pre-Columbian transoceanic contact, and her forceful support for the then new dating techniques via the use of radiocarbon, thermoluminescence, and obsidian hydration.

She inspired as well as oriented. Along with her husband, Clifford Evans (1920-1981), her training and backing of archaeologists from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean remains legendary. Her personal donation of thousands of publications to researchers and libraries across the region, as well as her financing of field results, remains inimitable and greatly appreciated. She lived, and most liberally shared, her science to the very end of her life.

I first met Betty Meggers and Cliff Evans in the 1960s and began regular contact in the early 1970s. They never failed to hearten my research efforts in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. There were long discussions of new techniques and of promising individuals who might participate in the projects. It was never dull and always positive. It did not change with Cliff’s death. She was always available to discuss some complex field matter, be it on a Sunday by phone from Mexico, or in person when I was later present in the office during various sojourns over the years as a participant in the Latin American Archaeology Program.

What most distinguishes Betty in my mind was her remarkable generosity and consistency over the course of decades. Her research goals were there from the beginning, and she advanced them energetically while encouraging all who sought her aid. Her over seventy years at the NMNH, and Cliff’s over thirty, together represent more than a century of significant contributions by an extraordinary scientific team — not only to the Smithsonian but to the scientific communities of Latin America, where they are authentically cherished, and beyond.

A. Jorge Arellano
Smithsonian Research Collaborator

S. Jeffrey K. Wilkerson
SI Research Associate &
Director, Institute for Cultural Ecology

Betty holding the Venus of Valdivia Award she received from Ecuador, 2006.
IN THE MEDIA

Dolores Piperno was quoted in the National Geographic Daily News article “Human Ancestors Ate Bark: Food in Teeth Hints at Chimplike Origins” by Ker Than (June 27). Piperno traveled to South Africa this summer to collect data on the diet of the two-million-year-old Australopithecus Sediba whose teeth contained evidence of bark.

Dolores was quoted in the article “Scientists adjust their picture of the Amazon in the age before Columbus” by Alan Boyle (June 15 in Cosmiclog.msnbc)

Dave Hunt and Kristen Pearlstein discuss the department’s physical collections on the UTube video “Forensic Firsts: Skeletons in the Smithsonian Collection,” filmed by the Smithsonian Channel http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amqmYJ8IKMg&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Lars Krutak appeared as a radio guest on KNOM (96.1 FM, Nome, Alaska) on May 30 during a special community profile segment concerning the summer 2012 repatriation of human remains and funerary objects housed at the NMNH to the Native villages of Shishmaref, Savoonga, and Gambell, Alaska. On June 15, Lars also appeared as a radio guest on the Leonard Lopate Show (WNYC 93.9 FM) in New York City to discuss the history and meaning of tattoos and body decorations from a cross-cultural perspective during the 40-minute “Please Explain: Tattoos” segment.

Aron Crowell was interviewed in August by First Alaskans magazine and Native Peoples magazine for articles about the Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska exhibition in Anchorage.

PUBLICATIONS


Arutyunov’s collection (festschrift) contains 14 papers in archaeology, ethnology, linguistics, traditional music and spiritual beliefs of the Eskimo and Chukchi people of Russia written by Russian, French, Canadian and US contributors.


Rick, Torben C., and Jon M. Erlandson. 2012. “Kelp Forests, Coastal Migrations, and the Younger Dryas: Late Pleistocene and Earliest Holocene Human Settlement, Subsistence, and Ecology on California’s Chan-
DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY

Adrienne Kaeppler participated in the two-day symposium, “Creating a Roadmap for Smithsonian Music,” at NMAH, June 12 - 13, funded by a level one Consortium grant. Adrienne’s presentation was on “Music Research and Collections in the Anthropology Department, Natural History.”

Adrienne attended a board meeting in June of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM), of which she is President, in Shanghai, China, where the 2013 ICTM meeting will take place. While in Shanghai, she took part in a conference on Traditional Music in Modern Society and led the final discussion.

From July 2 to July 14, Adrienne attended the Eleventh Pacific Festival of Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands, where 22 Pacific countries took part in performing and visual arts and other events. This event takes place every four years in a Pacific Nation. Adrienne has attended eight of these festivals and has written several articles on them. She is now looking at how the festivals have changed in concept, as well as how the performances and visual arts have changed due to influences that have passed from culture to culture during the festivals. A 2002 article she wrote on the subject is “Pacific Festivals of Art: Venues for Rituals of Identity,” published in Pacific Arts, Number 25, Special issue on Pacific Festivals of Art, edited by Karen Stevenson, pp. 5-19.

From July 23 – 29th, Adrienne attended a symposium on Dance and Place, sponsored by the Ethnochoreology Study Group of the IFMC in Limerick, Ireland. She gave a paper titled “From Hawaiian Temples and Chiefly Courts to Festival Stages in Japan - With a Diversion for Filming.” She then carried out museum research on Hawaiian kapa (barkcloth) design at the British Museum, London, and the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. While at the British Museum, she also worked with Julian Hume, an ornithologist from the Natural History Museum, London, on identifying feathers on Hawaiian feathered capes.

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Dan Rogers and Meghan Mulkerin have started a blog about Dan’s current research and more generally on the museum and associated collections. The blog also will contain information on Mongolian and Native American archaeology, agent-based modeling, and research on empires. Visit http://nmnh.typepad.com/rogers_archaeology_lab/ and Twitter @ArchaeologyLab.

***

The following curators presented at the April 13 Senate of Scientists Lightning Talks.


Ronald Bishop: “Advances in Mayan Archaeology through Nuclear Chemistry.”

Stephen Loring: “Return Us Now to the Thrilling Days of the Pleistocene: Archaeology, Analogy, Activism with the Innu of Labrador.”

The June 14 Lightning Talks featured Rick Potts who spoke on “How did Climate Shape Human Evolution?”


Adrienne Kaeppler, Greta Hansen, and Rob Fleischer (National Zoo) received a grant of $5000 from the FY 2012 Barcode Network to support the beginning stage of their project on using molecular techniques to determine the DNA of Polynesian barkcloth.

The DNA analysis is part of the larger project funded by CCPF to stabilize and re-house 68 of the barkcloth (tapa) pieces collected during the US Exploring Expedition – 1838-1842, under Captain Wilkes, one of the founding collections of the Smithsonian Institution.

For this barcoding project they are focusing on Hawaiian kapa and especially pieces made from plants other than the paper mulberry (Broussonetia papyifera) which is the usual plant used in Polynesia for barkcloth. It is hoped that the DNA analysis will indicate the source plant, such as mamaki (Pipturus albidus), and several others, as well as from what plants the dyes derive. The analysis will be carried out in the laboratory of Rob Fleischer at the Zoo.

***

Gabriela Pérez Báez conducted three orthography workshops in San Lucas Quiavini, Oaxaca, Mexico. The workshops took place on July 14, 20 and 27th and were attended by teenagers, mostly members of the Colectivo Literario Quiavini. The workshops were in collaboration with Alicia Morales López from San Lucas Quiavini, Aurea López Cruz of the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia, Mario Chávez Peón of the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, Román López Reyes of the Colectivo Literario Quiavini, and Hiroto Uchihara of the University at Buffalo.

Gabriela Pérez Báez mentored Hiroto Uchihara and Randi Tucker (U. at Buffalo) in field research. Randi assisted Gabriela in research on locative expressions in La Ventosa, Oaxaca, and Hiroto conducted elicitation in San Lucas Quiavini.

**Political Ecology of Cell Phones**

As part of their 2011 GW-SI grant (Political Ecologies of Cell Phones) Joshua Bell and Joel Kuipers (GWU) have been working with research assistants Briel Kobak, Trung Le, Amanda Kemble and Jacqueline Hazen since January 2012 to examine the cultural and linguistic impact of cell-phones and their networks in the DC region. This study has entailed ethnographic interviews and survey work with GW students, members of the Vietnamese and El Salvadoran communities, DC taxicab drivers, and the emerging cell phone repair industry.

Building on this research, the team has received a Wenner Gren Conference grant for $20,000 to organize, host, and publish the results of a three-day workshop titled “The Linguistic and Material Intimacies of Mobile Phones.” Scheduled for early June 2013, the workshop will involve 11 established and emerging scholars to present and discuss theoretically informed case studies that examine and challenge three themes on social, cultural, linguistic, and material aspects of mobile phones: 1) Inscription – How do mobile phones materialize and fix meanings using acoustic, visual and...
tactile resources, 2) Intimacy – How do mobile phones enable and challenge the boundaries of privacy, selfhood and personal desire as they connect us to ever wider social networks? 3) Fetishization – How does the materiality of mobile phones mediate and privilege certain aspects of a user’s devotion to their phone? This workshop will not only produce a scholarly volume of essays, but will also provide the theoretical foundation for a planned exhibit on cell phones at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History.

**Melanesian Networks Project**

Over the spring and early summer, as part of the Melanesian Networks Project (MNP), intern **David Jensen** worked in the SI archives to flesh out the collecting context of what appears to be the first specimens from New Guinea to come to the National Museum. Obtained by Lt. William Van Wyck aboard the USS Porpoise during the North Pacific Exploring Expedition (1853-1856), this collection of birds (an Island Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula pistrinaria vanwyckii*) and two Metallic Starlings (*Aplonis metallica*)) were obtained on January 23 and 24, 1854 during a stop at Tombara Island in Port Praslin on the south coast off New Ireland.

Maris Jones and Joshua Bell examine a hexagonal basket with made from woven pandanus leaves, decorated with red and orange trade cloth and black, white, and rainbow colored foreign beads (E284023) collected by Abbott in 1914 (Megan Strouse).

Over the summer NHRE intern **Maris Jones** (Brown University), **Megan Strouse** (Ithaca College) and Yes! intern **Bery Montenegro** (Park View High school) worked to help research catalogue 386 ethnographic objects collected by Dr. W.L. Abbott in January of 1914, during his visit to communities in the Bird's Head Peninsula (Sorong, Manokwari, Cenderawasih Bay, Biak) and north coast of New Guinea (Wakde and Yos Sudarso Bay) on a steamer cruise with a sister. The material provides important comparative data to a collection obtained by O.Beccari in 1872-73 in NMNH and helps shed further light on the trade and social dynamics of this region.

Maris Jones and Joshua Bell examine a hexagonal basket with made from woven pandanus leaves, decorated with red and orange trade cloth and black, white, and rainbow colored foreign beads (E284023) collected by Abbott in 1914 (Megan Strouse).

**David Jensen with birds collected by Van Wyck in southern New Ireland (J.A. Bell).**

**Laurie Burgess, Maris Jones and Bery Montenegro examine Chinese and European beads in the Abbott collection.**
Lars Krutak initiated a new research project that documents developing cultural practices of tattooing among Native North Americans in the United States and Canada. In June, Lars traveled to New York City to interview tattooed Inuit filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril after the screening of her recent documentary *Tunnit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos* at the NMAI. Also in June, Lars visited Cherokee and Osage informants in Tahlequah and Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Krutak’s field investigations will continue through September as he journeys to northern California, British Columbia, and Alaska to interview Tongva-Acjachemen, Wintun, Tolowa, Nlaka’pamux, Tlingit, and St. Lawrence Island Yupiget tattoo bearers for a forthcoming publication. Lars’ research is sponsored by a grant from the Whatcom Museum of Bellingham, WA.

***

Jane Walsh, emeritus anthropologist, and Edgar Krebs, research associate, attended the 54th International Congress of Americanists in Vienna, Austria, July 15-20. Jane gave an invited presentation, “Teotihuacan Masks: Looking beneath the surface towards a preliminary typology,” co-authored by Timothy Rose (Department of Mineral Sciences). Edgar He presented a paper titled “An Inca King for the Criollo Patriots” co-organized the session, dedicated to Indian Law/Legal History.

RECOVERING VOICES

Ruth Rouvier joined the department on June 4 as the program manager for Recovering Voices. In her research at the University of California, Berkeley, where she received a BA and MA in Linguistics, Ruth worked collaboratively with indigenous communities in Nicaragua and California to document and revitalize their ancestral languages.

Before coming to the Smithsonian, Ruth was employed as the Language Program Director for the Karuk Tribe, located in northern California, where she coordinated grant-funded projects to record and revitalize Karuk language, culture and history. Her primary task was to run community-based Karuk language documentation and oral history projects in which teams of Tribal elders and documentation apprentices received training in audio-visual technology and language documentation. With their new skills they produced and shared culturally contextualized language recordings and oral history interviews, enhanced by the integration of archival material, museum and private collections, and traditional and ceremonial activities. Ruth also worked closely with the Karuk language community to develop a ten-year strategic plan to revitalize their language. In her various projects she has helped develop strong collaborative relationships between indigenous communities and academic and governmental institutions.

Ruth continues to collaborate closely with Miskitu and Mayangna communities on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. She has examined Miskitu morphosemantics and dialect variation and patterns of language contact and change between Miskitu and Mayangna, Ulwa, Spanish and Nicaraguan Creole English. Her research has involved working with indigenous scholars to develop Miskitu descriptive and pedagogical materials. She also works with a variety of Nicaraguan indigenous com-
munity organizations on disaster relief and social and economic development initiatives in Nicaragua and the US.

Ruth is presently situated in Mindy Zeder’s office, room 306, and can be reached at rouvierr@si.edu

Gabriela Pérez Báez presented on behalf of Recovering Voices at the Symposium on Language Revitalization in the 21st Century: Going Global Staying Local,” organized by the Auckland University of Technology through its International Center for Language Revitalization and held on May 31 and June 1st at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her presentation was titled “Recovering Voices: Using the Collections.”

Gabriela conducted fieldwork (June 28 to August 17) for the project “Comparative Study of Tone Phenomena in Zapotec Languages” supported by a Smithsonian Scholarly Studies grant. The hypothesis driving this study is that tonal perturbations in certain aspectual forms of verbs were a feature of the common ancestor language Proto-Zapotec and have undergone regular sound changes. The project uses the Survey of Zapotec and Chatino Languages (Sicoli & Kaufman 2010) to test this hypothesis through analysis of tonal perturbations in verbs in the potential aspect across 10 Zapotec languages from the Isthmus and the Western regions.

Field activities included a five-day training workshop (July 9-13) for a group of four collaborators—all native Zapotec speakers. The workshop was held at the Centro Académico y Cultural San Pablo in Oaxaca City. Reyna Guadalupe López López (La Ventosa) and Paula Martínez Antonio (Logueche) collected additional data from 11 towns in the Isthmus and the Western Zapotec area. Víctor Cata (Juchitán, MA in Linguistics) and Emiliano Cruz Santiago (Loxicha, BA in Linguistics) have since been engaged in transposition of verb forms in ELAN. Both Víctor Cata and Emiliano Cruz Santiago will continue their work in Washington DC, based here at NMNH-Anthropology and at Georgetown University with Co-PI Mark Sicoli.

Joshua Bell gave a talk in the Smithsonian Castle Lecture Series (May 22) titled: “Transforming Knowledges: Interdisciplinary Work of Recovering Voices in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere.”

Recovering Voices Intern Megan Strouse (Ithaca College) worked over the summer to organize and transcribe videos taken of the Hoonah delegation and of the phases of the Tapa Project for Recovering Voices. This work will help with post-production editing.
In June, Cambridge University anthropology PhD candidate Sergio Jarillo de la Torre finished his nine month fellowship, supervised by Joshua A. Bell. Sergio worked on the Jerry W. Leach Trobriand Folklore Collection in the National Anthropological Archives. Made in the early 1970s, this collection consists of 34 magnetic audiotapes and 365 recorded items. Drawing on his own fieldwork for his PhD, Sergio worked to clarify translations of stories transcribed in kilivila (Austronesian language family) and English, as well as to provide new translations of the material. The next phase of this project will involve consultations with Trobriand communities on Kiriwina to clarify the stories for a publication, to collect more material, and to explore how best to effectively engage communities with this material.

Recovering Voices Seminars


May 29 - León Gracía (Audrey Lumsden-Kouvel Fellow): “Interpreters of the Sacred: The Tlazihqueh diviners (and their interpreters).”


Recovering Voices From A Hawaiian Feathered Cloak

by Adrienne Kaeppler, Felicia Pickering, David Rosenthal

The famous Hawaiian feathered cloak (‘ahu’ula) of chief Kekuaokalani in the Smithsonian collection was visited by family members on August 10th.

The known history of the cloak goes back to 1819 and the Battle of Kuamo’o between Liholiho (Kamehameha II) and Kekuaokalani for control of the Hawaiian Islands and the war god Kuka’ilimoku, after the death of Kamehameha I. During the battle, Kekuaokalani was killed and the feathered cloak that he was wearing was taken as a battle prize on behalf of Kamehameha II. The cloak became one of the three feathered cloaks that legitimized Liholiho’s claim to power. After the death of Kamehameha II, the cloak did not have the same symbolic power to his brother, Kamehameha III, and it was given to Capt. John H. Aulick of the American Navy in 1841. His descendants gave it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1869. The cloak was on exhibit for many years in the Asia-Pacific Hall at the National Museum of Natural History and was last exhibited in Adrienne’s exhibit, “Na Mea Makamae o Hawai’i - Hawaiian Treasures,” 2004-2005.

The cloak was visited on August 10th by well-known musician/singer Keola Beamer and his wife Victoria (Moana), who are both related to Kekuaolakani and his wife Manono. Both were both killed at the Battle of Kuamo’o. Moana chanted greetings to the cloak and they talked about their relationships to it.

Keola and Moana also viewed other Hawaiian materials in the collection, including the six hula ki’i (puppets), after which Keola’s mother, Winona Beamer, reconstructed a set of puppets for performance in 1978. The Smithsonian puppets are one of only two sets in the world. The other set is at Bishop Museum in Honolulu.
DIVISION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Doug Ubelaker

Doug Ubelaker has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Revista Española de Antropología Física in Spain.

In June, Doug Ubelaker traveled to London, UK, to participate in a Michigan State University program. On the 28th he gave an invited lecture on case studies in forensic anthropology.

Doug was in Istanbul, Turkey, from June 30 to July 6. At the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe Workshop, Doug presented four lectures on estimating time since death, species identification, establishing the biological profile and case studies. He also supervised laboratory sessions on these topics. On July 2, Doug presented a lecture, “Identification and Dating of Human Remains,” in a workshop organized by the International Red Cross. On July 6, Doug gave a talk titled “New Research Directions in the Forensic Sciences” at the International Academy of Legal Medicine meeting also in Istanbul. He was appointed to the scientific committee of the International Academy of Legal Medicine.

Doug attended the 16th Congreso Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses in Bogota, Colombia, August 14 – 17. Doug organized and presented an all day workshop on age estimation. He also delivered an invited plenary lecture, “Avances recientes en las Ciencias Forenses.”

Doug Ubelaker is sponsoring the following:

Post-doctoral fellow Sara Casado Zapico (Oviedo Univ., Asturias, Spain). Project: “Age estimation by measurement of oxidative stress in teeth from different populations. Comparison with classical methods.” Sara’s fellowship is from June 18 through June 13, 2014. Contact: Casado-ZapicoS@si.edu

Dilliana Ivette Anaya-Ramirez is interning as a research assistant in Doug’s lab from July 16 through August 17, with possible extension to October 26, 2012. Dilliana is a recent graduate of Western Carolina University with a BS in Anthropology with a concentration in Forensic Anthropology and a minor in Criminal Justice. Contact: Anaya-RamirezD@si.edu

Dave Hunt

Dave hosted three families of particular interest to Smithsonian anthropology. Pauline Wenge and her family (husband Dave, sons Jared and Matthew) visited on June 13 to view the beard of Hans Langseth (1846-1912) in our collection. Hans Langseth is known for having grown the longest beard ever recorded at 18 feet 6 inches long. Mrs. Wenge is Hans Langseth’s great great granddaughter. Dave hosted another direct descendent of Hans Langseth, Tracy Steuve her and family on August 8.

National Museum of Natural History physical anthropologists Lucille St. Hoyme (1924-2001), J. Lawrence Angel (1915-1986), and Thomas Dale Stewart (1901-1997) holds Langseth’s beard found in a North Dakota attic.
On June 14th, Dave gave a tour to New Jersey resident Michelle O’Neill, who is the great great grand niece of Smithsonian physical anthropologist Ales Hrdlicka (1869-1943). At the museum, Dave showed O’Neill where Hrdlicka once had his office, his reprint archives, among other things; and at MSC, his death mask, busts and related collections. At MSC Daisy Njoku showed O’Neill two 1930s films on Hrdlicka in Alaska, housed in the HSFA. Rose Chou, went through boxes of Hrdlicka’s papers.

Dave Hunt gave a presentation to the Smithsonian Associates on June 20 titled “The ‘Skeletal Reference’ for Forensic Anthropology.” His talk focused on the Robert J. Tery collection of 1,728 individuals and how this collection has been the basis for the standards for biological profile in skeletal biology and forensic anthropology.

In July Dave Hunt assisted the museum in giving a tour of the physical collections to a delegation of Iraqi museum professionals. This tour was part of a George Washington University International collaboration.

***

Rhonda Coolidge and Marilyn London served as faculty for the National Museum of Health and Medicine’s 25th Annual Forensic Anthropology Course at the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, Maryland, June 11-15.

Marilyn London taught a three-week course, Introduction to the Forensic Sciences, at the University of Maryland in July. The course was taught through the Young Scholars Program, which brings in students from around the country “with exceptional ability and promise” for an early college experience.

Marilyn and Doug Ubelaker also attended the three-day meeting of SWGANTH, the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology, July 31-August 2, held in Washington, DC.

Kristen Pearlstein, Kathleen Adia, Teresa Hsu, and Daniel DiMichele presented at the August Forensic Friday. The topic was the importance of skeletal research collections and how these collections are used to teach standards of forensic identification, make comparisons between human and animal remains, and understand health and disease, cultural differences, and mortuary practices.

NHRE intern Alexis Goots (The Ohio State University, Columbus) was sponsored by Doug Owsley and Kari Bruwelheide. She explored the relationship between bone mineral density, physical activity, and lifestyle in Civil War soldiers, 19th-century civilians, and contemporary white males to better understand factors leading to low bone density in young adults.
The Arctic Studies Center will play host to the forthcoming 18th Inuit Studies Conference (18 ISC) in Washington, DC, from October 24-28, 2012. These bi-annual scholarly conferences have been held for 34 years since 1978. They commonly bring together Arctic anthropologists, linguists, archaeologists, historians, as well as educators, health, and government specialists, and Inuit cultural activists from Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Russia.

The 18th Inuit Studies Conference will be hosted under a broad theme, “Arctic | Inuit | Connections: Learning from the Top of the World.” Its main program topics will focus on climate change, Arctic governance, globalization in the North, Inuit art, cultural studies, heritage and museums. The sessions will take place across the Smithsonian ‘campus,’ at NMNH (morning plenaries), NMAI, Dillon Ripley Center, and at the nearby Woodrow Wilson Center.

Many transformative changes are taking place across the Arctic today, and they are dramatically altering the Inuit world and people’s life in the North. The conference provides a timely outlet to discuss these transitions. Specifically, the 18 ISC for the first time will address what the larger world may learn from the experience of the Arctic residents who are facing rapid cli-
mate change, socio-cultural shifts, and industrial development on their lands. Many sessions, panels and plenary discussion during the 4-day conference with estimated 400 participants will touch on those topics. Plenary speakers include Nellie Cournoyea, Former Premier of the Canadian Northwest Territories and Dr. Mark Serreze, polar climatologist and Director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) at the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. The Conference committee, chaired by Bill Fitzhugh, is also planning a number of evening programs including receptions, film screening, and an address by Aron Crowell, Director of the ASC Program at the Anchorage Museum titled, “The Northern Museumscape” on October 26.

For the first time this Inuit Studies conference will be conducted in a cutting-edge digital, online format. The conference will have an online interactive program, which will include live streamed plenary talks and papers with the capability for online interaction. The online program will act as a bridge between the Washington DC, participants and speakers and northern residents in home communities in Canada, Greenland, Alaska, Russia, and beyond.

Beyond the four-day conference sessions, ASC will leverage the strengths of the Smithsonian through a number of public programs. Our public events include a number of exhibitions at NMAI and the S. Dillon Ripley Center. NMAI will host the exhibition Arctic Journeys/Ancient Memories: The Sculpture of Abraham Anghik Ruben, to be staged in its Sealaska gallery during the conference period. In collaboration with S. Dillon Ripley Center, we will host five exhibitions in the conference headquarters during the meetings. A film festival focused on the films about the Inuit will be available to the public on Sunday, October 28, 2012.

The conference is funded by various grants, including two from NSF, and donations. The Department of Anthropology kindly offered to host an “open house” for conference participants on October 25th.

We welcome all of the Anthropology and NMNH staff members to the ISC meetings and events.
Igor Krupnik served on the 13-member cross-disciplinary committee appointed by the Polar Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences to examine the legacies of International Polar Year 2007–2008. Earlier this month, the committee released its final report, *Lessons and Legacies of International Polar Year 2007–2008*, published by the National Academies Press. The 137-page book summarizes major scientific discoveries, public and scientific impact of the recently completed IPY 2007–2008, including its role in advancing social and human studies in the polar regions and in engaging Arctic indigenous residents in research and outreach collaboration. The IPY was a rare example of a major interdisciplinary initiative driven by physical scientists with a very strong component of social and human studies and interest in indigenous people’s knowledge and observations of change in the polar regions.

Research in Labrador

Stephen Loring was an invited guest and speaker at the 2012 Heritage Forum sponsored by the Nunatsiavut Government in Makkovik, Labrador, from May 7-11, 2012. The four-day event brought community leaders, educators, government officials, social scientists and cultural heritage specialists together to develop and promote heritage concerns and practice in Labrador.
Anthony Jenkinson and Chelsee Arbour (Memorial University) and spent three weeks mapping and excavating a series of Early and Middle Archaic sites adjacent to the caribou-crossing place. These sites are among the earliest known from the Labrador interior where they coincided with the last of the continental ice-sheet that once covered most of eastern North America.

Anchorage-based Smithsonian National Board member Betsy Lawer worked with Smithsonian Friends, the Smithsonian Office of Development, the Advancement Department of the National Museum of Natural History, and ASC-Alaska Director Aron Crowell to establish the Smithsonian Council for Arctic Studies, a private/corporate giving circle that will provide critical annual support for ASC research, education, and public programs in Alaska. The Council held its inaugural dinner in April at the Anchorage Museum. In addition, the First National Bank of Alaska, where Betsy Lawer serves as Vice Chair, announced a generous $100,000 pledge to the Arctic Studies Center to support its educational work over the next five years.

Aron Crowell, principal investigator for the collaborative National Science Foundation grant, “Glacial Retreat and the Cultural Landscape of Ice Floe Sealing at Yakutat Bay, Alaska” (with the University of Alaska Fairbanks). Aron led two weeks of preliminary fieldwork at Yakutat during June, including archaeological surveys of historic and pre-contact sealing camps and interviews with elders and seal hunters. Collaborators on the project include Elaine Abraham (Alaska Native Science Commission), Stephen Langdon (University of Alaska Anchorage) and Gary Holton (Alaska Native Language Archive). Because of its extraordinary sea mammal resources,
Yakutat Bay has been a destination for Sugpiaq, Eyak, Ahtna, and Tlingit migrations over the last 900 years, resulting in a complex overlay of languages and cultures. One exciting result of this year’s fieldwork was documentation of combined Tlingit-Eyak place name sets for many of the old sealing camps and village sites. The multi-disciplinary project is slated for major field research efforts in 2013 and 2014, including investigations of seal camps, glacial movements, and climate change effects on harbor seal populations.

**Research Trips**

**Dawn Biddison** conducted field research in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks, Alaska, for the 2013 Smithsonian Folklife Festival program “One World, Many Voices: Endangered Languages and Cultural Heritage.” She filmed and recorded interviews with 18 Alaska Native culture bearers, focusing on the role of Native languages in their lives and work and on language revitalization in their communities. One highlight of the research was attending Celebration – a biennial festival of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian tribal members – with Tlingit weaver Teri Rofkar, joined by museum conservators from NMAI.

**Dawn Biddison** attended the NMAI Conservation Department’s Southeast Alaska Field Study in Sitka and Juneau, Alaska, from June 2-10. The field study was organized by Marian Kamintz, Head of Conservation at NMAI, and Tlingit weaver Teri Rofkar. Events included a kayak trip to learn on-site about traditional spruce root harvesting and a totem pole walking tour with Tlingit carver Tommy Joseph.

**Exhibit Tours**

**Aron Crowell** and **Dawn Biddison** continue to give tours of the *Living Our Cultures* exhibition for special interest groups and the general public. Visitors included new National Mu-
seum of Natural History Director Kirk Johnson; Aqqaluq Lynge, former President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council; Abraham Anghik Ruben, Inuit artist; Vernon Chimegalrea, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation; Arild Skjervøy, Vice President for Alaska Exploration, ConocoPhillips Alaska; Ms. Katrina Fong Lim, Lord Mayor of Darwin Australia; Dr. David Lindauer, Professor of Economics, Wellesley College; Wilson Justin, Cheesh’na Tribla Council; the Board of the Student Conservation Association; and Donald A. B. Lindberg, MD, Director, National Library of Medicine.

Exhibit Education

The Living Our Cultures exhibition is featured in the Anchorage Museum’s educational programming, including the docent-led tours “Alaska Native Cultures” for grades 3-5 and “The First Peoples of Alaska” for grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Downloadable K–12 student activity sheets are also available for educators to help guide field trip experiences during free exploration. These adaptable trip sheets include activities for the Living Our Cultures gallery, as well as suggested pre- and post-visit activities for the classroom.

Smithsonian Spotlight Lectures

May: “Indigenous Identity.” University of Alaska Anchorage Associate Professor Phyllis Fast, Koyukon Athabascan, presented her current research on indigenous identity in context with her work as a visual artist.


July: “Out West Series.” Yup’ik artist Ryan Romer discussed his ongoing photo documentary series made while traveling in Western Alaska along the Kuskokwim River, the region where he was raised. Created in collaboration with residents, the collective of images conveys a present-day status of the region and the adjustments for time made by its people, places and things.

August: “Patterns of Influence.” Iñupiaq/Athabascan artist Sonya Kelliher-Combs discussed recent work and how exploring concepts and examples of patterns – from harvests to parka trim – has influenced her work.

Untitled self portrait. Photo by Ryan Romer.

Young students at the Living Our Cultures exhibit. Photo by Chris Arend.
Interns

The ASC-AK hosts interns throughout the year, with four types of positions offered during 2012. In the spring of 2012, Molly Johansson served as the public programming assistant. She recently earned an MA in Social Anthropology from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, where she discovered an interest in material culture, crafts and museums. Molly assisted at the St. Lawrence Island Language Workshop and Alaska’s Living Cultural Treasures: Bentwood Hat Workshop, including work as a sound technician for the professional film team. She also wrote content for the Sharing Knowledge website and Living Our Cultures exhibit interactives from public program consultations with Alaska Native artists and elders. While finishing her internship, Molly applied for and was accepted into the MA Culture, Materials & Design program at University College London.

In June, Zachary Lassiter began a Documentary Films internship. His position was made possible by a donation from First National Bank Alaska, administered through the University of Alaska Foundation. Over the summer, Zachary worked closely with ASC staff to edit short language-learning films from the St. Lawrence Island Yupik language workshop, which will be distributed to Yupik tribal representatives and educators, and posted to the NMNH Recovering Voices iTunes U page for general public access at http://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/recovering-voices-documenting/id467414957?mt=10.

Also in June, Heather McClain began her second internship as the Public Programming assistant. Heather is a second year graduate student at the University of Denver working towards her MA in anthropology with a focus on Museum and Heritage Studies. Over the summer, Heather worked on content development for the Sharing Knowledge website and Living Our Cultures exhibit interactives. After she completes her coursework next spring, Heather plans to finish writing her thesis and hopes to begin her career in Alaska.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN ECOLOGY AND ARCHAEOBIOLOGY

Torben Rick was appointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Archaeology.

Torrey spent the summer conducting fieldwork in California and the Chesapeake Bay area, working on a National Science Foundation sponsored project on the Channel Islands and a National Geographic Foundation sponsored project at SERC.

Torrey received a second round of funding from the SI Consortia (Valuing World Cultures and Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet) for the project “Archaeogenomics, Conservation and Extinction of Mammals and Birds on California’s Channel Islands” ($15,000, with Co-PI’s, Jesus Maldonado, Rob Fleischer, Kathy Ralls, Scott Sillet, and Courtney Hofman, NZP).

Visiting Fellows

Courtney Hofman (Univ. of MD) is a Pre-doctoral Buck Fellow, working on a project titled “Hunter-Gatherers, Archaeogenomics, and the Enigmatic Evolutionary History of the Foxes of California’s Channel Islands.”

Katie Cramer (Univ. of CA, San Diego) is a post-doctoral fellow (Marine Science Network) with a project on “Change in Caribbean Coral Reef Environments and Fish Communities Over the Last Millennium.” Katie is co-hosted with Aaron O’Dea at STRI and will spend much of her time in Panama and at Carrie Bow.

Shell midden on eroded beach, Elliot Island, Eastern Shore, Maryland. Plein air oil painting by Noel Broadbent. Noel recently visited this area being investigated by Torben Rick and Darrin Lowry.
**Press**

Interviews with **Rick Potts** were recently published in two *The Washington Post* articles:

“Cristian Samper reflects on his time at the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum” by Lonnae O’Neal Parker (August 3) and “New fossil skull from Africa reveals tangled roots at base of the human family tree” by Brian Vastag (August 8).

**Presentations**

**Rick Potts** participated in the 2012 Aspen Environment Forum, presented in partnership by the Aspen Institute and National Geographic, June 22-25. The fifth installment of the annual forum challenged conventional thinking about the environment by focusing new ideas and new research in spirited discussions about the obstacles and opportunities presented to us by a new environmental paradigm — “**The New Normal**.” Rick was an invited panelist for a session titled, “Lessons From the Past–Adapt or Die.” Other panelists included William Calvin (Univ. of Washington) and Terry Hunt (Univ. of Hawai’i at Manoa). Jamie Shreeve of *National Geographic* magazine was moderator.

The Human Origins Program was a virtual field trip destination for Maker Camp, sponsored by **MAKE magazine**, a virtual summer camp for teens on Google+ with a focus on creating, building, and discovering. Each weekday morning a new project was posted by an expert camp counselor who would walk campers through the steps to build a project. On Fridays campers took virtual “field trips” via Google+ and on August 10th campers visited the Human Origins Program to meet **Briana Pobiner** and learn about prehistoric stone tools and diet. Briana answers questions about her research on early human diet and what it is like to be a paleoarcheologist. A link to the whole broadcast can be found here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0ZoBACtv9Q&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0ZoBACtv9Q&feature=youtu.be)

**Teaching Evolution through Human Examples**

As part of the NSF-funded project, “Teaching Evolution through Human Examples,” **Briana Pobiner** (project PI) organized a meeting that took place at NMNH on June 1-3. This exploratory project’s goal is to assess how using human examples to teach evolution topics in AP Biology – as opposed to using examples of evolution in other organisms - and teaching strategies to increase teacher comfort and confidence affects the understanding, teaching and learning of evolution by high school AP biology teachers and students.

The meeting included **Rick Potts** (project co-PI), Bill Watson (project co-PI), external scientists, local AP biology teachers, representatives from the College Board, master teachers including those with the National Academy of Sciences Teacher Advisory Council, Connie Bertka (HOP’s Broader Social Impacts Committee co-chair and project lead on developing the teaching strategies), and the project’s advisory board, which includes experts in curriculum development and teaching evolution. The group made great progress and decided on the four human examples of evolutionary
websites, to understand family trees) and in discussing the structure and orientation of the teaching strategies.

Briana Pobiner participated in a Siemens STEM Institute program, organized by Discovery Channel and coordinated by Ann Kaupp, on July 31. She gave a presentation on learning about early humans from casts and an introduction to the NMNH Human Origins’ website. She also answered questions about her experiences doing fieldwork in Africa and Asia and introduced resources on the Human Origins Program website that teachers can easily adapt for use in their classroom.

“The Scientist is In” and “HOT (Human Origins Today)” presentations given in the Human Origins Exhibit Hall included the following speakers: Sarah Barks and Kevin Hatala, GWU; Rick Potts, Briana Pobiner, Emily Goble, Caitlin Schrein, and Robin Teague, NMNH; Connie Bertka, Jim Miller and Fred Edwords of the Human Origins Program’s Broader Social Impacts Committee.

Around the lab

The following researchers visited the HOP lab: Claire E. Terhune, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program Department of Community & Family Medicine, Duke University Medical Center; and Kate Wellspring, Collections Curator, Beneski Museum of Natural History, Amherst College.

Summer intern Hannah Weinberg-Wolf worked with Briana Pobiner, in conjunction with the Office of Education, on an evaluation of the Scientist is In program. She’s a rising senior at Johns Hopkins University majoring in Behavioral Biology with a minor in Museums and Society.

LATIN AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM (LAAP)

by Abelardo “Chinaco” Sandoval

The passing of Dr. Betty Meggers, director of the Latin American Archeology Program, on July 2 is a tremendous loss to the research program, as well as to her colleagues and friends.

Growing up in a scientific environment at the time when anthropology had given way to new theoretical approaches of the 20th century, Betty’s training was un-
der the light of the cultural historical theory. This became the motivation for her to pursue and explore deterministic economic and biological approaches in the understanding of past archaeological material and behavior.

Her early career was in the middle of “revolutionary” methods in archaeology, such as those in chronology and settlement pattern studies, first introduced by Gordon Willey in the well-known Viru Valley in the northern coast of Peru. Under the influence of archaeologist James Ford (1911-1968), Betty developed a method for chronological reconstruction, better known as Seriation, which she described in a manual for archaeologists titled *Potsherd Language and How to Read It (El Lenguaje de los Tiestos)*. Although the method was widely accepted by most Latin Americans, it soon became controversial, as it reduced the understanding of past cultural behavior to the concept of biological taxonomy. Betty had conducted fieldwork in Ecuador, Brazil, British Guiana, Venezuela, the Caribbean, and Micronesia. Most recently the article “Sparse Pre-Columbian Human Habitation in Western Amazonia” (by C.H. McMichael, D.R. Piperno, et al) in *Science* 336, no.6087 (June 15, 2012) supported her theory that the Amazon, at least in the western section, was sparsely populated, not densely as has some scholars have concluded.

The Latin American Archaeology Program (LAAP) has nurtured several generations of Latin Americanists, mainly from South America and the Caribbean, in the various fields of anthropology, by means of field and laboratory research, short-term fellowships, and symposia. Betty also sponsored distinguished scholars from other parts of the world who found the NMNH-LAAP laboratory an inspiring place to work, with access to collections, the library, and fellow colleagues. And Betty’s nonprofit Taraxacum research publishing foundation has made the scientific contributions of Latin American colleagues more widely available.

The recognition, including honorary degrees and awards, our Latin American neighbors have given to Betty express the significant relationship the Latin American Archaeology Program and Smithsonian Institution has forged over the years as well as the deep appreciation and respect the Latin American community has for Betty and her research.

At the end of her days, the following South American projects, listed by country, were still active under her direction:

**Ecuador:** Betty’s dedication to the Chorrera project, initiated in 1954, is coming to a conclusion and will represent her main contribution to chronology building in Ecuador. The project leader (Research Scientist Abelardo Sandoval) is in the process of completing the report.

**British Guiana:** This is an ongoing survey and excavation chronological project, sponsored by the Walter Roth Museum, with archaeological material collected by the late Dennis Williams, founder of the museum.

**Surinam (Dutch Guiana):** Excavations at the southern Werepaih site, in Kwamalasubuto, led to the finding of the earliest ceramic occupation of the complete country of Guiana, in the northern South American shield. (PI Abelardo Sandoval)

**Peru, Manu:** Under the auspices of the former Smithsonian Office of Biodiversity Program, the LAAP developed archaeological research of the entire Manu basin, Peru. (PI Abelardo Sandoval)

Other ongoing archaeological projects by LAAP researchers:


**Paulina Ledergerber** (Research Collaborator): Morona Santiago Archaeological Program, Ecuador. Conducted an archaeological survey of the Zamora-Chinchipe river valleys that show diverse cultural occupation from 3000 BC – AD 1600 in a region that played a key role in the complex social development and the trade relations of Amazonian and Andean people. She is examining materials housed at NMNH and completing a research report for publication.

**Neils Hughes** (Research Associate): Archaeology of Nicaragua: a re-evaluation of the Nericagua phase.

**Jeffrey Wilkerson** (Research Associate): Cultural Ecology of Eastern Mesoamerica.
I feel privileged to have known Betty for over 30 years. I first met her while a student in Peru. We maintained contact while I was a Fulbright student at SUNY Binghamton for a doctorate and later when I resided as a fellow at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC. Betty and I would meet for lunch and talk about our favorite subject, South American archaeology. When I became a member of the NMNH’s Biodiversity Program, under Terry Erwin, Betty and I continued our close association, and talked about more personal things. When that program closed in 2000 I was transferred to the Anthropology Department and assisted Betty on various projects as well as continuing my own research. I look forward to completing the Latin American archaeology projects that Betty and I have been working on up to the moment of her passing.

Abelardo “Chinaco” Sandoval

PALEOINDIAN PROGRAM

Program Director Dennis Stanford continues his research on the projectile point associated with the 9,000 year-old Kennewick Man. He recently took part in a book signing event for Across Atlantic Ice, coauthored with Bruce Bradley, which is in its third printing. Dennis also is organizing an expedition to find the 23,000-year-old Cinmar mastodon remains found off the continental shelf of the eastern U.S.

Dennis has been or is presently a sponsor for the following researchers:

Joe Gingerich is a Postdoctoral Fellow from the University of Wyoming. His project title is “Late Pleistocene Hunter-Gatherer Spatial Organization in Eastern North America.” Joe is working on merging the data from the American University’s 1970s excavation with the data from his recent re-excavation at the Shawnee-Minisink site. Joe completed his BA at Temple University and his MA and PhD at the University of Wyoming. In addition to his extensive fieldwork on Paleoindian sites in the east, Joe also has worked in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, France, and Japan. This winter his volume titled In the Eastern Fluted Point Tradition will be released by The University of Utah Press.

Marjolein Admiraal, a PhD student from the University of Groningen – Netherlands, was here working on issues related to the age and distribution of Western Stemmed projectile points. This type of point was recently dated at Paisley Cave in Oregon at over 14,000 years old.

Danni Davies, a PhD student from Exeter University, is here working on dart and arrow points, seeking to find evidence of the transition from Atlatl weaponry to the introduction of archery.

Chriissa Burke, a PhD student from the University of Nevada, Reno, is working at MSC on a project that looks at the extent of Carnivore damage on the bison bone from the Jones-Miller Hell Gap site.

Dr. Harry Iceland finished his study of Shawnee-Minisink artifacts excavated by American University and will be working with Joe Gingerich to produce a combined excavation report on the Shawnee-Minisink site.

Dr. Hugo Nami from the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina, collaborated with Dennis on a paper concerning Late Pleistocene Hunter-Gatherers of the Americas from an Inter-hemispheric Perspective.

Dr. Bruce Bradley from Exeter University with Dr. Darrin Lowery test excavated an early Paleoindian occupation site in Sanford Maine.

Dr. Sabrina Schultz from the University of California, Berkeley, worked with Dennis on expanding their study of digital morphometrics of fluted point flake scar patterns to include west coast and Alaskan fluted points. Their paper using this method to compare the Classic Clovis points from the High Plains to those from the Eastern shore of the Chesapeake that was recently published in the Journal of Archaeological Science. This study was so well received that they decided to look at additional comparisons that include Clovis/fluted projectile points from the Far West and Northwest.

Mike Frank’s casting program produced casts of nearly all of the Alaska fluted points (for the National Park Service) as well as several important Clovis specimens that are currently in private hands.

Kristan Quarles continues her systematic documentation of the Paleoindian artifact collection.

Dr. Margaret Jodry has been surveying in the San Luis Valley, Colorado. While in Colorado she spoke at the opening ceremonies for a new visitor center at Poncha Springs, Colorado, and worked with foreign exchange students from Germany.
A former Human Studies Film Archives volunteer, Faith Haney, Historic Research Associates, worked with Pam Wintle on a presentation concerning the use of cultural heritage film for The Archaeology Channel’s ninth international film and video festival, The Archaeology Channel Conference on Cultural Heritage Film, May 9-11, 2012, at the University of Oregon, Eugene. The purpose of the conference was to promote discussion and collaboration regarding the uses of cultural heritage film.

Ms. Haney’s talk, “The Linker Collection: An Example of Cultural Heritage Film in Support of UNESCO World Heritage Sites,” provided an example of how television travelogue films can be used in scientific monitoring and interpretation of cultural heritage sites. She also talked about the upcoming website and app created under a Smithsonian and UNESCO MOU to use Smithsonian collections, including film and photographs, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

Ms. Haney also conducted a video oral history with David Linker, the son who travelled the world with his parents in creating this multi-decade popular television travelogue series that was screened with two clips from HSFA’s YouTube Channel. (A copy of the oral history will be given to the HSFA.)

Wilkes Tapa (Barkcloth) Preservation Grant. (2012 CCPF Grant, $131,000)

Received by Greta Hansen and Adrienne Kaeppler, this year’s grant funds phase two of a project designed to conserve a major portion of the tapa artifacts collected on the first U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842. These are one of the museum’s oldest and most valuable collections. In phase one of the project, conservators and a team of volunteers addressed the condition of 34 of the artifacts. In phase two the remaining 34 tapas will be treated.

Both phases of the project were organized to include the participation of community scholars knowledgeable about the design, manufacture and meaning of tapa. Phase one brought two Hawaiian community scholars who assisted us in understanding the source materials—paper mulberry (broussonetia papyifera) and mamaki (pipturus albidus)—used in making tapa, the tools and techniques of manufacture, and the features of pattern and design. In phase two it is anticipated that Fijian, Samoan, and Hawaiian community scholars will participate in the same capacity.

The project will thus not only conserve and re-house one of the Institution’s oldest and most valued collections, but will continue to stimulate knowledge exchange between visiting community scholars and our conservation and curatorial staff.

[View a video of Adrienne Kaeppler talking about the objects collected by the Wilkes Expedition at http://anthropology.si.edu/founding_collections.html.]
National Anthropological Archives Photograph Collections: Enhancing Collection-Level Information (2012 CIS/IRM Pool Fund Grant, $50,000)

The project, supervised by NAA photo archivist Gina Rappaport, will enhance intellectual control over this valuable collection of thousands of glass plates and 19th and early 20th century photographs, working within the SIRIS and Cross-Search platforms. The collection, containing an estimated one million items, is extensively used by researchers, and NAA images are widely reproduced in popular and scholarly publications, websites and exhibitions.

Research & Collections Information System: Anthropology Legacy Databases (2012 CIS/IRM Pool Fund Grant, $10,500)

This grant will enable the assimilation into the Emu database a number of ‘legacy’ databases that include information from African Voices, the Human Origins Hall, and published collection guides on the Kiowa, Abbot, Perry and Bernadou collections. In addition it will fund the migration of the conservation database for the Anthropology Conservation Lab (ACL) that has long been a stand-alone database in need of migration.

Edward Curtis Photograph Collections. (2012 SI Women’s Committee Grant, $18,284)

In 2010 the NAA acquired the largest original collection of glass plate photographic negatives by Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952), who photographed Native peoples and cultures of North America. This grant will enable the NAA to digitize over 600 Curtis glass plate negatives (the largest such cache known to exist) and to create reference prints that can be accessed by researchers.

HSFA Intern and Fellow

Amelia Raines (University of Michigan, Linguistics) was her from May 28 through August 10 working on her project titled “Jerome Mintz Film Collection of Andalusia Spain.” She intellectually and physically organized a film and audio collection created by anthropologist Jerome Mintz, documenting a small community of Casa Viejas in Andalusia, Spain, that had been devastated by the Spanish Civil War. The community has expressed great interest in accessing this visual and audio documentation. Sponsor: Pam Wintle.

Adrianna Link (Johns Hopkins University, PhD Candidate, History of Science & Technology) was a Graduate Student Fellow (June 4 - August 10) whose project was titled “History of Anthropology at the Smithsonian.” Sponsor: Pam Wintle.

Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology (SIMA) Interns

Emily Buhrow (The GW University); Casey Rigby (The GW University); and Emily Rom (The GW University): Support for SIMA, packing and moving the William Sturtevant collection from NMNH to MSC, and cataloging the Edward Curtis collection.

Laura Litwer (University of South Carolina): SIMA support, providing NAA reference assistance.

CAP Summer Interns and Their Projects


Amy Lipman (Tulane University): “Adding NMNH Imaging and Smithsonian Photographic Services jpeg images to artifact records in EMu.”

Violet Cavicchi: Organized and inventoried sound recordings in the Carole Yawney papers.

Heather Bohle (Johns Hopkins University): Save America’s Treasures manuscript digitization and assisting in NAA and HSFA with ingest of assets into the Digital Asset Management System.
Caroline Pitt (Univ. of Maryland): Worked in the NAA Digital Lab on migrating NAA web pages into the NMNH webpage templates.

Jacqueline Saavedra (Florida State University): Created finding aids for the papers of Paul L. Cooper, Anthony Leeds, and Barry Carlson; revised the finding aid to the Acee Blue Eagle papers; and created and updated associated catalog records on SIRIS. Also contributed post for Smithsonian Collections Blog.

Jocelyn Baltz (St. Mary’s College of Maryland): Entered NAA finding aids into Archivists’ Toolkit to facilitate conversion of finding aids to EAD. Also contributed post for Smithsonian Collections Blog.

Interns Sponsored by David Hunt and Projects

Gabriela Jungova: Plaster bust and face cast inventory and rehousing; Hrdlicka writings translation from Czech (month of May).

Daniel DiMichele (Univ. of Montana): Osteometric postcranial database for Terry Collection - May 1 through present.

Leticia Jones (Univ. of Arizona NHRE Intern): Dental modification as evidence of Meso-American influence in Illinois, Ohio and Georgia collections (May 29 through Aug 3).

Clare Kimock (American Univ.): Photograph and inventory of plaster busts and face casts. Huntington Collection postcranial osteometrics (May 30 through present).

Molly Miranker (American Univ.): Photograph and inventory of plaster busts and face casts. Huntington Collection postcranial osteometrics (May 30 through Aug 14).

Fellows:

Kerriann Marden (West Georgia Univ): Analysis of the Pueblo Bonito/Chaco Canyon collections (June 4 through Aug 3).

Saving America’s Treasures Interns

The following interns are assisting Jordan Berson with the conservation and rehousing of the NAA’s numbered manuscript collections. This includes assisting / facilitating with conditions survey of collections, photo-documentation, and fabrication of custom enclosures for fragile objects, in addition to various other conservation related activities.

Rebecca Gates (GW Univ. Museum Studies) and Hannah Tucker (Bryn Mawr College)

They will soon be joined by Jessica Pearl (GW Univ. Museum Studies)

Jordan Berson arrived last November as a contractor to work on the numbered manuscript collections on the Save America’s Treasures grant. Jordan is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied book and paper conservation. Prior to the NAA, he was a curatorial intern in the conservation lab at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts.

Caroline Pitt sorting through oversize materials.

Rebecca Gates in the paper conservation lab.
A Moroccan Berber Tent

Kari Beauchamp, David Rosenthal, and intern Emily Buhrow cataloged a Moroccan Berber tent donated by William Wheeler in 2006. The 26 foot long tent is made of goat hair and very heavy.

The tent was unrolled in the hallway at MSC and vacuumed, though sand is still embedded in it. Conservation volunteers helped to carefully fold the tent and pad the creases before putting it away in the pod while photographer Don Hurlburt documented the process.

OFFICE OF REPATRIATION

Repatriations

The remains of two individuals were repatriated to representatives of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Alaska, on May 16, 2012. Lars Krutak, repatriation officer, organized the repatriation consultation and was assisted by Chris Dudar of the RO Osteology Laboratory. The St. Paul Island visitors also spent time documenting ethnological collections from the Aleutian Archipelago at the NMNH’s Museum Support Center for educational purposes back home.

On May 30, 2012, the remains of three individuals from the historic village of Kashunak were repatriated to tribal representative Mr. Roy Atchak of the Native Village of Chevak, Alaska. Kashunak was abandoned in the 1950s due to constant flooding, and its inhabitants later founded Chevak, a thriving Cup’ik village in central Alaska. After the remains were prepared for shipment to Alaska, Atchak and RO staff members Lars Krutak and Chris Dudar viewed ethnographic collections associated with Kashunak, most of which were collected in the 1870s by E.W. Nelson.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Amos of the Native Village of Mekoryuk, Alaska, met with Lars Krutak on July 30-31 to discuss the eventual repatriation of hundreds of funerary objects collected in the 1920s at historic sites around Nunivak Island. The Amos’ noted that these objects were a very important part of Nunivak Island’s cultural heritage and should be preserved in a museum closer to home, like the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center and Museum in Bethel, Alaska, for future generations of local people to study. Discussions are currently underway to achieve this goal. After viewing the NMNH’s extensive ethnological collections from Nunivak, the Amos’ and Krutak visited the National Anthropological Archives (NAA) and viewed hundreds of historic images related to Nunivak. The Amos’ were able to identify numerous unnamed individuals in the photographs and these notes are now part of the NAA’s collection.

Lars Krutak met with representatives of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, on July 11 for the repatriation of 77 funerary objects to the Native villages of Gambell and Savoonga. Most of the objects were associated with burials dating to the great famine or epidemic that nearly eliminated the entire population of island in 1878-1880. The St. Lawrence Island visitors worked with Krutak to prepare the objects for shipment to Alaska and also viewed ethnographic and archaeological collections associated with the island, especially those of the ancient Old Bering Sea and Punuk cultures.

Mrs. Muriel Amos of the Native Village of Mekoryuk, Alaska, admiring a bentwood hunting visor from Nunivak Island at the Museum Support Center.

Repatriation Reports


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

Department Website: www.nmh.si.edu/

Betty Meggers in her office at the National Museum of Natural History. Cheers to you, Betty.