

## Newsletter of the Logan Museum of Anthropology Beloit College

### *New Curator of Exhibits*

Paul Thistle recently joined the Logan Museum staff as Curator of Exhibits. He comes to the Logan from Canada, most recently Dawson City, Yukon where he was Director/ Curator of the Dawson City Museum & Historical Society. His previous museum experience included curatorial and archival work at the Transcona Historical Museum in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a 12-year stint as Curator of The Sam Waller Museum in The Pas, Manitoba, and a term as Assistant Curator of Ethnology at Manitoba's provincial museum, then known as the Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature.

Paul's academic background is in anthropology, history, cross-cultural education, and museology, all focused on Canadian Native peoples. His B.A. in anthropology and history is from the University of Waterloo, and his certificate in museology comes from the University of Winnipeg. He earned a B.Ed. in cross-cultural and museum education and subsequently an Interdisciplinary M.A. in history and anthropology from the University of Manitoba. Paul's master's thesis on the ethnohistory of early contact relations among the Western Woods Cree and European fur traders was published by the University of Manitoba Press and won national, provincial, and academic awards. Paul has taught Native Studies at the high school level as well as at the University of Manitoba and Brandon University.

Paul has expressed his immense pleasure at the opportunity to return to his first love—working hands-on with an extremely fine Native American collection. For him, this is particularly the case in the liberal arts academic setting found at Beloit College. He is very much looking forward to teaching in the Museum Studies program, studying, and using the Logan Museum's wonderful collection to further the creation and dissemination of knowledge about Native American cultures to all of our audiences. He welcomes input from students, alumni, and all other interested folks as the Museum plans its future exhibits. He can be reached by phone at (608) 363-2616, fax at 363-2248, or e-mail [thistlep@beloit.edu](mailto:thistlep@beloit.edu).

### *Collections News*

Since the last issue of the Logan Letter, the Logan Museum acquired the following items through generous donations and bequests from alumni and friends:

- Collection of over 100 Native Alaskan carved ivories, works of art on paper, baskets, and other items donated by Anne H. Gould.
- Collection of 19 contemporary Native American artifacts manufactured for outside consumption bequested by Minnette Herdon.
- *Remojadas* figure from Veracruz, Mexico donated by Carol Hillmer.
- Archaeological material excavated by Robert J. Salzer in 1959—1961 at the Highsmith site near Fort Atkinson, WI. The material formed the basis for Salzer's master's thesis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was transferred to the Logan Museum from the Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson.

### *Innovations in Ivory and Wool*

*Innovations in Ivory and Wool: The Native Alaskan and Navajo Collections of Anne and Arch Gould* focuses on the collections of Native Alaskan art and Navajo textiles donated by Anne H. Gould to the Beloit College museums in 2001 and 2002. The collections not only strengthen the museums' Native American holdings but also reflect the history and philosophy that guided the Goulds' collecting.

From the late 1960s to the early 1970s, Anne and Arch conducted voluntary medical mission work in Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Montana, Honduras, and Kenya. While working in Native communities in Nome, Alaska and Ganado, Arizona, the Goulds became familiar with and developed a passion for Native Alaskan ivory carvings and Navajo textiles. The Goulds quickly became collectors and connoisseurs through the relationships they established with Native artists and local traders. The exhibit examines how non-Native patronage affected the production of Native arts and illustrates physical and formal changes, iconographic changes, and the shift to individualism in Native arts. The exhibit opened February 6 and runs through May 18, 2003.



Part of the *Innovations in Ivory and Wool* exhibit.

## Use of Collections

### College courses

In addition to exhibition and educational programs, the Logan Museum of Anthropology's collections are used extensively in Beloit College courses. During 2002, faculty and students utilized over 1100 objects in research, lectures, and presentations. Courses that used collections included *Contemporary Native American Art* (Art and Art History Department), *World Musics* (Music Department), *Introduction to Creative Writing* (English Department), and, in the Anthropology Department, *North American Archaeology*, *Precolumbian Art and Architecture*, *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America*, *Gender and Ideology in Melanesia*, *Society and Culture*, and *The Human Animal*.

Students and faculty report that these opportunities for "close encounters" with museum objects add greatly to the courses' effectiveness and enjoyment.



Shannon Fie's *North American Archaeology* class examining Woodland ethnographic material.

### Tribal representatives

The Logan Museum is actively engaged in developing mutually beneficial relationships with Native peoples. In 2002, the museum hosted tribal representatives from the Grand Traverse Bay of Odawa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert and Lac du Flambeau Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Tlingit of Alaska. Tribal visits encourage open dialogue and enable tribal representatives to view items listed in inventories and summaries compiled in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The Logan Museum is in the process of facilitating repatriation requests received from the Hopi Tribe and the Tlingit of Alaska.

## Textile re-housing project

The Logan Museum curates nearly 250 Native American textiles identified as Navajo, Hopi, or Zuni. This collection provides outstanding learning opportunities for the Beloit College community and a great resource for public understanding of southwestern Native arts and culture (see *Innovations in Ivory and Wool*, page 1).

In March of 2002, the museum received a generous gift from an anonymous donor that permitted us to re-house these textiles. The textiles are being re-housed in four large, new cabinets specifically designed to house flat and rolled textiles in a stable and pest-free environment. During the fall semester, all of the southwestern textiles were removed from their old storage locations and were frozen as a pest management preventive strategy. Supervised by Curator of Collections Nicolette Meister, student Museum Assistants are currently vacuum cleaning, assessing the conditions, and photographing the textiles before they are re-housed in the new cabinets. When the project is completed in mid-2003, the textiles will be well preserved yet easily accessible for study.



Museum Assistants Kate Lindenmeyer '04 and Stacy Pickruhn '03 re-housing a Navajo textile in new storage cabinets.

## Logan Museum staff, 2003

Director: William Green (608-363-2119), email [greenb@beloit.edu](mailto:greenb@beloit.edu)

Curator of Collections: Nicolette Meister (608-363-2305), email [meistern@beloit.edu](mailto:meistern@beloit.edu)

Curator of Education: Karla Wheeler (608-363-2678), email [wheelerk@beloit.edu](mailto:wheelerk@beloit.edu)

Curator of Exhibits: Paul Thistle (608-363-2616), email [thistlep@beloit.edu](mailto:thistlep@beloit.edu)

Office Coordinator, Logan and Wright Museums: Tom Minor (608-363-2671), email [minort@beloit.edu](mailto:minort@beloit.edu)

Secretary, Department of Anthropology and Museums: Laurie MacMartin (608-363-2361), email [anthro@www.beloit.edu](mailto:anthro@www.beloit.edu)

Museum Assistants: Liz Chesser, Kate Lindenmeyer, Kristen Olson, Stacy Pickruhn, Alexandra Trumbull

## *New mission statement approved*

The Beloit College Board of Trustees approved a new mission statement for the Logan Museum of Anthropology at its February meeting.

Drafted by museum director Bill Green with extensive input from staff, faculty, and the Dean of the College, the new statement helps build a distinct identity for the museum. To do this, the mission statement expresses how the Logan Museum makes a difference in society, it identifies the people the museum is trying to serve, and it enumerates the museum's services:

**The Logan Museum of Anthropology serves as a teaching museum of Beloit College, fulfilling a central part of the College's goal of liberal learning. Our essential resources are our collections, exhibits, professional staff, campus colleagues, and students. The museum strives to be a central learning resource for Beloit College and the Beloit and Stateline community. The museum's mission is to foster learning—of the world's cultures, past and present; of anthropology; and of museology. We aim to accomplish this mission by building, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting anthropological collections; by making anthropological objects accessible for teaching, research and public education; and by promoting experiential learning. The museum staff seeks to work closely and collaboratively with faculty and students throughout the College. The staff also strives to enhance the College's reputation by providing learning opportunities for the Beloit regional community, scholars, and prospective students.**

The new mission statement forms the cornerstone of our strategic plan for 2003-2007. Specific goals and objectives are designed to enhance our ability to carry out the museum's mission effectively and efficiently.

Accompanying the mission statement and strategic plan are the museum's visions and aspirations:

- 1. The Logan Museum aspires to be a central learning resource for the Beloit College campus and the Beloit and Stateline community, affording opportunities for studying and appreciating a diversity of cultures.**
- 2. The Logan Museum envisions its broader role as one of service to the international community of anthropologists and to the living and descendant communities represented in its collections.**
- 3. The Logan Museum aspires to maintain and promote the highest ethical and professional standards in collections care, exhibits, and educational activities.**
- 4. The Logan Museum envisions Beloit College continuing as an internationally recognized leader in undergraduate anthropology and museum studies.**

What happens now? The mission statement and strategic plan are put into action; we focus on improving specific aspects of our collections, education, and exhibit programs; and staff members work as a team toward far-reaching goals—such as accreditation by the American Association of Museums—as well as short-term projects.

The museum thus is using the new mission statement and strategic plan to specify where it is going and how and why it plans to get there. Future Logan Letters will keep you up to date on our progress.

## *Education program progresses*

In just over a year, the Logan Museum's new educational outreach program reached a milestone by tallying over 2,000 participants in 45 separate events.

School groups, families, and the "out-of-school" public have been enjoying and learning from museum tours, lectures, and the monthly, hands-on Logan Explorations Program. These events foster a new level of appreciation for Native American cultures among people of all ages.

The program stems from a generous grant to Beloit College from the State of Wisconsin. State Senator and Beloit resident Judy Robson was instrumental in securing this support. Sen. Robson recently visited the museum for an update on the program's achievements and prospects.

Karla Wheeler, Curator of Education and program coordinator, reports that evaluations have been positive and that a full slate of educational events is on tap for the spring and summer of 2003. For details, select the calendar at <http://www.beloit.edu/~museum/logan>. Please contact Karla if you wish to participate or volunteer.



State Senator Judy Robson tours the Logan Museum with Beloit College President John Burriss (right) and museum director Bill Green.

## *Conservation assessment reports*

An architectural team and a conservator have completed their assessments of the Logan Museum's facilities and collections. Architects Phil Hamp and Angela Demma from Vinci|Hamp Architects, Inc., of Chicago, and Catherine Sease from the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University conducted detailed inspections to evaluate conservation needs and to help the museum plan for improvements.

The reports concluded that the physical facilities are in very good condition and well maintained, and that collections storage and display "would be the envy of many similar-sized and even larger institutions."

Recommendations include: decentralize the steam system for humidification of Memorial Hall and Godfrey Anthropology Building, re-inventory and re-house the Tobin collection from Papua New Guinea, and replace wooden shelving with steel, compact-storage units.

The conservation survey and reports were supported by the Conservation Assessment Program, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by Heritage Preservation, a national non-profit institute for collections conservation.

## Alumni News

At the 2002 annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Denver, alumni **Sarah Ward Neusius**'72 and **Debbie Seitzer Olausson**'73 got together for the first time since 1974. Neusius is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Olausson a professor at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Lund in Sweden. "Although we have been following each other's careers through Christmas news, this was our first chance at face to face contact in 28 years. We spent a wonderful evening reminiscing about our Beloit days and comparing notes about academic life and archaeology in Pennsylvania and Lund."

**Carrie Beauchamp**'96 reports: "I am working as an information manager in the Collections Program in the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. I received an MA in anthropology from the University of Denver in 1999, and have since worked at a rodeo museum in Wyoming and at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. We have an amazing collection (6 million artifacts from everywhere in the world) and extensive research resources. We are always happy to help students fulfill any requirements for internship credits."

**Heather Bigeck**'00 writes: "I am currently finishing up my [anthropology and museum studies] masters work from UW-Milwaukee while working full time as the assistant curator for the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre, SD. My duties include working with a web development firm to implement a new online exhibit,

choosing the Audio/Visual displays and information for the new permanent exhibit on 20th century South Dakota, assisting the collections manager with accessioning objects and the computer database, assisting the exhibit designer with the fabrication of the new third wing, and overall, helping other departments within the historical society with any projects that need to be done."

## Meet in Milwaukee, April 10

Join current and former Beloit College anthropology faculty, students, and staff at a reception sponsored by the Logan Museum of Anthropology, the Department of Anthropology, and the Alumni Office, in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting.

**Date:** Thursday April 10, 2003

**Time:** 5:00 - 7:00 PM

**Place:** Juneau Room, Hilton Milwaukee City Center

**Refreshments** will be served, including **cash bar**

**RSVP** to the Alumni Office, 800-331-4943 or alumni@beloit.edu

Sign up at the reception to take a poor undergraduate student to dinner!

## Breaking news

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations have approved a \$200,000 grant to establish an endowment fund for the Logan Museum to support the museum's activities in public anthropology including outreach education, publications, and research and training, including a visiting curator program. More details next time...

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Logan Museum of Anthropology  
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