**Museums Host First Alumni College**

In June, Beloit College alumni spanning the classes of 1935 to 1986 returned to campus to participate in the inaugural Alumni College in the Beloit College museums. The 12 alumni immersed themselves in campus life academically and socially. They stayed in the new College townhouse and shared their rooms with “assigned” roommates. They also ate some of their meals at Commons, where they were joined by students participating in other summer education opportunities on campus.

When it came time for academic rigors, the alumni/students participated in a book discussion on Stephen E. Weil’s *Making Museums Matter*, pondered the roles of museums, and toured the campus museums and mounds. The curriculum included four classes: a museum education class entitled Art or Artifact: Discovering Museum Objects, led by Logan Museum Curator of Education Karla Wheeler and Wright Museum Curator of Art Judy Newland; collections management classes on Caring for Collections and Textile Re-housing led by Logan Museum Curator of Collections Nicolette Meister; and a course on collections management software led by the Wright Museum’s Registrar Marcus Eckhardt.

**New Exhibits in Shaw Gallery**

Two new exhibits opened this fall in the Christine L. and Robert G. Shaw Gallery on the second floor of the Logan Museum. Both exhibits feature numerous objects from the Museum’s permanent collections. Both also are integrated into Beloit College’s innovative First Year Initiative program. With help from Curator of Exhibits Paul Thistle, students in two FYIs are doing primary research on the objects in these exhibits, contributing to the exhibit catalogue in one case and object labels in another. Also this fall, Paul and student assistant Lisa Howe’05 installed an exhibit illustrating non-Western mathematics for the Culture and Mathematics course taught in two sections this fall by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

**Sealed with Smoke: Pipes and Cultural Interaction in Eastern North America**

October 21, 2003 – April 18, 2004

In North America, tobacco use became the most powerful and consistent vehicle for creating common ground and fostering effective relations between Native Americans and Europeans. Pipe rituals helped to overreach cultural boundaries by establishing a “sacred kinship” between otherwise unrelated individuals and groups.

“Sealed with Smoke” explores the uses and significance of tobacco, pipes, and smoking among Native Americans and in their relationships with non-Indians. The exhibit features pipe bowls, stems, and bags, as well as botanical specimens of tobacco. The exhibit opened on October 21 at 5 p.m. with a ceremonial opening and discussion by Potawatomi and Menominee pipe carrier Art Shegonee.

The second set of exhibit-related programs was presented by Jordan Paper, Professor of Humanities at York University. Dr. Paper, author of *Offering Smoke: The Sacred Pipe and Native American Religion*, discussed Native pipes in two public programs on November 8.

These and future presentations are funded in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and State of Wisconsin.

**Pins in a Doll: A Stab at the Truth**

October 31, 2003 – January 18, 2004

Anthropology instructor Kim Mills’ FYI class helped build a new exhibit in conjunction with their topic of “Spells, Potions, and Vodou Dolls.” Each student was assigned an object from the Logan’s collections that has cultural significance relating to magic or sorcery. The students researched the objects and wrote labels for the exhibit. There was a ghoulish opening on Halloween night.

The Beloit College Alumni Office developed this first Alumni College program in conjunction with the Beloit College museums’ staff. Upon completing the program, one alumna wrote, “It was a great chance to refresh your soul with the best parts of the Beloit experience.” The museums’ staffs enjoyed working with the eager alumni/students and appreciated their enthusiasm. The assistance of Cynthia Haley’03, who worked in both the Logan Museum and the Alumni Office over the summer, was invaluable, and the program was expertly coordinated by Alumni Affairs Director Jane Armitage.

Plans are in under way for other College departments to host future Alumni Colleges. Please contact the Beloit College Alumni Office for more information.
Museum Studies Student News

The Museum Studies program continues to grow. Nineteen Museum Studies minors are currently declared and seven others graduated in 2003.

All Museum Studies minors must complete an internship outside of Beloit College. Eight students completed their internships this past summer:

Emily Hildebrant’04 worked at the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace Museum in Savannah, Georgia. (Low founded the Girl Scouts of America.) Emily’s work included “giving guided tours to the general public and Girl Scouts, and leading programs related to Victorian life and the history of the Girl Scouts.” Emily says, “It was interesting to see how a museum focused on education in theory and in practice. I also really enjoyed experiencing a different region of the U.S. other than the Midwest, but Savannah was way too hot.”

Bethany Moore’04 interned in the Collections Department at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, one of the world’s largest children’s museums. She helped deaccession over 400 items from the permanent collection and helped organize archival materials. Bethany’s favorite project was “assisting the conservator in creating mannequins for usage in a Titanic exhibit using period clothes and era-appropriate hair styles.”

Lisa Howe’05 interned at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her main responsibility was a detailed inventory of the museum’s Egyptian collections. She also worked on improving, labeling, and inventorying spear and arrow storage mounts. Lisa’s most enjoyable experience was “working with mummies and inventorying mummy wrappings.” She had to take special precautions working with such sensitive material. “I had to wear a lab coat, gloves, and a respirator. I felt like a mad scientist,” she said.

Matthew Schauer’05 interned in the Anthropology department at the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he completed an inventory of the museum’s items from the Philippine Reservation at the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis. He photographed much of the collection and did historical research, which he combined in a presentation for the Museum’s website. He also worked with researchers in the museum’s collections and helped with the department’s educational programs. He enjoyed the variety of work: “I handled a beheading sword decorated with human hair and worked with kids at an archaeology summer camp, all in one day.”

Nat Howe’05 interned at the Seattle Museum of Flight, where he divided his time between doing historical research on the Wright Brothers and historical aircraft, and preparing the Museum’s restoration facility for public access. Nat was also a “tour guide, telephone receptionist, carpenter, cat sitter and store manager” and he transformed a grimy tool shop into a gift shop. His favorite aspect of the job was “learning volumes of history from the elderly workers at the museum, who had flown through every aviation advancement and across every combat zone of the last half century,” and his “test flight in a Vietnam Cessna O-2 Skymaster with ‘DON’T SHOOT’ written in giant letters across the wing.”

Katie Schuelke’04 reports: “This summer I interned in the collections department at the Neville Public Museum of Brown County in Green Bay, WI. During this internship I helped put the finishing touches on an exhibit prior to opening, mounted labels, gained a working knowledge of the Argus database, catalogued and rehoused items, and became well acquainted with the digital camera. What I liked most about this internship was the opportunity to get a look at what goes on behind the scenes in a museum, and to see how several people work together on the finished product.”

Katie Ediger’04 interned in the collections department of the Chippewa Valley Museum in her home town of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. “The museum focuses on the history of Eau Claire and the surrounding area, which was a change of pace for me as an Anthropology major. I really enjoyed working with the collection and learning more about local history. The museum was in the process of changing storage facilities for their collections when I began my internship. Helping with different stages of the move took up most of my time there. I also did a variety of small projects; I processed old loans, took digital images of objects, and updated and entered information into their database. Overall it was a great learning experience that gave me a hands-on introduction to collections management and historical museums.”

Liz Chesser’04 writes: “I spent 10 weeks at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The Academy has an extensive and amazing library and collections. I worked in the Vertebrate Biology section with the curator, Dr. Ted Daeschler, on Devonian vertebrate fossils from Ellesmere Island, Canada. I was working with bones recovered in field seasons in 2000 and 2002 which represent a new species. My job was to identify and systematically describe each bone. The internship was an amazing experience and helped me to decide on my focus for graduate studies. I also learned a lot about museums, collections, and staff responsibilities in museum departments. I gained a better sense of what a curator in a natural history museum does, and I learned about collections management and care from a fossil and natural history perspective, which may be important for my future plans. The program was funded by the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, which covered my travel, housing, field work, and summer supplies in addition to a generous stipend for the work.”

Thanks, Matt!

Thanks very much to Matthew Schauer’05, History major and Museum Studies minor, for researching and writing big parts of this issue of the Logan Letter.
Student Special Projects

Kate Lindenmeyer ’04 is working on market research and merchandise development for the Beloit College museums’ Gift Shop. She studied the purchasing preferences of the museums’ audience using focus groups and questionnaires. She is researching new merchandise and developing new marketing and budgeting strategies for the shop.

Chantel White ’03 wrote her Senior Thesis on “Epipaleolithic Stone Tool Use,” using the Logan’s collection of blades from Capsian sites in Algeria. The collection was gathered on the 1930 Logan Expedition led by Alonzo Pond ’18. Chantel studied the uses of the microliths, implications for Capsian culture in general, and the effects of storage methods on the artifacts. After completing her thesis and spending the summer as a field archaeologist with the Wisconsin Historical Society, Chantel enrolled as a graduate student in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.

Emily Shadowens ’03 researched the carved oak table, bench, and chairs housed in the lobby of the Godfrey Anthropology Building. The furniture was made by Jesus Silva Torres in 1935. Torres immigrated from Mexico to the United States in the 1920s, settling in Chicago near Jane Addams’ Hull House, where he took English and pottery classes at night. Torres’ work became popular among the Chicago elite, including Frank Logan, who purchased the four pieces for the Museum. Torres’ niece Esperanza McNeilly helped Emily and collections curator Nicolette Meister obtain information that is now presented on labels near the furniture.

Dan Williams ’03, working with Nicolette Meister, redesigned the Museum’s relational database. It is now a more powerful and comprehensive collections management tool.

Stephanie Haney ’05 developed an educational packet and program entitled “Hidden History: Indian Mounds at Beloit College.” Designed as a teaching resource for 4th-grade classes, the program gives teachers up-to-date information on the Beloit College Mounds. The packet helps teachers prepare their classes for a visit to the College with information on Indian mounds, archaeology, and the College as well as coordinated activities, reflections, vocabulary lists, charts, and worksheets. Teachers then can help students to learn from objects, understand connections between modern life and the ancient mounds, and learn about the mounds’ importance and their preservation.

Major Grants Promote Learning

The Logan Museum of Anthropology has received a $150,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency. The two year grant will support the Museum’s educational activities, continuing the momentum begun by a $100,000 State of Wisconsin grant that initiated the Logan’s Native American education program.

According to museum director Bill Green, the IMLS Learning Opportunities Grant “will help us broaden our programs and exhibits to encompass new topics and regions. In practical terms, both the curator of education and curator of exhibits positions are secure and will thus provide special programs such as the Logan Explorations, Logan Lunch and Lecture series, and the summer Logan Museum Camp.”

The grant will specifically allow the Logan to expand educational services and programs for schools in the region through teacher workshops and discovery boxes. The Museum will also expand programs for non-school audiences through weekend and family activities and by coordinating with seniors’ groups. A feasibility study for reopening the popular cave exhibit area will also be conducted. All programs will use web technology and most activities will be conducted with assistance from students and volunteers.

According to Robert Martin, director of the IMLS, the Logan Museum is one of 169 (out of 933 museums in the country that applied) to receive such support. “Museums use the power of real things to connect us to history, science, and the creative process… These grants will help museums do just that by building public access, expanding educational services, and reaching out to families and children.”

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations grant announced in the last Logan Letter also will be devoted to what the Logan terms its “public anthropology” efforts. This generous grant of $200,000 founded an endowment whose income will allow visiting curators to conduct collections-based research, mentor students, and present public programs on their work. Application forms for visiting curators will be posted soon.

Logan MAPped in 2003

As reported last year, the Logan Museum received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP). The purposes of the MAP are to provide an overview and assessment of museum management and operations and to identify and prioritize needs for improvement. Specific goals of the Logan’s MAP are to: (1) assist with development of program, staffing, and facilities procedures, (2) assist with planning to strengthen mutually beneficial connections between the museum and college community, and (3) assist with the accreditation process.

Following a self-study, the Logan hosted a three-day visit by Dr. Brent Tharp, Director of the Georgia Southern University Museum. Dr. Tharp conducted a thorough review of the Museum’s facilities, interviewed staff and students, and wrote an institutional assessment report. The report identifies the Logan as “an important asset for Beloit College,” noting “the collections are significant and the staff is professional, well-educated, dedicated, and pleasant.” Current challenges are balancing the priorities of achieving accreditation and expanding the outreach program while maintaining staff teaching responsibilities.

The staff appreciates Dr. Tharp’s insights and is applying his assessments and recommendations in current planning efforts.

Website Update

Please visit the Logan Museum’s website (http://www.beloit.edu/~museum/logan/) to view “History of the Logan Museum” and “Collectors and Collections.” These new pages illustrate the history of the Museum and its collections through historical photos and profiles of important contributors. Students in Nicolette Meister’s “Techniques in Collections Management” class conducted the research.
Museum Loan Network Grant

The Logan Museum received a grant this year from the Museum Loan Network to survey and research the Virginia M. and James D. Tobin Collection of ethnographic art and photographs from Papua New Guinea. The collection contains 1,126 objects and over 6,000 color images. The $12,650 grant provides funds for research and examination of the collection by George Ulrich, Curator of Oceanic and African Art at the Milwaukee Public Museum, and Nancy McDowell, Professor of Anthropology at Beloit College.

In August, George and Nancy researched the collection items and made recommendations regarding storage and disposition of the collection. On this basis, the Logan staff will select items to be listed the MLN directory of objects for possible loan to other museums. The grant also supports 640 hours of cataloguing by Stacey Pickruhn’03, a Beloit College Anthropology and Museum Studies graduate.

The Tobin Collection arrived in Beloit in 1996 thanks to the generosity of Virginia M. and James B. Tobin of Portland, Oregon. Since then, it has supported exhibitions, publications, research, and classroom use, and the MLN grant will make it even more useful on and off-campus.

The Museum Loan Network’s mission is to “make objects of cultural heritage more accessible and understandable to the public by encouraging collecting institutions to share these works over extended periods of time.” It achieves this mission by supporting loans between institutions in order to provide the largest possible variety of objects available for museum visitors to view. MLN also attempts to strengthen old connections and create new ties between institutions in order for to facilitate information and object exchanges. The Museum Loan Network awarded grants totaling $339,677 to 16 institutions this year, including the Logan Museum. MLN is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, and is administered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Office of the Arts.

The Importance of the Tobin Collection

By George Ulrich

The Virginia M. and James D. Tobin Collection contributes significantly to our knowledge of late 20th century Melanesian art. Although comprised mostly of objects collected between 1984 and 1990, there are many older and rarer pieces that do not fall within the category of commercially produced artifacts. The more contemporary pieces include a full array of object types including sculptures, fiber materials, ceramics, and ceremonial objects. The Tobin Collection, in fact, encompasses a complete range of artistic products from New Guinea.

The bulk of the material derives from Papua New Guinea (PNG), although a small portion comes from Irian Jaya. Virtually every art-producing area of PNG is represented including regions not generally represented in contemporary collections such as the North Coast and the Upper Sepik River highlands areas.

The Tobin Collection is significant because it:

• documents changes in regional and individual styles over a 10-year period
• includes extensive documentation on artists and provenance
• is supplemented by extraordinary photographs
• includes examples of pieces from all of Papua New Guinea
• includes a remarkable range of ceramics from the Yuat River, Boiken, Middle Sepik, and Markham River areas
• includes examples of virtually every type of net and fiber bag produced in New Guinea, from undecorated, quotidian items to singing wear and feathered and highly decorated bags, and
• includes samples of raw materials used in the production of artifacts.
Summer Educational Programs

The Logan Museum conducted four pre-collegiate programs in the summer of 2003:

Upward Bound, a federally-funded program, provides high school students with educational opportunities designed to prepare them for college. This year’s students studied Native North American ethnography and focused on Inuit kayak construction. With Paul Thistle’s aid, 18 students researched and wrote labels for the Museum’s “Inuit Kayaks!” exhibit.

Help Yourself, a Beloit College outreach initiative for minority, low-income, marginalized, and underrepresented youth in the Stateline area, aims to prepare younger students for post-secondary education. This year’s program on archaeology allowed students to “excavate” a simulated archaeological site under Paul Thistle’s direction. The students then recorded, researched and analyzed the artifacts.

The Logan’s week-long Museum Camp brought kids from grades 5–7 to the Museum to learn cataloging and preservation methods. After researching and designing an exhibit for their collections of coins, rocks, and baseball cards, the students opened their exhibit with a reception on the final day. Art and Museum Studies student Stephanie Haney ‘05 helped Karla Wheeler with the program.

In July, the Logan hosted a Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth program for students in grades 4–6. The students participated in a Native American anthropology and archaeology seminar led by Cynthia Haley ’03 and Karla Wheeler. The students learned how to do research using the Museum’s collections. Their final project was an exhibit using collection objects they had selected.

Volunteer Spotlight

Judy Stemwedel ’61 joined the Logan team as a collections and education volunteer shortly after her participation in Alumni College. A Rockford, Illinois resident, Judy also volunteers her time at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford. While volunteering at the Logan, Judy worked with UWM intern Saul Drake cleaning and condition reporting textiles. She also trained as a Logan Museum docent in preparation to lead tours, and she is developing Native American education programs in conjunction with Karla Wheeler. Judy also donated several books as well as activities she created during her time as a teacher.

Collections News

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

- Bellows collected in Algeria by Alonzo Pond ’18, 1925-1930, donated by his daughter, Chomingwen Pond ’50.
- Pumpkin effigy ceramic pot, Colima culture, Mexico, donated by Stephen (’71) and Nicola Meyer.
- Grooved axe uncovered during plowing in the 1920s in Linn Township, Walworth Co., WI, donated by the grandchildren of William J. Thompson.
- Samples of pipestone from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota from Doug Miller and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

In other collections news, the Logan has acquired a new Delta Design storage cabinet for the Low Humidity storage area. In spring 2003, Anthropology and Museum Studies student Bethany Moore ’04 began an inventory of the storage area, conducted research on archival cabinets, and obtained bids for a new cabinet to expand the storage capacity of the room. After the arrival of the new cabinet Bethany re-housed metal objects including copper points, southwestern jewelry, and small metal figures.

The Anthropology/Logan Museum library, in room 101 of the Godfrey Building, benefited from a large addition of journals transferred from the College’s Morse Library. Full sets of journals such as American Anthropologist, Current Anthropology, the Journal of Field Archaeology, and World Archaeology have been added. These sets were no longer needed at the Morse Library because the College has access to their electronic versions, but the paper versions are still useful, especially for their illustrations. All serials in the anthropology library are now alphabetized, organized, and ready for use.

Heritage Award to Paul Thistle

Earlier this year, Curator of Exhibits Paul Thistle received the Yukon Historical and Museums Association’s Annual Heritage Award. The association recognized Paul’s work on behalf of Yukon heritage and the YHMA while he was director and curator of the Dawson City Museum. Although Paul could not accept the award personally, his statement of thanks was presented at the Association’s annual meeting. He said in part: I can only say ‘thank you’ from the bottom of my heart. This Heritage Award will be something that I will treasure always. I count myself very fortunate indeed to have been able to volunteer with the Association and to associate myself with the tremendous amounts of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm demonstrated so well and shared so freely with this ‘chechako’ during my all too short 3.5 year stay in the Yukon. [Chechako is “tenderfoot” or “greenhorn” in the trading language of the Northwest.]
Alumni News

Nearly 40 alumni, 12 current students, and several Beloit College professors (past and present) attended the Beloit Anthropology Reunion and Reception held in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting on April 10 in Milwaukee. The event provided an opportunity for alumni and faculty to renew old acquaintances and to make connections with current students. Also:

**Melissa de Bie**’00 has been hired as collections manager of the Rock County Historical Society in Janesville, WI. She is finishing her MA in anthropology and museum studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Heather Bigeck**’00 has been promoted to Curator of Collections at the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre. She was formerly the assistant curator at the Society.

A recent issue of *Archaeology Southwest*, graciously sent to us by **Art Brown**’49, features the late **Charles Di Peso**’s (’42) extensive excavations of Casas Grandes, Mexico. Dr. Di Peso was the director of the Amerind Foundation, a non-profit archaeological organization promoting an understanding of the Native peoples of the Americas.

**Blake Thurman**’69 and **Kirsten Reinhardt Brophy**’84 collaborated on the curation of “Avian Envoys: Bird Symbolism in Native American Art,” an exhibit at the Bruce Museum of Arts and Sciences in Greenwich, CT. The Logan Museum loaned several artifacts for this exhibit. Blake was formerly a development officer at Beloit College.

**Tyler Bastian**’81 retired in 2001 after 32 years as a professional archaeologist for the State of Maryland. As Maryland’s first State Archaeologist, Tyler connected archaeological work with the general public through field schools, and he has been instrumental in preserving several historic sites. He recently received the Maryland Historical Trust’s Award of Special Merit and previously received two awards from the Archaeological Society of Maryland for his outstanding contributions to Maryland archaeology.

**Michael Tarabulski**’81 and **Chomingwen Pond**’50 returned to campus to present the second annual Beloit Anthropology Authors program, with a book signing at Turtle Creek Bookstore. They discussed their work on the newly published Algerian memoirs of **Alonzo Pond**’18.

Happy 90th birthday to **Andrew “Bud” Whiteford**’37!!

**Kirsten Brophy**’84 and **Blake Thurman**’69 examine Logan Museum objects on loan to the Bruce Museum for its “Avian Envoys” exhibition.