Most people familiar with Beloit College’s anthropology program know it is strong. But exactly how strong is it? How can anthropology at Beloit be measured in relation to other undergraduate programs?

One way to assess Beloit’s quality in anthropology is to look at the number of our graduates who earn a Ph.D. in the field. The National Science Foundation tracks the baccalaureate origins of people who earn Ph.D.s in many fields, including anthropology. Using NSF data, we can track the undergraduate “homes” of Ph.D. recipients going back to 1966. NSF data show that more students who earned anthropology Ph.D.s from 1966 through 2003 graduated from Beloit College than from any other 4-year liberal arts college. Using this metric, **Beloit is the highest-ranking school of its kind.** Here are the top 13 baccalaureate origins of all 1966–2003 anthropology Ph.D.s (private colleges and universities only):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Ph.D. Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryn Mawr College</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown University</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnard College</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York University</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beloit College</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beloit is the only institution in the top 13 with no graduate program or connection to a larger university. (Bryn Mawr had anthropology and archaeology Ph.D. programs during much of this period, and Barnard is closely tied to Columbia.) Beloit outranks all other private schools, including Princeton, Dartmouth, Wellesley, Smith, Swarthmore, Reed, Oberlin, and Washington University. This ranking uses actual numbers of graduates who received Ph.D.s, uncorrected for sizes of graduating classes. Standardizing the numbers to reflect class size would vault Beloit above the Ivy League universities.

Beloit’s rank in relation to ACM schools also is dramatic. Excluding the University of Chicago (see above), Beloit produced nearly one-third of the ACM graduates who received anthropology Ph.D.s in 1966–2003:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Ph.D. Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beloit College</td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton College</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinnell College</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macalester College</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado College</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence University</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Olaf College</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox College</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Forest College</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon College</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth College</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beloit’s reputation for excellence in anthropology can be traced back to the founding of the Logan Museum in 1893. Beloit graduates went on to distinguished anthropology careers throughout the 20th century. The many Beloiters who earned anthropology Ph.D.s before 1966 (Paul Nesbitt, Bud Whiteford, John Bennett, Charles Nash, Charles Di Peso, Alfred Bowers, Lee Parsons, Phyllis Dolhinow, Norman Barka, et al.) aren’t counted in the NSF figures.

Steadily growing numbers of Beloit graduates have earned anthropology Ph.D.s over the past 38 years. Today, Beloit anthropology graduates are enrolled in Ph.D. programs at Boston University, Rutgers, Ohio State, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan State, University of Wisconsin–Madison, University of California–Davis, and other schools.

Why do so many Beloiters go on to earn Ph.D.s in anthropology? Certainly the museum has played a major role, as have field schools and teacher-mentors. While Beloit’s reputation in anthropology attracted many prospective students, some students only discovered their interests and passions after arriving. We hope to hear from alumni: what drew you to Beloit or into anthropology? Watch for a survey in the near future, or send your thoughts via email to greenb@beloit.edu.

Hundreds of Beloit anthropology graduates have gone on to amazing careers in anthropology and other fields without earning Ph.D.s. Often, the doctorate is not necessary in anthropological fields such as cultural resource management and museum anthropology. Students who choose non-anthropological careers such as in teaching, public health, and international organizations also report that their Beloit anthropological careers such as in teaching, public health, and museum anthropology. Students who choose non-anthropological careers such as in teaching, public health, and international organizations also report that their Beloit anthropology experience retains great value to their careers and enriches their lives.

So we have both qualitative and quantitative indicators of Beloit’s excellence in anthropology. Of course, numbers aren’t everything, but the numbers show that **Beloit produces more future anthropology Ph.D.s than any college of its type.** Numbers show that Beloit’s strength in anthropology is not just anecdotal. It is real, and it is long-lived and continuing.

Beloit continues firmly to believe in anthropology’s value for helping to understand humanity. Beloit College works to inspire passionate and lifelong engagement in anthropology among its students, faculty, staff, broader academic and museum communities, and the public. While celebrating the Ph.D. numbers and the people behind them, we intend to build on our success and do even better in the future, with the support of alumni and other friends.

Notes:
2 The Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium publishes 1920-1995 data but combines anthropology and sociology Ph.D.s ([http://server1.fandm.edu/departments/CollegeRelations/BacOrigins/bacorigins.html](http://server1.fandm.edu/departments/CollegeRelations/BacOrigins/bacorigins.html)).
The Logan Museum’s newest exhibit—Beads Communicate!—opened on December 18 and runs until April 2, 2006. It is on view in the Robert G. Shaw Gallery on the Museum’s second floor.

Beads are ancient and widespread adornments that meet a deep-seated aesthetic impulse. Every human culture since the Ice Age has valued beads as personal ornaments and important cultural signifiers. Beads have had pervasive roles in social, political, economic, and religious life. They convey information on such subjects as ethnicity, gender, religious belief, age grade, marriage status, trade, wealth, class, politics, and history. This exhibit shows how we can “read” beaded messages on these subjects.

The exhibit examines bead culture and the various functions of beads from around the world. Because beads are commonly recovered from ancient archaeological sites, the exhibit begins with the museum’s significant collection of Paleolithic beads made of animal bone and teeth. Recovered from sites in the Dordogne region of France, many of these 12,000–35,000-year-old beads are displayed as necklaces. Beads continue to serve the universal need for self-expression today, so the exhibit also displays a broad array of more recent and contemporary beads made of glass, shell, seeds, stone, metal, and other materials used in a wide variety of ways on clothing and as jewelry.

Jennie Primrose ‘05 and Leslie Mills ‘06 are members of the exhibit planning and development team headed by Curator of Exhibits Paul Thistle. Jennie researched and mounted the section on the worldwide trade in beads. Leslie developed the section that brings the story of bead culture up to the present day and considers the future of beading.

Logan Explorations Program

The Logan Museum continued its Logan Explorations program this fall. The program helps children in grades 1–4 to become comfortable in a museum setting by encouraging them to participate in a variety of activities.

This fall, three afternoon programs focused on the Aztec, Maya, and Inca cultures. Children used objects from the Museum’s teaching collection to learn about these Mesoamerican and South American peoples. The participants played a (safe!) variation of the Maya ball game and learned about the Inca quipu and Maya hieroglyphs. They looked at one of the quipus in the museum’s permanent collection and then made their own variation of this counting and communication fabric. Everyone especially liked the Mesoamerican delicacy and currency, chocolate!

Education Program Staff

Curator of Education Karla Wheeler began a part-time schedule this fall as she entered the Ph.D. program in education at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. With the released time, the museum hired Brett Lobello as assistant curator. Brett majored in psychology and history at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin and is working on his M.A. in public history with a museum studies certificate at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He has interned at the Waukesha County Museum and Kenosha Public Museum in addition to a 2004 internship at the Logan Museum. He is primarily interested in accessibility, visitor experiences, and Civil War history. Contact Brett regarding public programming at 608-363-2678 or lobellob@beloit.edu.

Reaching the Community

The Logan Museum has begun a new collaboration with the Beloit Public Library. We will co-present a series of three book discussion groups at the library with corresponding programs at the museum. The topic this spring is Native Americans of the Wisconsin region. We will look at history and traditions as well as some of the modern stereotypes associated with Indians. This series is designed for local youths aged 8–14. We are excited to be working with the library community and hope that this collaboration brings new audiences to the museum. For more information, contact the museum’s assistant curator of education, Brett Lobello.

Logan Lunch and Lectures

The Logan Lunch and Lecture series continued this fall with three popular talks:

Kim Mills, Beloit College assistant professor of anthropology, “Romancing the Sheik: Orientalism and the American Romance Novel”

Dan Shea, Beloit College professor of anthropology, “The Formative in the District of Tarapaca: The Atacama Field School under the Eye of the Earthquake God”

Linea Sundstrom, Day Star Research, “Rock Art and Archaeology in the Northern Great Plains”

The upcoming spring 2006 Logan Lunch and Lecture lineup features Don McVicker of North Park College on February 16, Alex Barker of the Milwaukee Public Museum on March 23, and a speaker to be announced on April 27. Contact Brett Lobello for details.
Recent Acquisitions

The Logan Museum recently acquired the following objects and collections:

- Archaeological material from 11 sites in the City of Beloit recovered by the museum’s Beloit Archaeological Survey, a joint project with the City of Beloit, funded by the Wisconsin Historical Society (Whitfield Campsite, Campus Turtle Mound Campsite, Totem Park, Hillard Park, South Lookout, Neese/McClain, Fass, Slocum, Morgan School Enclosure, West Collingswood, and Moore sites).
- Archaeological pottery sherds from the Janey B. Goode site, East St. Louis, Illinois, donated by the University of Illinois, Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program, in exchange for sherds from the University of Illinois excavations at Cahokia, Illinois.
- Archaeological artifacts recovered from testing at the Morgan School Enclosure site in Beloit, donated by the Wisconsin Historical Society.
- Film footage recorded by former Beloit anthropology professor and Logan Museum director Andrew H. Whiteford ’37 between 1948 and 1952 during fieldwork in Popayán, Colombia, and photographs taken by Whiteford and Malcolm Mouat during the 1965 Amazon expedition to Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru. Donated by Andrew H. Whiteford.
- Collection of color slides taken by Malcolm Mouat during the 1965 Amazon expedition. Donated by Mouat’s daughter, Lucia Mouat.
- Bequest of archaeological and ethnographic artifacts from North, Central, and South America, and archives, from the estate of James E. Lockwood ’34.
- Collection of ethnographic artifacts collected in Surinam ca. 1900 by Lee J. Lockwood. Donated by his grandson J. P. Lockwood.
- Ethnographic artifacts donated by Richard Dexter ’70 for use in the Museum’s education collection.

The Museum extends thanks to the donors for their generous contributions.

Odawa Quillwork Research and Tribal Collaboration

Curator of Collections Nicolette Meister spent a week last summer in Petoskey and Harbor Springs, Michigan, interviewing artists and collectors about Odawa (Ottawa) Indian porcupine quill art on birchbark. Nicolette is collaborating with Dr. Adriana Greci Green from Michigan State University and the Nokomis Learning Center and with Yvonne Walker Keshick, archives technician for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and master quill artist. They are using ethnohistorical methods that merge formal analysis with genealogical and oral histories to investigate historical and contemporary quill art. This past fall, Nicolette co-presented a paper with Adriana and Yvonne titled “Anishinaabe Quillwork: A Formal Analysis” at the Native American Art Studies Association conference in Phoenix. At the conference, Nicolette enjoyed meeting up with Marin Bey ’05, a graduate student in museum anthropology at Arizona State University.

Ethnology Inventory Project Update

Before heading off to graduate school at NYU, Curatorial Assistant Kristen Olson-Eckman ’03, helped by several museum assistants, completed the inventory of the ethnology storage area well ahead of schedule. The team recorded catalog numbers, dimensions, and storage locations for 7,414 objects in the collections database, assigned temporary registration numbers to objects without catalog numbers, and corrected registration problems and inconsistencies. A collection profile of ethnology storage also was completed. Collections profiling is a quantitative approach to assessing the “health” and management of museum collections. The museum incorporated the results of the profile in a grant proposal to upgrade the care and preservation of our collections (see next story).

Upgrading Collection Care through Rehousing

Collection surveys, inventories, assessments, and profiles completed over the past few years agree on one thing: the Logan Museum must expand and upgrade its storage capabilities to fulfill its obligation to care for significant anthropological objects and to make them accessible for teaching, scholarship, and interpretation. To do so, Museum Director Bill Green and Curator of Collections Nicolette Meister recently submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a major collection storage upgrade and expansion project.

The proposal seeks support to replace inappropriate and substandard storage equipment, mitigate inappropriate environmental conditions, and alleviate overcrowding and lack of accessibility by installing new cabinets, shelves, and mobile compact storage units and relocating collections currently stored in non-climate-controlled spaces. This is the most ambitious collections care project initiated by the museum since the completion of the 1995 museum renovation. Among other improvements, the project will enable relocation of the Tobin Collection—the topic of past Logan Letter stories—and archaeology collections into secure yet accessible storage. To learn more about this project or how you can support it, please contact Nicolette Meister at 608-363-2305 or meistern@beloit.edu.

IMLS Support

The Logan Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning. IMLS grant funds have supported the Museum’s public programming over the past two years.
Starkweather Ruin Repatriation

In 1935 and 1936 Beloit College anthropology professor Paul H. Nesbitt ‘26 directed archaeological field schools at Starkweather Ruin, located in New Mexico’s Gila National Forest. Nesbitt excavated the site under an Antiquities Act permit from the U.S. Forest Service. Among the hundreds of features and artifacts Nesbitt and students found, they excavated 55 burials as well as associated artifacts, primarily ceramics. The Logan Museum has curated this collection since its excavation, but because the site is on federal land, the collection is owned by the Forest Service. The Hopi, Zuni, and Acoma Tribes requested the Forest Service repatriate human remains and funerary objects from sites on Forest Service land. After many years of discussion, at the request of the Forest Service, the Logan Museum packed and shipped human remains and associated and unassociated funerary objects from Starkweather to New Mexico for reburial in the Gila National Forest.

During the summer of 2005, Museum staff photographed funerary objects and hosted visiting researchers to examine and document the collection prior to reburial. Dr. Ann Stodder, a physical anthropologist at the Field Museum, examined human remains and Dr. Cynthia Bettison, archaeologist and director of the University of Western New Mexico Museum, studied the ceramics.

The Logan Museum still houses the non-burial material from Starkweather Ruin, and the Forest Service still owns it. The collection is accessible for study by arrangement with the museum and the Forest Service.

Rehousing Pilot Project

Anna Goodwin ‘05 is serving as a part-time curatorial assistant in 2005–06, implementing the pilot rehousing project that she developed in her senior year special project. Anna and several student assistants are moving collections from the wire cage in the non-climate controlled archaeology lab into new cabinets in the Collie Room, the museum’s climate-controlled archaeological collections storage facility. The new storage cabinets are mounted atop cabinets obtained during an early-1990s National Science Foundation-funded upgrade. The current project has upgraded preservation and increased access to the Northern Plains collections excavated by Alfred Bowers ’28 in 1929–31 and has provided vital data for the large-scale rehousing project proposal submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities (see page 3).

Museum Staff Presentations and Publications

Nicolette Meister co-presented a workshop titled “Collectionss Policy, Planning, and Profiling for the Small Museum” at the Association of Midwest Museums annual conference in Cincinnati. She co-presented with Jackie Hoff, registrar and head of collections at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

David Wilcox ’65, senior curator of anthropology at the Museum of Northern Arizona, is the author of “Big Picture Archaeology,” a special issue of Plateau magazine (vol. 2, no. 1; Spring/Summer 2005). In chapters entitled “Big Issues—New Syntheses,” “Perry Mesa and Its World,” and “Things Chaco: A Peregrine Perspective,” Wilcox takes a regional and long-term perspective on the development of ancient Southwestern communities and cultures. This well-illustrated publication is available from the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff.

Ted Downing ’65 writes: “Thank you for the nice note on my friend John Bennett [’37] in the Logan Letter. John was a major figure in cultural anthropology. His thoughts live on in his books.

“Since I graduated from Beloit, my unique career includes a Ph.D. from Stanford (social anthropology), three decades on the University of Arizona faculty, president of the Arizona AAUP, 13 years as a consultant to the World Bank and other international financial intermediaries, founder of Scholars for Mexican Rural Development (ANHAPI, the first social anthropology email discussion group), founder and current President of the International Network on Displacement and Resettlement (www.displacement.net), and President of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

“Recently, I was re-elected to my second term in the Arizona House of Representatives. I currently am the ranking minority (D) on the House Higher Education Committee and sit on the Arizona House Judiciary Committee. I am one of two or three anthropologists who has been elected as a State Legislator—or, as I like to jest, doing fieldwork among the most savage of all tribes. My academic accomplishments since Beloit and links to my legislative work are on www.teddowning.com.”

Kristen (Langness) Marino ’94 reports from Charles Town, West Virginia: “I graduated with a double major in Anthropology and Spanish and a minor in Museum Studies. My degrees served me well. Immediately following graduation, I went to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis at their Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections. My job title was Archaeologist but my responsibilities were more museum-oriented. We conducted curation needs assessments of federal archaeological collections, determining the tasks necessary to bring the collections into compliance with federal rules (36 CFR Part 79). Essentially, we provided recommendations to the agencies on appropriate archival-quality materials to use for object storage and the proper way to store and maintain archaeological collections.

“I worked for the Corps for 10 years, then we decided to have a child and my husband got a job in Virginia, so we moved to West Virginia and I now stay at home. I currently am not employed in the museum or archaeological professions, but I am staying busy. Since last fall, I’ve been volunteering for the Peter Burr (Aaron’s uncle) House, West Virginia’s oldest wood-frame structure. I am cleaning, cataloging, and rehousing their archaeological collection, and the director, knowing my museum background, asked if I would prepare a small exhibit of the artifacts to place in the house. I’m also on the Jefferson County (WV) Documents Preservation Committee, working to identify historic documents in the Jefferson County Courthouse (John Brown, of Harpers Ferry raid fame, was tried there and executed nearby). Additionally, there are some vacancies on the Charles Town (WV) Landmarks Preservation Committee and

I’m going to try to fill one of them.

“My Museum Studies education has helped me become part of the community I just moved to, a community very interested in its past. I can use my knowledge to provide recommendations and ideas that will hopefully contribute to the preservation of the community’s history. And my husband, also an archaeologist and the museum properties manager for the Fish and Wildlife Service, has borrowed all of my Museum Studies books, both from Beloit and from my own acquisitions.”

Kristen Olson Eckman ’03, a graduate student in museum studies at New York University, has obtained an internship in the Asian ethnographic department at the American Museum of Natural History.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore has hired Kate Lindenmeyer Kiser ’04. Her job “is a fun position in the development department and there are lots of conservation and animal type programs that I get to participate in if I like.”

Amy Ollendorf ’83, President of ALO Environmental Associates, was appointed to a three-year term as a Commissioner on the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC serves as a citizen advisory body to the City Council, preserving historically and architecturally significant resources and districts while allowing modifications for contemporary use. This marks the first time in the city’s history that a professional archaeologist/geologist has served on the HPC. See http://www.aloenviron.com.


The Arnie Sio Chair for Diversity and Community, an honorary chair at Colgate University, has been named for Arnold Sio ’43, who taught in the sociology and anthropology department there from 1952 to 1984. The Sio chair was funded by Colgate trustee emeritus John Runnette, who credited his former professor as “the first influence in his professional life who truly did not see the color of an individual” (see The Downeast Coastal Press [Cutler, ME], Sept 27, 2005).

At the American Association of Museums 2005 annual meeting in Indianapolis, Bill Green and Karla Wheeler got to chat with several museum studies alumni including Bethany Moore ’03, Sydney Royal ’03, and Dane Pollet ’86. Sorry for missing the others who were there!

A large group of DC-area alumni gathered with Bill Green during the American Anthropological Association’s 2005 annual meeting in Washington. The Alumni Office and DC-area External Affairs rep Leslie Kidder ’02 organized the festivities. Joining 30–40 locals were Kate Costello ’97 and Nicole Truesdell ’03, anthropology graduate students at Indiana University and Michigan State University, respectively. Other Beloiters who attended the AAA meeting included Linda Whiteford ’69 and Lynne Goldstein ’71 (professors at the University of South Florida and Michigan State University) and current professor Nancy McDowell.

Bill thanks Mary Alexander ’69 (director of the Maryland Historical Trust’s Museum Assistance Program) and her husband Norman Schou for their hospitality and Mary Jane Lenz ’52 (head of the National Museum of the American Indian’s curatorial department) for the behind-the-scenes tour she led for the Council for Museum Anthropology at the new NMAI Cultural Resource Center.
Museum Studies Fund Update

Students in Nicolette Meister’s Introduction to Collections Management course were among the first to take advantage of the newly established Museum Studies Fund. Students and curatorial assistant Kristen Olson-Eckman ’03 traveled to the Twin Cities to visit the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts and for behind the scenes tours of the Minnesota Historical Society and Science Museum of Minnesota. Students viewed newly renovated collection storage facilities, met with conservators and curators, and learned about large-scale collection move projects. The Museum Studies Fund continues to grow through the support of alumni and friends.

Museum studies students and Logan Museum staff at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Back row: Molly Updike ’05, Patty Lord ’06, Jaclyn Ludowese ’07, Eva Labson ’05, Marin Bey ’05, Nicolette Meister (instructor), Anna Goodwin ’05, Kristina Mickelson ’07, Ellie Magin ’07. Front row: Lisa Howe ’05, Matt Flynn ’06, Kristin Eckman-Olson ’03.