Beloit Archaeological Survey

The Beloit Archaeological Survey (BAS) got underway this summer as a cooperative effort of the City of Beloit and Beloit College, with grant support from the Wisconsin Historical Society. College staff, volunteers, and students conducted field work throughout the city under the direction of Logan Museum research associate Sara Pfannkuche and director Bill Green. The goal of the BAS is to aid city planning efforts and promote regional research by locating and assessing archaeological resources within the city.

This year, BAS surveyed 49 separate locations, 27 in city parks and 22 on private property. The team excavated, screened, and mapped 952 shovel probes. Of the 31 archaeological sites surveyed, 11 are newly identified and 20 were previously recorded. All but three of the sites date to the prehistoric period. The historic-era sites include the city’s 1838 millrace and a limestone well in Leeson Park. At other sites, stone-tool manufacturing debris is common. Prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered from five sites, including one near the Beloit College turtle effigy mound. Two sites were identified on the basis of previously uncatalogued collections at the Logan Museum. Artifacts from five other sites that were collected by Beloit College surveys in 1974 also are being incorporated into the project.

BAS mapped over 30 mounds, including several thought to have been destroyed. The survey confirmed four other mounds which had not been recorded despite over 150 years of mound mapping in Beloit. BAS also documented a rare earthen enclosure. Small habitation sites occur near many though not all of the mounds. These camps are most numerous on bluff tops and high terraces overlooking Turtle Creek and the Rock River. Surprisingly, many sites remain relatively intact despite nearby development.

Logan Museum NAGPRA* Update

The Logan Museum’s NAGPRA action plan is designed to complete inventories of culturally affiliated Native American human remains and associated funerary objects and culturally unidentifiable human remains and associated funerary objects. Anthropology and Museum Studies student Marin Bey ’05 has been working closely with Curator of Collections Nicolette Meister to compile current inventories and write curation summaries for archaeological sites from which human remains and funerary objects were excavated. The Logan Museum continues to consult with Native American tribes and most recently hosted a visit by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma representatives visited the Logan Museum in October, 2004. From left to right: Gloria Steed, Julie Olds, and Daryl Baldwin.
**Alumni News**

Amy Ollendorf ‘83 reports that Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc. (PEC) of Mendota Heights, MN hosted Rachel Harvieux ’06 as a Student Extern during Rachel’s Ultra-Alternative Spring Break. Rachel shadowed Amy and her colleagues for a week in early March. Amy also has kept busy with publications and presentations in 2003–2004. She co-authored Part 1 of an article that was published in The Minnesota Archaeologist in 2003; Part 2 is due out in Fall 2004. This article focuses on the results of GIS mapping and database development that Amy and her colleagues completed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the headwaters region of the Mississippi River in Minnesota. Amy is also busy editing and writing articles for publication in the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society. These papers derive from multi-cultural resources efforts that she directed in Dubuque, IA. Amy also presented a co-authored paper at the 2004 Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Montreal entitled “Evaluation of the Shea Circle (32CS0046): A Small, Anomalous Feature in the Shadow of the NRHP-Listed Shea Site, Cass County, North Dakota.” This paper summarized the fine-resolution topographic mapping, remote sensing, and soils and archaeological analyses that were completed under Amy’s direction. Amy encourages Beloit students and recent alumni ae who may be interested in internships, externships, or seasonal (paid) jobs to contact her at PEC.

Justin Dodd ’03 says, “life as a grad student is full of adventure… I am at the University of Saskatchewan in the lovely city of Saskatoon. Officially, I guess I am called a biogeochemist, and as long as we are making up words, I prefer an anthrobiogeochemologist. This past spring I applied for a NSF-Graduate Student Fellowship, and I got it. All of the reviewers mentioned my global background. I wear my Beloit anthropology history with pride. My thesis is focused on reconstructing changes in global climate over the past several thousand years using stable isotopes in various proxies like trees, lake sediments, cave deposits, fish ear bones, and just about anything else you can think of.” Justin assisted with a field course in the Yucatan Peninsula, where he cored a lakebed that reveals evidence of great droughts.

Upon completion of her stint as curatorial assistant at the Logan in 2003, Stacy Pickruhn ’03 moved to Boise, ID. Besides her weekday job, Stacy also works for the Old Idaho State Penitentiary as an exhibit host. She plans on pursuing a degree in nursing in the spring of 2005.

Matthew Bilsbarrow ’88 writes: “Five years ago, I joined the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office as a compliance reviewer and realized that I had changed disciplines. The fields of government, architecture, and history became as relevant to me as my professional training in archaeology. I’ve been working to educate both the public and professionals on historic preservation issues. For professionals, I’ve edited a series of white papers, called points (http://www.pr.state.az.us/partnerships/shpo/shpo_rc.html) and wrote ones on Testing and Burial-in-Place.” Matthew attended the 2004 Beloit Homecoming/Reunion and talked with Logan Museum director Bill Green and Wisconsin Historical Society staffer Rick Dexter ’70 about historic preservation.

Lynne Goldstein ’71 is the new President, Bob Jeske ’78 the Treasurer, and George Milner ’75 a newly elected board member of the Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc., and Cricket Kelly ’69 just completed a two-year term on the board.

More alumni news on page 6!

**Student News**

This past summer, Marin Bey ’05 completed an internship at the Milwaukee Public Museum where she conducted a collections profile of the entire Anthropology collection, designed a web page on bandolier bags, and worked on exhibits. She was also a museum assistant at the Logan Museum, spending most of her time working with Nicolette Meister on NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) inventories. She also worked on pest control, helped visiting researchers, and catalogued recent acquisitions.

Virginia Cunning, 1923–2004

Virginia Cunning ‘69 passed away on April 15, 2004, in Des Moines, Iowa, following a battle with colon cancer. She was 80 years old.

Virginia was born in Miltonvale, Kansas, to a dryland wheat farming family that in 1933 found its way to Bennett, Colorado, about 30 miles east of Denver. Virginia was the oldest of five girls and learned to drive grain trucks at an early age. After high school she attended Colorado A&M at Ft. Collins. There she met Willis (Larry) Cunning at a USO dance and they were married in 1944.

Larry’s career managing physical plants took them to Minnesota and Wisconsin, and their family grew by four with the births of two sons and two daughters between 1946 and 1965. They eventually ended up in Beloit, where Larry became director of the Beloit College physical plant. Virginia enrolled at Beloit and studied anthropology with Andrew (Bud) Whiteford ’37. She received her Bachelors degree in 1969. It was a source of great pride to her to be in the same graduating class as her older daughter, Linda. (Her son James graduated from Beloit in 1972.)

The Cunning family moved to Des Moines in 1969 when Larry became director of the Drake University physical plant. In 1970 Virginia saw an announcement on the Drake campus advertising for an anthropology instructor. When she was told they could hire her only if she had a Master’s degree, she began commuting to Iowa State University to pursue that degree. Virginia’s studies were in cultural anthropology, and she was pleased to find that Bud’s son Mike Whiteford ’67 was teaching in (and later head of) the Anthropology program at ISU. She also took archaeology courses and weekend field schools. Virginia completed her Master’s degree in 1975. Her thesis was entitled Ethnicity in a Midwestern City: An Anthropological Study of the Greeks in Des Moines, Iowa, and Mike Whiteford was her thesis advisor.

The opportunity to teach anthropology at Drake with a Master’s degree faded by 1975 when the rising tide of new PhDs filled such positions. Virginia worked in other positions at Drake, retiring from the university in 1992. She and Larry were active participants in Iowa Archeological Society meetings and trips, slowing down only after taking part in a trip to Cahokia in 1998. They were avid travelers and Virginia’s eye was always attuned to the changing landscape and changing natural and human adaptations, a true mark of an anthropologist and archaeologist. Virginia is survived by her husband of 60 years, and by four children to whom she imparted her love of history and prehistory, nature, and culture.

(By Tom Chadderdon; originally published in Iowa Archeology News, vol. 54, no. 2. Thanks to Tom and the Iowa Archeological Society for permission to reprint.)
New Acquisitions

The Logan Museum recently acquired the following items through generous donations from alumni and friends:

- Peruvian mummy dolls, from Barbara Spencer.
- Collection of Midwest archaeological material, donated by Devota Froebel.
- Collection of ceramic sherds from Iran and other items, donated by George Blakslee.
- Deck of playing cards from 1900 depicting Native American leaders and Navajo textiles, donated by Marilyn Delaney.
- Celt from Clinton Township, Rock County, Wisconsin, donated by James Oates.

Use of Collections

Visiting scholars and Beloit College faculty continued to use Logan Museum collections for research and teaching in the summer and fall of 2004. Examples:

- In July 2004, museum professionals in a conservation course at the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies visited the Logan Museum to examine baskets. Nicolette Meister presented a workshop on basketry identification and preservation based on the Logan Museum’s extensive collection of Native American baskets.
- Chris Philipp*96, Collections Manager I in the Anthropology Department of the Field Museum, and his wife, Juliana Philipp, Collections Management Assistant at the Field Museum, visited the Logan Museum in July 2004 to document collections transferred from the Field Museum to the Logan Museum (see photo below). Chris, whose background is in ethnomusicology, was particularly interested in musical instruments from Cameroon transferred from the Field Museum in 1928 in exchange for Tuareg ethnographic material collected by Alonzo Pond during the 1927 Logan-Saharan Expedition. Museum Assistant Marin Bey*05 assisted during the visit.

- Ellen Joyce, a faculty member in the History Department, brought a class to examine non-western manuscripts of Batak, Burmese, and Chinese origin.
Museum Career in the Park Service

Allen Bohnert '69 is Chief of Museum Services for the National Park Service Southeast Region. He recently reflected on his career in the "Employee Spotlight Section" on the Inside NPS web page. Just before he headed to Gulf Islands National Seashore to deal with hurricane recovery efforts (wet archives and museum objects), he wrote:

“I’ve been very fortunate working within the museum program area of the National Park Service for the past 25 years. Working at Mesa Verde National Park, Denver Regional Office, Southeast Archeological Center, Santa Fe Regional Office and now the Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta has provided both challenges and opportunities. The list of opportunities is extensive, from months of specialized training in Rome and in Denmark to national park-related museum management work in the Virgin Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, and many states in between.”

Here’s how Allen’s career with NPS began. “After completing a National Endowment for the Arts Internship at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, as part of my Masters Degree in Museum Science at Texas Tech University, I was spending a holiday with a good friend who told me he was being considered for the Curator position at Mesa Verde National Park. I thought that was rather curious, since he was a biologist and Mesa Verde was an archeological park. There were mid-level federal government registers at the time; I was on the register. I remember thinking ‘Why wasn’t I being considered with my Masters degrees in anthropology and museum science?’ I thought nothing more of it and was accepted to an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Just before leaving Carnegie Museum I received a call from Mesa Verde offering me the job of Museum Curator. At the time (November 1979), I had very little knowledge of the National Park Service and its substantial museum management programs other than the conservation labs at Harpers Ferry.”

Regarding the most exciting current job projects, Allen says, “A couple of things come to mind. One is revitalizing the museum management program, within the context of park and resources management, throughout the Southeast Region and within the Regional Office. The second is to be participating in the development of the museum management program for the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (TUAI). If TUAI meets the goals outlined in the enabling legislation, it will be the single largest park-based museum management program in the Southeast Region.

“My ‘toughest’ jobs were serving as the Southeast Region Coordinator for implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) while I was located at the Southeast Archeological Center AND serving as a NAGPRA Curator for the Southwest Region when I was in Santa Fe. While among the toughest for me on both professional and personal levels, they were also among the most meaningful.

“The most frustrating part [of the job] directly relates to the current expansion of NPS management based a lot on politically imposed priorities or for-profit-based models of management rather than management based upon heritage and resource management priorities.”

Future plans? “I still hope to research and publish on NPS museum collections. Also, I continue to have goals of teaching museum management at the university and supporting local heritage organizations upon retirement from the NPS.”

New Books

Every few months another batch of books by Beloit anthropology graduates hits the market. The following newly published books reveal the breadth of interests and current research by our alumni. Book descriptions are supplied by the publishers.

The Archaeology and Politics of Food and Feasting in Early States and Empires, edited by Tamara L. Bray ’80 (Kluwer Academic, Plenum Publishers, $55.00 softcover)

Food and feasting played prominent roles in the emergence of social hierarchies and the negotiation of power. Given the culinary nature of feasts, the archaeological visibility of such events is increased by the use of containers for both food preparation and consumption. The papers in this volume examine the commensal politics of early states and empires and offer a comparative perspective on how food and feasting have figured in the political calculus of archaic states in both the Old and New Worlds.

The contributors focus on questions such as:

• What was the nature of the relationship between food, power, status, and identity in the context of early states?
• Was feasting a universally important element in the construction of state power?
• How do archaeologically discernible patterns of state feasting compare cross-culturally and through time?

Colonial Virginia’s Cooking Dynasty, by Katharine E. Harbury ’75 (University of South Carolina Press; $59.95 hardcover)

More diverse in scope than their modern counterparts, the cookbooks of colonial and antebellum America contained recipes, medical cures, and housekeeping information that women of that time deemed necessary for family life. The keepers of these “domestic” manuals recorded recipes and cures for their own use and the use of friends, daughters, and extended families. Because they reflect a range of daily living practices, such manuscript cookbooks serve as important social history documents. In Colonial Virginia’s Cooking Dynasty, Katharine E. Harbury brings to light two cookbooks from eighteenth-century Virginia. Notable for their early dates and historical significance, these manuals afford previously unavailable insights into lifestyles and foodways during the evolution of Chesapeake society.

One cookbook is an anonymous work dating from 1700; the other is the 1739–1743 cookbook of Jane Bolling Randolph, a descendant of Pocahontas and John Rolfe. In addition to her textual analysis that establishes the relationship between these two early manuscripts, Harbury links them to the 1824 classic The Virginia Housewife by Mary Randolph.

Harbury explains how these two cookbooks shed light on the practices of upper-class colonial society and how the recipe collections changed over time. She finds that while colonial cooks did continue British culinary traditions, these manuals demonstrate that the emergence of Virginia foodways had begun as early as 1700.

The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America, by George R. Milner ’75 (Thames & Hudson; $39.95 hardcover)

Explorers of the American continent were amazed to find great earthen monuments in the Eastern Woodlands. Thousands of these mounds were discovered – one 100 feet high, some overgrown hillocks, some conical, others flat-topped. Speculation was rife as to the identity of the moundbuilders.
George Milner brings together new evidence on mounds for the general reader and student. Research demonstrates conclusively that the mounds were in fact built by Native Americans in a period ranging from 3000 BC to the 16th century AD. Indians moved tons of earth to form these monuments, which vary widely in location, size and purpose. Some contained hundreds of burials; others served as platforms for chiefs’ residences. Many were effigy mounds in the form of serpents, panthers, and other sacred beasts. Mound building was a key element in society: how they worshipped gods, buried their dead, remembered their ancestors, and respected their leaders.

Caborn-Welborn: Constructing a New Society after the Angel Chiefdom Collapse, by David Pollack ’77 (University of Alabama Press; $29.95 softcover)

Caborn-Welborn, a late Mississippian (A.D. 1400) farming society centered at the confluence of the Ohio and Wabash Rivers (in what is now southwestern Indiana, southeastern Illinois, and northwestern Kentucky), developed following the collapse of the Angel chiefdom (A.D. 1000). Using ceramic and settlement data, David Pollack examines the ways in which new society reconstructed social, political, and economic relationships from the remnants of the Angel chiefdom. Unlike most instances of the demise of a complex society led by elites, the Caborn-Welborn population did not become more inward-looking, as indicated by an increase in extraregional interaction, nor did they disperse to smaller more widely scattered settlements, as evidenced by a continuation of a hierarchy that included large villages.

In this case study of chiefdom collapse and societal reemergence, Pollack makes available for the first time detailed, well-illustrated descriptions of Caborn-Welborn ceramics, identifies ceramic types and attributes that reflect Caborn-Welborn interaction with Oneota tribal groups and central Mississippi valley Mississippian groups, and offers an internal regional chronology. Based on intraregional differences in ceramic decoration, the types of vessels interred with the dead, and cemetery location, Pollack suggests that in addition to the former Angel population, Caborn-Welborn society may have included households that relocated to the Ohio/Wabash confluence from nearby collapsing polities, and that Caborn-Welborn’s sociopolitical organization could be better considered as a riverine confederacy.

Philadelphia and the Development of Americanist Archaeology, edited by Don D. Fowler and David R. Wilcox ’66 (University of Alabama Press; $34.95 softcover)

This book reveals the crucial role the intellectuals and institutions of Philadelphia played in the development of the science of archaeology. For 250 years, Philadelphians have been actively involved in archaeological research. In particular, three vital and venerable cultural institutions—the American Philosophical Society (founded 1743), the Academy of Natural Sciences (founded 1812), and the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania (founded 1893)—have nurtured the “systematic study of antiquities.”

The ten essays in this volume focus on Philadelphians who were concerned with the archaeology of the New World. The essays examine most of the key players. Enlightenment scholars such as Benjamin Smith Barton, Peter S. Duponceau, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Garrison Brinton, John Wesley Powell, and Benjamin Rush all contributed to the surge of scientific study of America’s prehistoric cultures. So did two pioneering women who have received scant attention to date—Sara Yorke Stevenson and Lucy W. Wilson—but whose work is well treated in this study. Other essays detail the varied contributions of C.C. Abbott, Frank Hamilton Cushing, Clarence B. Moore, Edgar Lee Hewett, and John L. Cotter. This volume should stimulate continued interest in the origins and history of archaeology and the relationship of Philadelphia patrons and institutions to scientific inquiry.

Tobin Collection Update

The Tobin Collection still dominates collections news. Since the last issue of the Logan Letter, the Logan Museum has deaccessioned 679 objects from the Virginia M. and James D. Tobin Collection: 359 to the Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 269 to the Kenosha Public Museum, nine to the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at the State University of New York-New Paltz, and five to the Logan Museum Education Collection. Logan Museum staff and Museum Studies students are currently developing an exhibit for the spring 2005 term based on the Tobin Collection. The exhibit will inform visitors about cultural diversity and change in Papua New Guinea. This exhibit and the 560 objects retained for the permanent collection serve as learning resources on the art and peoples of this important region of Oceania.
More Alumni News

Amelia (Amy) Hubbard’02 started graduate school in Anthropology at Ohio State University. She is working with bioarchaeologist Clark Spencer Larsen as his Editorial Assistant for the American Journal of Physical Anthropology. Erin Wayman’02, in graduate school in the Evolutionary Wing of the Department of Anthropology at the University of California-Davis, serves as an Editorial Associate for Current Anthropology. Sydney Royal’03 has started graduate school in Museum Studies at the University of Florida, and Alexandra Trumbull’03 has started grad school in Anthropology and Museum Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Museum Studies Support Fund

A new fund has been established to support Beloit College’s Museum Studies program. Gifts to this fund enable student participation in off-campus workshops, bring visiting speakers to campus, and promote other activities for Museum Studies students. This fund supplements the annual allocation to the program from the Academic Affairs office, which also helps to support field trips, guest lectures, supplies, and teaching materials.

Substantial growth has occurred recently in the Museum Studies program (see the previous Logan Letter for details). Even more interest is forecast if the 25 students now taking Introduction to Museum Studies are any indication.

Donors are encouraged to support the Museum Studies program by directing their gifts to the new fund. Anyone interested in supporting the program can contact program chair Bill Green or the College’s External Affairs office.

Beloit College
Logan Museum of Anthropology
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Ethnology Inventory Update

The Logan Museum is conducting a comprehensive inventory of its ethnology storage area in preparation for a complete overhaul of the existing storage area and furniture. Our 2002 Conservation Assessment Program survey identified replacement of wooden units and press-board cabinets and shelving units as a high conservation priority. Rehousing and expansion are needed to ensure we care for collections using the highest standards of preservation and to ensure the collections are accessible to fulfill our teaching mission. Additional movable shelving is part of the expansion plan.

The Museum has hired a part-time Curatorial Assistant, Kristen Olson-Eckman’03, to manage the inventory project. Kristen supervises a crew of eight Museum Assistants who enter inventory data into the collection database. Also, she will assist with a collections profile of the storage area and will examine other museums’ storage systems along with the Curator of Collections.

Kris ten Olson-Eckman
’03 and Miles Van Reed’06 inventory collections in ethnology storage.