



## *From the Director, Robert L. Kelly*

Last year in this column I said that my goal was to grow the endowment in order to meet the Institute's goals of being involved in high-profile research and providing service to the public. I am happy to report that we made great progress in that direction. We raised the final amount needed to complete a \$50,000 pledge from the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation; completion of that pledge was made possible by a gift from the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists. We also held a joint fundraiser with the Dubois Museum to raise funding for a new initiative, the Alpine Archaeology Fund (see next page). Our budget in 2010-11 was \$6000, but for 2011-12 it is \$15,000. And we have a new opportunity to grow the endowment (see below). Anything we accomplish is due to your support. Thank you!



*Barbara Nahas (center), treasurer of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation receives a check to complete the Foundation's pledge from Lynn Harrell, president of the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists. Institute Director Bob Kelly looks on.*

## *In Memoriam: June Frison, 1924-2011*

This past August, we lost a dear friend, George Frison's wife, June, whom one alumni called "the soul of the department." June was born Carolyn "June" Glanville in Crosby, Wyoming, April 9, 1924. Crosby was between Thermopolis and Kirby, though no evidence of it remains today. Her family moved to Ten Sleep when she was 11, where they built a home in Ten Sleep Canyon. After high school, June worked at a defense plant in Utah at the beginning of World War II, but, at the urging of a girlfriend, moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked as a secretary in the Pentagon. She was very proud of this service, and one cannot help but think that the Pentagon could use her today!



With the war over, June returned to Ten Sleep and married George in 1946, just after he returned from service in the U.S. Navy. After that, her life was devoted to George, following him to college in Laramie in 1962, graduate school in Michigan, and then back to Laramie in 1967. She was a cook and camp manager on many of George's field projects, and was known for her industrial-scale coffee pot. June loved wildflowers, reading, playing bridge and traveling. She was George's companion everywhere that his career took him. Everyone who knew June had "their" story about her — and no doubt they will delight in telling it for years. Her ashes were spread amidst the beauty of Ten Sleep Canyon, so think of her whenever you drive through. She is survived by George and their daughter, Carol, and is missed by all.

## *An Opportunity to Grow the Endowment — and to Double Your Contribution*

The Institute has acquired a promise from the state legislation and the UW Foundation to match \$100,000 for the endowment. This is a chance to grow the endowment by \$200,000 — and that's a significant step toward our goal of \$1,000,000 and adequate funding to support research. As funds are collected they will be held by the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation until we reach the goal of \$100,000. Two donors gave to this challenge with the request that the Institute establish within the endowment the June Frison Memorial Fund to support archaeological research in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountains. And so, this year, I am asking that you direct a donation, or an additional donation, specifically to the endowment. To acquire the match, checks should be made out to the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation and sent to the Director. You'll find a special endowment contribution form in this bulletin.

*Thank you!*

## Research Highlights

The Frison Institute's mission is to support the department's archaeological research and teaching programs. Here is some of what happened this past year:

### *Hell Gap and Last Canyon Cave*

**Marcel Kornfeld, Mary Lou Larson, and George C. Frison** continued work at the Hell Gap Site and Last Canyon Cave. Two Croatian students participated in the excavation at Hell Gap. In addition, lab studies of Two Moon Shelter and BA Cave continued in the fall, and Kornfeld visited several sites containing mammoth bone that might be of interest to future research. Much of the past academic year was devoted to the completion of a final report on the 22-year-old Middle Park Paleoindian project.

The Wyoming Archaeological Society held its spring meeting at the Hell Gap site, where participants were treated to a special event: throwing atlatl darts at a mammoth (courtesy of Richard Russell).



*WAS members try their luck throwing darts at a "mammoth" with an atlatl.*

Several students presented papers and posters at the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference in Missoula and at the Plains Anthropological Conference in Tucson on investigations of the Hell Gap site and Last Canyon Cave. The Last Canyon posters included UW anthropology, botany, and geology undergraduate and graduate students, and encompassed a range of topics including analysis of pollen, sheep pellets, charcoal frequency, and isotopic changes, all bearing on paleoclimates of the past 60,000 years.

### *The UP Mammoth Site*

Former UW student Dr. **Mary Prasciunas** spent a few days at the UP Mammoth site in southern Wyoming. This site was excavated by George Agogino and Cynthia Irwin-Williams in 1960 during their Hell Gap project. Although artifacts were associated with the mammoth, the quick excavation and the bog deposits leave a question mark over the context of the bones and the stone tools. Some of the remains are in UW's Geology Museum, but other remains, some said to bear stone tool cut marks, are at Harvard's Peabody Museum. Agogino and Irwin-Williams thought the site was on Union Pacific property, but it turns out that it was and is on private land. The landowner would like the remains at Peabody returned to Wyoming, and the Institute director has assisted with this effort.

With the aid of **Vance Haynes** (U. Arizona) and **Fred Nials** (Desert Archaeology), Prasciunas excavated a few trenches to start

understanding the site's stratigraphy. She intends to return to the site in 2012 with Institute funding. The landowners have been very helpful and plan to drain the wetland this winter to assist with the spring excavations.



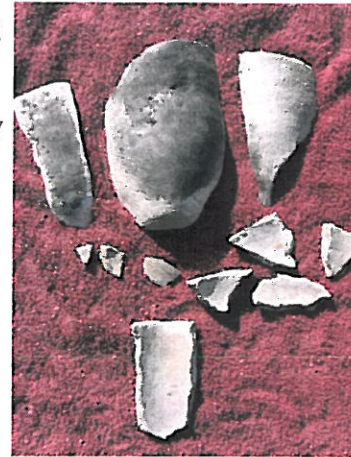
*The UP Mammoth Site in 2012.*

## Alpine Archaeology Fund

This past year, with the help of two generous donors, the Institute created the *Alpine Archaeology Fund* to promote the study of Wyoming's prehistory in its high altitudes. In 2011, the Fund supported three projects directed by UW graduate Dr. **Rich Adams**: a survey of the Caldwell Basin in the Absarokas, a study of the Mathews Site in the Great Divide Basin, and a survey near Soapstone Lake in the Absarokas.

The Caldwell Basin survey located a number of sites at elevations over 8,000 feet, including some significant buried sites. After the survey, the Basin caught fire and Adams plans to return in 2012 to see what the fire exposed.

The Mathews Bowl site, found by avocational archaeologist Larry Mathews, is in the Great Divide Basin; while that is far removed from Wyoming's alpine zone, the site contains a soapstone (steatite) bowl whose source is probably in the southern Wind River Mts. All sources of steatite, in fact, are in the mountains. Therefore, one goal is to understand the dating and use of these stone vessels as they tell us something about how people used the high elevations.



*Pieces of the Mathews soapstone bowl.*

A radiocarbon date on organic "goo" from inside this bowl indicates that the bowl was used sometime between AD 1685 and 1820. A nearby hearth returned a similar age. Many steatite bowls are similarly "young" in age.

Soapstone Lake, as the name suggests, is a steatite quarry. The

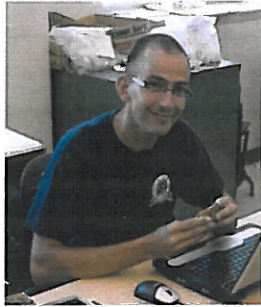


*Matt Stirn (left) and Bryan Schroeder.*

project located a number of stone vessels in various stages of manufacture. Survey in the area located a new village at 10,700 feet, and an Archaic site at 11,500 feet. In the photo at left, students Matt Stirn, who just graduated from Davidson College, and Bryan Schroeder (MA—UW), who just entered the doctoral program at the University of Montana, assisted in these projects.

## International Visitors

The Institute hosted three international visitors this year. Here from January through August, Dr. **Nicholas Naudinot** of France worked with Marcel Kornfeld and Mary Lou Larson on the Hell Gap collections. He is comparing hunter-gatherer adaptations of the "Younger Dryas" period, a period of glacial conditions from 12,000 to 13,000 years ago, between France and Wyoming. He has acquired a prestigious position at the University of Nice and we are now discussing a joint project in southern France, perhaps on a Paleolithic cave.



Nicholas Naudinot.



Liye Xie.

From China, via the University of Arizona, the Institute hosted **Liye Xie** for a week. Liye was here for the department's faunal comparative collections. She is studying bone tools found in sites in China's lower Yangzi River Valley, and is using the UW collections to develop ways to age and sex the scapulae used as tools in the Yangzi.

Finally, the Institute hosted Dr. **Nora Franco**, from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Nora was in the US to learn new computer modeling techniques and took the chance to visit UW, giving a lecture on archaeology in Patagonia. She then received a "windshield tour" of Wyoming archaeology with the Institute director, the highlight being a visit to the Medicine Wheel on a cold August day.



Nora Franco (left).

## Our Students Go Overseas

UW doctoral student, **Nathaniel Kitchel** joined the Institute's cooperative partners from the Russian Academy of Sciences and Novosibirsk State University on an expedition to Tolbor, a 45,000-year-old Upper Paleolithic site in Mongolia. UW doctoral student **Norbert Wasilik** was at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk analyzing material from east Asian sites for his doctoral dissertation.



Megan Preston.

And, finally, with Institute support, **Megan Preston** excavated at Bukovač and Zala Cave in Croatia, and heard a member of the Croatian National Symphony play as a flute a replica of a pierced cave bear bone found in a Neanderthal level in a cave in Slovenia.



Nathaniel Kitchel.

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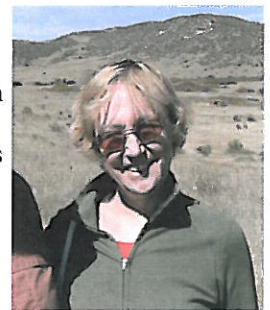
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## New Institute Secretary

In February, 2011, the Institute hired a new secretary and accountant, Ms. **Jackie Hauptman**. Jackie was already working for the university, although in an agricultural extension office in Torrington, and she was happy to return to Laramie. If you should call the Institute office, it will be Jackie who answers the phone.

## Institute Fall Lecture

Dr. **Mary Stiner**, an archaeologist from the University of Arizona, delivered the Institute fall lecture. She discussed her research with the faunal assemblage of an Israeli cave. She found that stone tool butchery cut marks on large animal bones from 400,000 years ago were more randomly placed than those on Upper Paleolithic remains. This suggests that while carcasses were passed from person to person in the Lower Paleolithic, they were more systematically butchered by single individuals in the Upper Paleolithic — evidence for systematic sharing in the Upper Paleolithic, a hallmark of modern human behavior. Afterwards, Mary toured the Lindenmeier Folsom site in Colorado with Jason Labelle (Colorado State University). If you came, we hope you enjoyed it; and if not, please join us next year.





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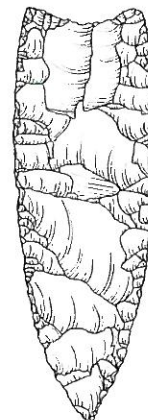
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**Thank you!**

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