

George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

at the UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



NOTE: BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FRISON INSTITUTE MEETING AND FRISON INSTITUTE

LECTURE MOVED TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

With the Frison Institute Meeting and lecture moved to Monday, September 29, a series of archaeological and anthropological events in the region will begin with the Loveland Stone Age Fair (LSAF) on Saturday, September 27 and end with the Plains Anthropological Conference (PAC) on Sunday, October 5. This will allow participants to attend all three events: LSAF is on Saturday September 27; Frison Institute Lecture on Monday, September 29; pre-PAC field trip, Wednesday, October 1 (tentative); PAC, Thursday through Saturday, October 2-4; post-PAC field trips Saturday afternoon and Sunday, October 4 and 5 (tentative).

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION SURPASSES FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR THE FRISON INSTITUTE PALEOINDIAN ENDOWMENT

The Paleoindian Endowment supports Frison Institute endeavors in research, scholarship, and public education. The Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF) follow-up campaign to build on the original Frison Institute Paleoindian Endowment established in 1996 has already met the first one half of its goal. After raising the initial \$50,000 for the endowment, the WAF pledged an additional \$50,000. The first installment of the second pledge has now been surpassed by raising a total of \$29,000, significantly ahead of schedule. As with the previous pledge, all contributions to the endowment through the WAF will be matched by the State of Wyoming matching program. Consequently, the total endowment currently stands at nearly \$160,000. Thanks to all of those that have contributed and to those of you who will contribute in the future.

BULLETIN # 18 April 2008



New Anthropology building's sign

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Director: Marcel Kornfeld
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Mary Lou Larson
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FRISON INSTITUTE LECTURE

The 10th Frison Institute Lecture is set for 3 pm in the Ag Auditorium on Monday, September 29, 2008. The speaker will be Dr. Gustavo G. Politis, currently a professor at the Universidad de La Plata and at the Universidad del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, as well as an investigator of the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas (CONICET). Dr. Politis received his doctorate degree in 1984 from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina. He has published more than 100 articles in scientific journals and books, he has edited five books and authored four. His main research interests are: archaeology of the Pampean region, peopling of the Americas, ethnoarchaeology among tropical forest hunter-gatherers, and theory in archaeology. Among his accomplishments is a study of the last remaining hunter-gatherer societies in South America, including the Nukak.

The title of Dr. Politis's lecture is "Pre-Clovis, Para-Clovis or Post-Clovis? The Early Peopling of the Southern Cone of South America." He will review the earliest evidence for human occupation in South America and specifically in the southernmost part of that continent. He will discuss his own research as well as other studies in the region. We should also note (see section on the Plains Anthropological Conference below) that Dr. Politis will be the banquet speaker on Friday, October 3 at the Plains Anthropological Conference (four days after the Frison Institute lecture), where he will talk about his work with the South American hunter-gatherer societies.



Gustavo Politis (top left) with South American colleagues.



Gustavo Politis with Nukak forager.

PLAINS ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE IN LARAMIE 2008

The Plains Anthropological Conference (PAC), hosted by the Institute, Department of Anthropology, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office will be held from October 1-5, 2008, following the Institute meeting. The conference will be at the Hilton Garden Inn and the University of Wyoming Conference Center (see Plains Anthropological Society web page for more information). A wide variety of topics on all subdisciplines of anthropology will be presented and a number of field trips to nearby sites will be offered. Tours to Lindenmeier, Pine Bluffs, and the Wyoming Territorial Prison are in the planning stages. Preliminary session proposals include: Plains Village, the role of plants in Plains lifeways, bison bonebeds and hunting strategies, stone circles revisited, and the history of the Plains Conference. The banquet speaker on Friday evening will be Dr. Gustavo Politis (see above) who will talk about South American foragers, "Lessons from the Nukak and other South American Hunter-Gatherers." He will be followed with music by Wyoming's own John Crossland of Tensleep, Wyoming.

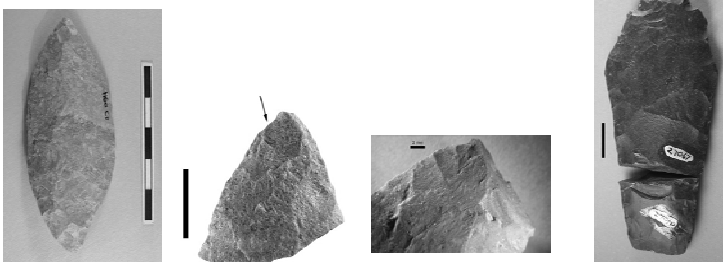


VISITING SCHOLARS 2008

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Institute was fortunate to host Mrs. Olena Fedorchenko, a doctoral student from the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in the Ukraine. Mrs. Fedorchenko is in the process of conducting research on interpretive methods related to bison procurement, specifically communal procurement. Her research has been largely library based, but she has also gained hands on experience in faunal analysis while at the Institute. Her residency is supported by a Fulbright Scholarship.

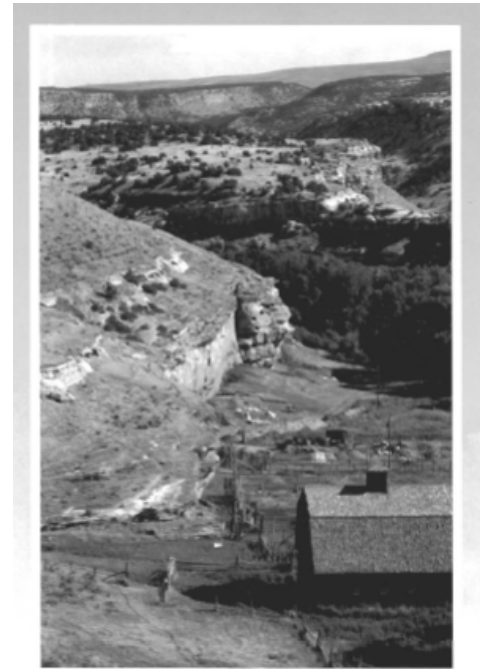
This winter the Institute also hosted two visiting scholars, awarded the Frison Fellowships. Dr. Paola Villa from the University of Colorado, Museum of Natural History in Boulder and Cheryl Fogel from the University of New Mexico. Both examined Paleoindian projectile point collections.

Dr. Paola Villa has been investigating Middle Paleolithic sites in South Africa, specifically the Blombos site. This Howiesons Poort/Stillbay assemblage ($\pm 70,000$ years old) contains points that are argued to be some of the earliest projectile points in the world. Such assessment is based on object morphology, but is buttressed by breakage patterns of these implements. To test the hypothesis that the Blombos points were used as projectiles to hunt Pleistocene fauna, Dr. Villa's goal is to compare breakage incurred by Blombos artifacts to those that occurred at a bona fide animal procurement sites, as well as Paleoindian projectile points at other sites where breakage was likely due to hunting. Dr. Villa examined projectile points from the Casper site, Nelson site, and Eden-Scottsbluff components of the Hell Gap site. Her presentation discussed this study.



Blombos Point (left), damage on Blombos points (2 in center) corresponding to imprint damage from Casper point

Cheryl Fogel is investigating Cody projectile point variability across the North American Plains. She hopes to define stylistic and technological variation in the Cody complex across time and space. Cheryl examined Horner, Carter-Kerr/McGee, Nelson, Eden-Scottsbluff component of the Hell Gap site, and Finley projectile point collections. Her presentation "Comparing Cody Sites from Wyoming and New Mexico" focused on the preliminary results of her studies.



MEDICINE LODGE CREEK MONOGRAPH

Drs. George C. Frison and Danny N. Walker edited the Medicine Lodge Creek (MLC) monograph, published by Clovis press in 2007. The authors of 10 chapters are: George C. Frison, Danny N. Walker, Judson B. Finley, Mary E. Galvan, Julie E. Francis, and Daniel R. Bach. History of site investigation, Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Crow occupations of the site are discussed, as is site geology, vegetation ecology, geology, vertebrate fauna, and rock images. A series of appendices by Richard Hughes (obsidian source locations), Michael Page (Crow pottery), Ashly L. Basgall and Marcel Kornfeld (selected grinding equipment), Rick L. Weathermon (edge ground cobbles and historic beads), Julie Francis (engraved plaquette), Elizabeth Cartwright (Crow fauna), and Jack N. Fenner (birds) round out the presentation of the archaeological assemblages. The book is available at or through the University of Wyoming bookstore (order form is at the back of the bulletin).



**George C. Frison Institute
of Archaeology and Anthropology**

UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

APRIL
2008



New Anthropology building on corner of 12th and Lewis Streets

BUILDING OPENING

Most of last fall's bulletin focused on the opening of the new Anthropology building featuring the Anthropology Department, Frison Institute, University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist. Naturally with the move into the new building we are all very excited about our new facilities. At the time of the building opening many of us still had not unpacked, indeed some unpacking continues, and the organization of our labs and storage facilities was and is far from completed. Nevertheless we have been able to locate all artifacts, notes, collections, books, reprints and other material necessary to carry on our teaching and research duties. As many of you could not attend our building opening ceremonies we will devote some of this bulletin to pictures of the event, of our new facilities and of additional construction since the opening. We hope the pictures make you feel as if you were here.

RAIN SHADOW RESEARCH GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD GOES TO UW ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT

Rain Shadow Research of Pullman, Washington, has awarded the Rain Shadow Research Graduate Student Award to Paul Santarone, a first year anthropology doctoral student at UW. The award, made to students actively engages in research, is designed to offset research expenses such as travel, copying, book costs, illustrations, or other needs.

Paul's thesis and continued research focuses on Simon Clovis cache from Big Camas Prairie in Idaho. Paul reanalyzed the cache and in the process located additional cache specimens never before reported. The data yielded a revised interpretation of the cache, perhaps the events leading to its storage, and Clovis systematics. Paul is currently preparing a publication on this research.

COUNCIL OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

By Marcel Kornfeld

The Council of Affiliated Societies (CoAS) is a consortium of local societies within the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). The Council enhances communication between the archaeological core community (the local and avocational groups) and the national organization as well as between the local societies themselves. Each year at the SAAs the council co-sponsors the Archaeology Month Poster contest, has a business meeting of the represented societies, and maintains a booth for member societies to display their materials (t-shirts, membership brochures, journals, and other scientific or promotional material). CoAS further enhances communication between member societies through a publication of two newsletters each year. The SAA web site contains a page with information on CoAS, including a list and addresses of member societies, old and current newsletters, and the membership application. The Frison Institute supports CoAS by representing the Wyoming Archaeological Society at the annual meeting.



**CoAS table at the SAA Conference,
Vancouver in April**



SUMMER 2008 PROJECTS

Black Mountain Archaeological District by Marcel Kornfeld

Work will continue this year at the Black Mountain Archaeological District (BMAD) in Two Moon Shelter and BA Cave. At Two Moon completion of an excavation unit through the Folsom layer is critical to the understanding of the Folsom floor. We also began another unit last year that was excavated to the mid to late Paleoindian component. Completion of both units is critical for planning future excavation strategy at Two Moon. Analysis of backplots of previously collected data has, however, demonstrated the clear presence of three Paleoindian components (Early Paleoindian-Clovis/Folsom, Mid Paleoindian-Agate Basin/Foothill Mountain, and Late Paleoindian-Pryor Stemmed), as well as later cultural components.



Dawn at Black Mountain Camp

At BA Cave we hope to continue excavation into and through the Early Plains Archaic layer encountered several years ago. Late Early Plains Archaic occurs on top of a roof fall, while earlier Early Plains Archaic dates are below the roof fall. The roof fall has only been removed from one of the excavation areas, hence its removal from the remaining excavations should reveal additional Early Archaic occupation remains and possibly earlier components that have not yet been definitely demonstrated.

White Creek Canyon by Marcel Kornfeld and Mary Lou Larson

White Creek Canyon survey, immediately adjacent to Black Mountain, located approximately 60 rockshelters in 2006. Several of these were tested in 2007, but yielded little or no archaeology. Additional shelters and several open air sites were discovered in 2007. As in the Bighorns in general the White Creek Canyon shelters vary in size, shape, presence/absence of sediment, aspect, and other characteristics. Even without discovering occupation layers in the shelters, the project is adding significant information about human use of rockshelters.

Last Canyon Cave

A small rockshelter on the southwest edge of the Pryor Mountains was investigated last fall. The initial investigation consisted of setting up a preliminary grid system, sketching the location of a looted hole and the shelter shape, cleaning out a looted hole in the center of the shelter, drawing stratigraphic sections, and collecting samples for radiocarbon dating. A few chipped stone specimens, burned and unburned bone of several species, and miscellaneous items of modern material were recovered. A small burned area, a hearth, was in the profile immediately below the ground surface. Much of the sediment was interspersed with packrat and possibly other feces. Bedrock was approximately 1 m below the surface. Before constructing a plan to salvage information from the shelter, several control units will be excavated during the 2008 field season.



Agate Basin and East Central Wyoming by Marcel Kornfeld and George C. Frison

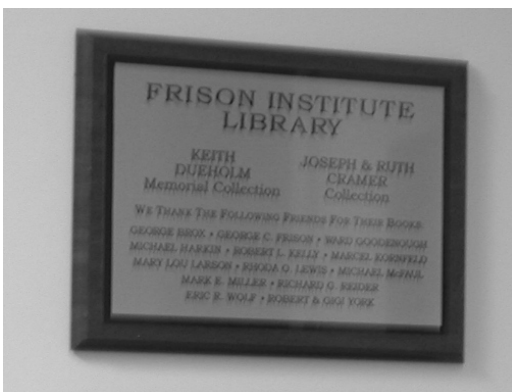
Our previous investigations in the Agate Basin arroyo four years ago focused on testing the areas between the Brewster site and Area 2, bison bone recovery in Area 1, and the Sheaman site. We recovered a significant quantity of bone from Area 1, discovered bone and chipped stone down stream from the original excavations at Sheaman, and profiled and dated several bison bone layers between Brewster and Area 1. The bone from Area 1 was all from the backdirt of original site excavations (1940s-1960s). Nevertheless they form a significant collection of Agate Basin age bison bone, and a larger sample is required to characterize the nature of the bonebed. Therefore the goal of the 2008 field season will be to profile the arroyo wall downstream from the original excavation at the Sheaman site and recover a larger sample of backdirt bone from Area 1 of the Agate Basin site. We will also visit several other sites in the area for preliminary survey and planning purposes.

Bighorn Shelters by Robert Kelly

This summer, Kelly will continue his NSF-funded research into cave and rockshelter archaeology in northern Wyoming. This summer, he hopes to include Mummy Cave, Daugherty Cave, Wedding of the Waters, and Spring Creek Shelter. He should also return to Paint Rock Canyon and work on two other sites there. Final dates have not been set, but will be soon.



Frison Institute donors and scholars are commemorated on plaques outside the Institute office.



Frison Institute library now holds nearly 10,000 volumes.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RHODA OWEN LEWIS NON-TRADITIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Contributions from friends of Rhoda O. Lewis to the Paleoindian Endowment for the purpose of establishing a non-traditional graduate student scholarship exceeded \$20,000. This portion of the endowment is dedicated to the scholarship and will generate an income of approximately \$1000 annually. The first Rhoda Owen Lewis Non-traditional Graduate Student Scholarship will be available in the spring of 2009. If no award is granted at that time the size of the award will increase, based on University of Wyoming endowment income, and will be awarded as soon as an eligible student applies. Information on the award will be available on the Institute web page.

FIELD WORK

If you are interested in participating in field work, these are the dates that Dr. Marcel Kornfeld will be in the field. Please fill out the Volunteer/ Crew Application at the back of the bulletin.

Agate Basin: July 2—11

Bighorns (BMAD, White Canyon) July 17—25

Bighorns (BMAD, White Canyon) July 30—August 8

Bighorns (BMAD, White Canyon) August 12—22



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Department of Anthropology

I would like to make a gift of \$ _____ to the Department of Anthropology in the form of a

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Please send me information about planned giving.
(wills, trusts, insurance)

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Pledge Agreement

Pledge Agreement or Contribution for the Frison Institute Endowment

I/we believe in the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology's commitment to be premier research and outreach facility dedicated to the study of North American, High Plains and Rocky Mountain archaeology and culture. Because I/we support the Institute's vision and its goals for distinction, I/we am/are pleased to pledge and promise to make a gift to the **Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF)** in the amount of \$ _____. The funds will be transferred to the University of Wyoming Foundation and matched by the State of Wyoming.

My/our commitment is designated for: **George Frison Institute Endowment**

Please make check payable to the: Wyoming Archaeological Foundation

For purposes of recognition and acknowledgment, I/we wish my/our name(s) to be listed as follows:

I/We intend to make this contribution according to the following schedule:

| Installment | Amount: | Date | Please Mail to: George C. Frison Institute Dept. 3431 1000 E. University Laramie, WY 82071 |
|----------------------------|---------|------|--|
| Payment #1 | \$ | | |
| Payment #2 | \$ | | |
| Payment #3 | \$ | | |
| Payment #4 | \$ | | |
| Payment #5 (Sept. 1, 2011) | \$ | | |

EXECUTED THIS _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(Signature)

VOLUNTEER and CREW APPLICATION FORM*

(One per applicant)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| | Volunteer |
|--|-----------|

| | |
|--|------|
| | Crew |
|--|------|

Name: _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____ - _____ - _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I am interested in volunteering/working (circle one) for the _____ project
 (Please indicate the project in which you wish to participate), between _____ month _____ day and _____ month _____ day _____ 2008.

Volunteers are asked to participate for at least five days. If you wish to volunteer for multiple projects
 please copy this form and fill out a separate form for each project.

Will you need transportation from Laramie to the field site? Y___ N___

Do you have medical insurance? Y___ N___

Do you have any medical problems we should be aware of? Y___ N___

We may be in some isolated places without access to emergency services and it is critical for us to plan as much as possible;
 please describe your medical problems below:

If you have an expected medical condition that might require immediate treatment (for example allergic reaction to bees),
 please describe in detail below and on the back of this sheet what we need to do:

Would you be willing to pay \$15/day for the time you spent as a volunteer to help support this project? Y___ N___

* This application form is required for your participation in the project.

Please complete and mail it to:

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 Department of Anthropology
 University of Wyoming
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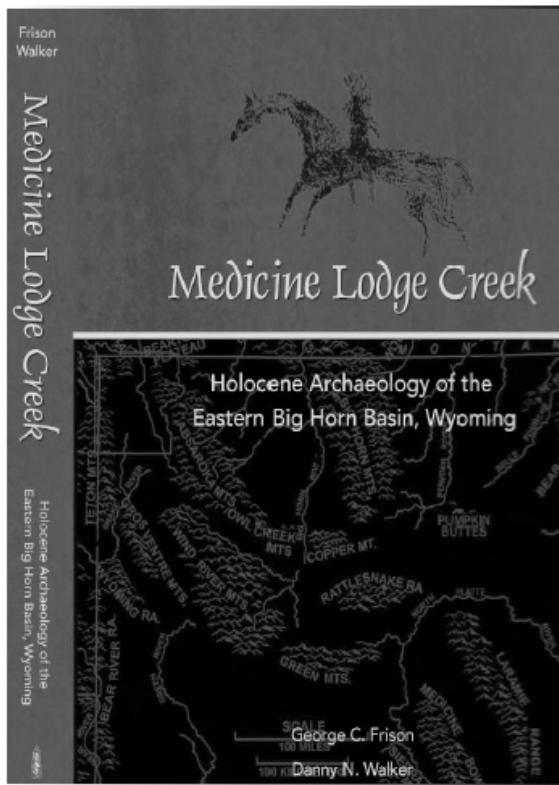
Volunteers: Please mail this form at least two weeks before the beginning of any project you wish to work on..

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Because you may have to drive a University vehicle in an emergency we strongly recommend that you acquire an
ADDITIONAL USE OF NON-OWNED VEHICLE COVERAGE from your automobile insurance carrier.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOW AVAILABLE



MEDICINE LODGE CREEK: HOLOCENE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN BIGHORN BASIN, WYOMING

*Edited by George C. Frison and
Danny N. Walker.*

Clovis Press, 2007

With contributions by:

Daniel R. Bach

Ashley LoBurgio Basgall

Elizabeth Cartright

Jack N. Fenner

Judson Byrd Finley

Julie E. Francis

Mary Elizabeth Galvan

Richard R. Hughes

Marcel Kornfeld

Michael Page

Rick Laurence Weathermon



Medicine Lodge Creek: Holocene Archaeology of the Eastern Big Horn Basin, Wyoming. Clovis Press, Avon, Colorado. 2007. (George C. Frison and Danny N. Walker, editors). xvi + 340 pp.; 1 B&W figure; 205 color figures; 67 tables.

Cost: \$74.95 plus shipping. Wyoming residents add local county sales tax.

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