



## *From the Interim Director, Todd Surovell*

It has been a busy and productive year at the Frison Institute. Most importantly, thanks to the generous contributions of many donors, we are on the cusp of completing fundraising for the \$100,000 pledge made by the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation in April, 2011. Once those funds have been raised, they will be matched dollar for dollar by the State. The Institute was greatly aided by a contribution by the Newell B. Sargent Foundation, who in October pledged \$25,000 to our endowment.

On a sad note, this year we lost three people associated with the Institute. In March, Institute Board Member Mark Mullins and his wife Marisa tragically lost their son, Lile Mecum Mullins. Long time supporter of the Frison Institute, William B. Tyrell, passed away in February. The William Tyrell Memorial Fund will support student archaeological research in Wyoming and the Rocky Mountains beginning in 2013. One of my PhD students, Patrick Orion Mullen, was killed in a car accident in Alaska in March. In honor of Patrick, we have created the Patrick Mullen Memorial Scholarship, which will support student research in scientific archaeology, especially projects with a public archaeology component. We are also continuing to build the June Frison Memorial Fund.

When I took the job of Interim Director in August, it was my goal to complete fundraising for the \$100,000 pledge made by the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation. We only have a few thousand dollars left to raise to do so, and I hope we can complete that pledge by the end of this month. Once the donation has been made and the funds have been matched by the State, the value of the Endowment will be near \$435,000. Although we have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$1 million, I have now set a goal of reaching \$500,000 by the end of my term in July of next year. Because of the generous support of all of you, that number is within reach.

## *In Memoriam: Patrick Orion Mullen (1982-2012)*

Patrick Orion Mullen was a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology. Patrick died in an automobile accident near Thompson Pass, Alaska on March 9, 2012. Less than three weeks before, Patrick had successfully completed his PhD comprehensive exams and was advanced to candidacy. At the time of his death, Patrick was working as a Compliance Archaeologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Patrick received his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 2005. His M.A. thesis at the University of Wyoming concerned human demography and climate change in the Paleoindian period of the American West. Patrick was in the initial stages of his dissertation research which was to examine the relationship between human demography and subsistence throughout the prehistory of Wyoming. Patrick is survived by his wife Willa Mullen, mother Joyce Mullen, step-father Ron Wild, father Wally Dotson, half-brother Lou Dotson, grandparents John and Velma Mullen, and grandparents Wallace and Barbara Dotson. Willa Mullen served as the Institute Secretary while Patrick was attending classes at the University of Wyoming. Thanks to many generous contributions, beginning in 2013, the Institute will be offering the Patrick Mullen Scholarship for students working in scientific archaeology in Wyoming, New Mexico, or Alaska.



*Patrick Mullen hiking in the Snowy Range, Wyoming*

### ***NEWELL B. SARGENT FOUNDATION DONATES \$25,000 TO THE FRISON INSTITUTE***

Newell B. Sargent owned and operated the soft drink bottling plant in Worland, Wyoming. At the start of its operation under his direction, in 1947, with only two full time employees, the plant bottled Pepsi and Nesbitt's Orange. Over time, the company grew to employ more than 1,000 people and to bottle a wide variety of soft drinks. Upon Sargent's death in 2001, the Newell B. Sargent Foundation was created. The Foundation contributes to many causes, but one of its emphases is historic preservation. The Foundation has had a central role in endowing the Washakie Museum in Worland, Wyoming. In September, the Newell B. Sargent Foundation agreed to donate \$25,000 to the Frison Institute's \$100,000 campaign. This generous donation will support archaeological research in Wyoming for perpetuity and brings us to the very cusp of completing that pledge. We are very grateful for their support.

## 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:

### Ice Patch Surveys

**Bob Kelly** continued his work on ice patches in Glacier National Park. They were hampered by snow that remained from the 2010-11 winter, but they still recovered a number of objects, including a bison skull, that will help in reconstructing the past environments of the Park. In addition, Kelly initiated similar work in the Wind River Mountains, surveying several ice patches and recovering a stick that is an artifact of unknown use.



*Bob Kelly at a backcountry camp in Glacier National Park.*

### The Dukha Ethnoarchaeological Project

**Todd Surovell** began an ethnoarchaeological research project in northern Mongolia with Dukha reindeer herders. The focus of the Dukha Ethnoarchaeological Project is the study of the spatial organization of human behavior in Dukha campsites. Using time-lapse photography, Surovell is precisely mapping where different activities are performed. One goal of the project is to develop methods for determining the season of occupation of archaeological sites using spatial distributions of chipped stone artifacts.



*A Dukha teenager bringing the herd back to camp.*

### Medieval Scottish Deer Parks

Medieval Scottish parks were once the prized possession of kings and aristocrats extravagantly displaying their wealth and status. Despite the importance these massive sites once held, they have since been forgotten and ignored by archaeologists and historians alike. PhD student **Kevin Malloy** is investigating how parks were constructed and organized, how these sites functioned as game-parks that housed herds of deer, as secure grazing locations for livestock, and as locations for woodland management and timber production in the Middle-Ages.



*Kevin Malloy excavates an earthen embankment at Buzzart Dykes.*

## Alpine Archaeology Fund

*By Rich Adams*

Frison Institute researchers spent eight days above 10,000 feet above sea level in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains. Our camp was near tree line at 10,700 feet above sea level. Our destination was high altitude terrain on the Continental Divide. There is a surprising amount of flat real estate between 10,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level and previous experience has shown that it is chock full of prehistoric sites. We finished recording sites observed during a brief visit in 2007, and we also discovered several large soapstone bowl preforms, a workshop where a single bowl was produced, a pipe preform, and widespread evidence of high altitude soapstone procurement. The highlight of the trip was the discovery by Tory Taylor of the first alpine village known for the west side of the Continental Divide. This site consists of at least four lodge pads, an obsidian projectile point, Late Prehistoric arrowheads, dozens of clay pottery sherds, and a broken soapstone bowl.



*A soapstone bowl preform from the Wind River Range*

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## *Institute Visitors*

There were a number of visiting scholars at the Institute this year. Matt O'Brien from the University of New Mexico continued his dissertation research with the faunal collections from the Eden Farson site. Matt Rowe (Indiana University) examined the fauna from Eagle Shelter in the Big-horn Mountains. Pablo Ambrústolo (Universidad de La Plata, Argentina) participated in fieldwork across the state.



*Matt Rowe, assisted by his daughter, Janice, analyzes the faunal assemblage from Eagle Shelter.*

## *Institute Fall Lecture*

This year's Fall Lecture was given by **Curtis Marean** of Arizona State University. Dr. Marean discussed modern human origins through his work in Middle Stone Age rockshelters in coastal Southern Africa at Pinnacle Point. Early (120,000-160,000 BP) evidence for human modernity is indicated at these sites in the form of the use pigments, foraging for shellfish in complex tidal areas, and heat treatment of silcretes for stone tool production. During his visit to Laramie, Dr. Marean was able to take his first visit to a Paleoindian site.





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