

Fall 2009

GEORGE C. FRISON INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

BULLETIN # 21

INTERNATIONAL TEAM INVESTIGATES SITES IN THE ROCKIES

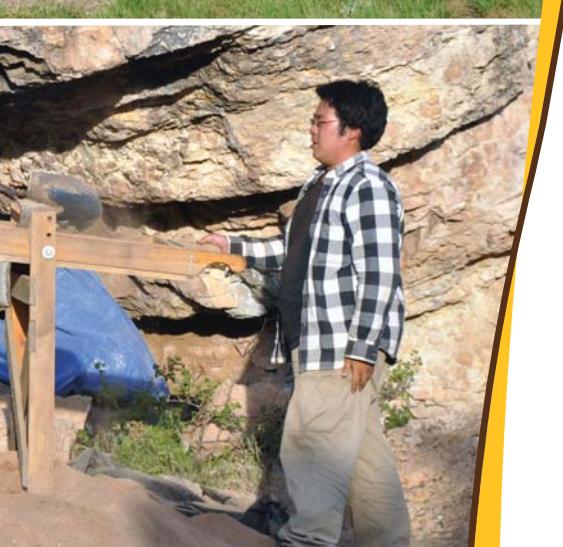
An international team composed of students and post-doctoral fellows at the Institute investigated sites in the Hartville uplift and the Bighorn Mountains during the 2009 field season. The Frison Institute summer crew included Argentine, Croatian, Japanese, and Russian archeologists from CONICET and University of Olavarria in Argentina, Tohoku University in Japan, and University of Zagreb in Croatia. We also had a broad representation of U.S. institutions that included University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Kansas, Augustana College, Indiana University, University of Tennessee-Memphis, University of Arkansas, and University of Wyoming.

The team first investigated the Hell Gap site where our main goal was to continue the excavation of a block of intact sediment between localities I and IE of the site. This block contains what is arguably the most significant chronostratigraphic evidence of Paleoindian cultural sequence in North America. It is critical for us to know if the cultural succession interpreted by the original investigators holds up in expanded excavations or if new data on site formation warrants a reinterpretation. (*continued on page 2*)

ANNOUNCING THE 1ST RHODA O. LEWIS AWARD FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Rhoda O. Lewis was a long term supporter of the Institute, its projects and the Anthropology department. She volunteered in the field and lab for decades, was a Friend and served on the Board of the Friends of the Institute and was an alumna of the department. She was a pioneer in phytolith analysis and held archeology positions with the State of Wyoming, Veterans Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rhoda's family requested that gifts be made in her honor to the Paleoindian Endowment Fund in order to allocate a portion of the endowment as a permanent award for non-traditional students focusing on archeology. The first R.O. Lewis Award will be presented in the spring of 2010. See George C. Frison Institute web page for an application.

At left, from the top: Maris Kristović teaching a young volunteer to screen; Crew members at the Hell Gap site; Hiroyuki Murata screening at Two Moon Shelter; Olga Popova excavating at the Hell Gap Site. All pictures in the Bulletin are from students and faculty at UW.



INTERNATIONAL TEAM, *continued from page 1*

This year the team continued the excavation of units at the perimeter of the block. Two units that were very high at the beginning of the field season were brought down to the Cody layer, while most units were excavated below the Alberta and perhaps into the upper portions of the Hell Gap component. After Hell Gap, the team moved camp and projects to the Bighorns of north central Wyoming. The focus of this was the Black Mountain Archeological District. However, we also investigated rockshelters in tributaries of White Creek Canyon. Excavations continued at Two Moon Shelter and BA Cave at Black Mountain.

STUDENT GETS AWARD

The Loveland Stone Age Society's Harry Walts Scholarship was awarded to Caroline Ketron at the Annual Stone Age Fair. Caroline is a master's student with fieldwork experience that includes protohistoric villages in eastern U.S., rockshelters in the Rocky Mountains, and surveys in Alaska. Her master's thesis will be on the Clovis component of the Topper Site in South Carolina.

STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS GIVE TOURS

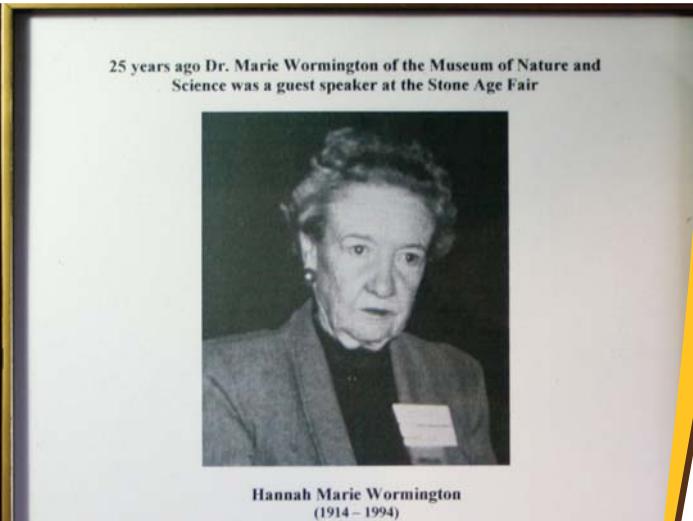
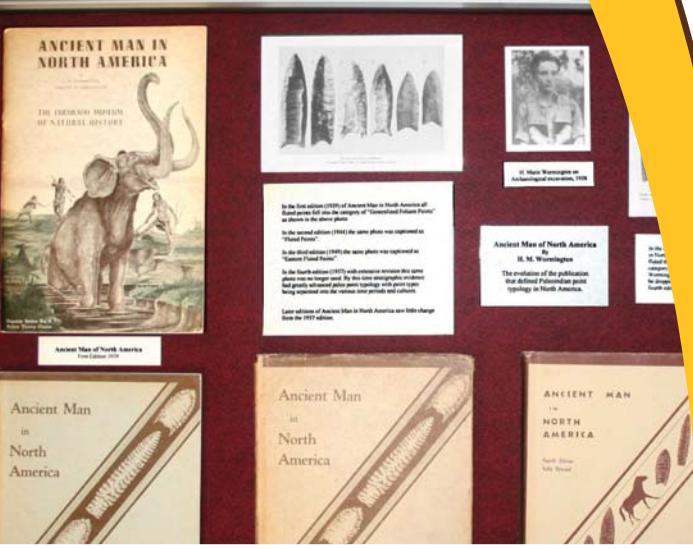
Students and international visitors participating in the fieldwork at the Hell Gap site gained a great deal of experience in public archeology. This year we had a particularly active visitation and all the crew participated in showing the visitors the excavation, the site area, the laboratory and other facilities.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Dr. Pablo Messineo, a post-doctoral student at the University of Olavarria and CONICET in Argentina was in residence at the Institute. Dr. Messineo arrived in mid-May and stayed for six months. He spent the summer in the field and since July has been analyzing chipped stone from Two Moon Shelter and bone from Locality IIIS of the Hell Gap Site. He has also been participating in several courses in anthropology. Dr. Messineo's reports will be incorporated into upcoming studies and publications on these projects. (*Continued on page 3*)

From Top: Maryann Koons', Wheatland, 4th graders picking matrix in the Hell Gap lab. Maris Kristović taking a group of visitors on a tour of Hell Gap. Bob Patten doing a flint knapping demonstration at the Wyoming Archaeological Society summer meeting Hell Gap. Pablo Messineo at Hell Gap.





C.J. Trusdale of Miles City Bureau of Land Management Office was a visiting scholar at the Institute where he examined the Casper Site material to make more informed comparisons with a Hell Gap site in Montana that he is analyzing. He was accompanied by Jim Trusdale of Laramie.

BOARD MEMBERS DISPLAY AT STONE AGE FAIR

Although Dick and Carol Eckles, as well as Jim Chase and Wanda Schmars, regularly display at the fair, this year's display by Dick and Carol was especially memorable. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Marie Wormington's presentation to the Fair, the Eckles' displayed six copies of seven editions of Wormington's book *Ancient Man in North America*, along with a short biography of the author.

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

This time the honor will be given to two students: Houston Martin and Jeremy Meerkreebs. Jeremy has worked in our labs for four years, where he has been responsible for sorting, analyzing and recording screen matrix, compiling final figures for reports, scanning figures for some of our major publications, cataloging artifacts and entering data into computerized databases, and supervising inexperienced laboratory technicians. He has also participated in the advanced archeological field school at Hell Gap and has presented a paper along with his field school colleagues on that experience at the Plains Anthropological Conference. Houston Martin has participated in our field and lab projects for the past two years. He has moved on from his field and lab technician positions to a co-field director and lab director, supervising as many as half dozen technicians at a time. Houston has also participated in writing our technical reports and is doing innovative analysis of paleoecological material from Last Canyon cave that will be incorporated into future reports and presented at conferences.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

This year's Volunteer of the Year award goes to Stu and Barb Nahas and Don and Eva Peden. Stu, Barb, Don and Eva made a significant improvement to the Hell Gap facilities by installing an outside sink for dishes and a new floor in the lab trailer. Thank you all! See the back page for a picture of the new sink!

From top: Dick and Carol Eckles' displays on Marie H. Wormington at the Loveland Stone Age Fair (top two). Students of the Year: Houston Martin excavating the Clovis age hearth at Last Canyon Cave and Jeremy Meerkreebs at Hell Gap.

THE 14TH SUYANGGAE SYMPOSIUM IN BEIJING

The 14th International Symposium, Suyanggae and Her Neighbors was held in Beijing, China on October 22, 2009. The one day session was a part of the joint conference from October 20-24 commemorating the 80th anniversary of the discovery of Peking Man (see below). The Suyanggae symposium consisted of 19 presentations with participants from nine countries (Korea, China, India, Israel, Belgium, Russia, Japan, United States, and Poland). Given the theme of the annual joint meetings (Zhoukoudian Cave), Professor Yung-jo Lee led the session off with an emphasis on the Lower Paleolithic component and its handaxe assemblage. A number of papers in the session presented data on the Lower and Middle Paleolithic, handaxes and other diagnostic tools, as well as the implications or settlement and adaptive strategies of these early hominids. Other presentations focused on the Upper Paleolithic considering both Siberia and Europe, as well as links between environmental changes and the Upper Paleolithic “cultures,” suggesting long term changes in adaptive strategies. A few presentations considered later time frames, Neolithic and Paleoindian (e.g., American Paleolithic), the former considering forager-farmer interaction and the latter site formation issues. Our presentation on Two Moon Shelter was unrelated to the theme of the conference, but was intricately linked to issues surrounding site occupations and site formation processes. The final session paper was a consideration of the history in the study of flint implements. Suyanggae again proved how the richness and diversity of Paleolithic issues, and an eclectic group of participants can produce a marvelously informative session.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN BEIJING

An International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Skull of Peking Man, the First Conference on Quaternary Research of Asia, and the Annual Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Society was held from 19th to the 24th of October at the Xiyuan Hotel in the Haidian District of Beijing, China. The meeting began with opening ceremonies and a plenary session and after two days of presentations concluded

From top: Participants of the Suyanggae Symposium in Beijing. Mural of Zhoukoudian site at site entrance (insert Professor Gao Xing) L to R: Professor Yung-jo Lee (Korea), Academecian Anatoly Devev'anko (Russia) and Dr. Andrei Krivoshapkin (Russia) at Suyanggae Sympoium dinner. Professor Yung-jo Lee and Michael Jochim (USA) at Suyanggae Symposium dinner.



with commemorative ceremonies at the Zhoukoudian Site, the location of the Peking Man finds as well as the final banquet in Fangshan. The Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) organized and hosted the events.

Naturally the majority of the presentations focused on bioanthropology of the various hominid fossil discoveries, especially the early archaic and erectus forms of 2-0.2 million years ago. However, presentations also addressed stone tool forms and technological evolution and a variety of other topics including the effect of recent human activities on environmental change. The meeting was divided into eight topical areas:

- Human origins and evolution
- Interdisciplinary studies of human evolution and cultural development
- Early human behaviors and cultures
- Changes in geologic environment and human activities in Asia
 - o Environmental background for the evolution of early hominids and environmental change and development of civilization
 - o Environmental change and development of civilization
 - o Recent human activities and its environmental effects

The anniversary ceremonies included several speakers by regional government representatives and IVPP directorate, including Professor Gao Xing, deputy director of IVPP and the director of the Zhoukoudian Research Center. The ceremonies were part of the post-conference tour to Zhoukoudian, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, and some nearby Paleolithic localities. We visited one recently discovered Middle Paleolithic cave site, and spent most of the time at various Zhoukoudian localities, the museum, and the on-site research lab. While the various aspects of Zhoukoudian caves and their content and stratigraphy were the technical highlight of the excursion, the newly remodeled museum exhibits for the anniversary were just as impressive, especially given the abundance of paleontological, bioanthropological, and archeological displayed material as well as their interpretation.

Although the presentations, site and museum visits were a reason for everyone's attendance of the joint conferences, the most memorable part of the events was the banquet performance that included a multimedia opera of what can only be described as a model of human evolution based on Zhoukoudian and east Asian finds. The performance was capped by one of China's top performers, Yin Xiumei, an appropriate ending to the commemoration of one of the world's cradles of humanity and civilization. The IVPP put on an unforgettable event. Congratulations to Gao Xing and the rest of the organizers for spearheading the event.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR GIVES PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Pablo Messineo from the University of Olavarria and CONICET in Argentina has been in residence at the Institute since mid-May. Dr. Messineo presented at the Institute meeting in September and at the Plains Anthropological Conference in Norman Oklahoma in October. At the Institute meeting he provided an overview of Argentinean prehistory while at the Plains Conference his focus was on the Plains of Argentina, that is the other and comparable plains adaptations in the Americas.

STUDENTS GIVE PRESENTATIONS

Eight UW undergraduate students gave presentations on three Institute projects at the spring meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, the Friends of the Institute meeting in September, the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference in October, and the Plains Anthropological Conference in Norman Oklahoma in October. The presentations featured current research or reports on the Hell Gap Site, Last Canyon Cave, and Two Moon Shelter. Most students analyzed the archeological material and wrote paper drafts as a part of their courses, while one student was a part time employee.

APPRECIATIONS

We appreciate the efforts of Elmer Guerri and Mike McGonnigal for promotion of the Institute programs. The article by Elmer announcing Institute field opportunities in Prehistoric American brought significant visibility to our programs. Janice and Dewey Baars again made the Hell Gap experience enjoyable and we especially thank Dewey for taking on the mapping workshop with our students and crew. Barb Nahas of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation continues to enhance our efforts to build the Paleoindian endowment. Others who have enhanced this year's research include Mike Bies and Frank Rupp of the Wyoming (Worland) and Colorado (Kremmling) BLM. We also appreciate the effort of Bill Matthews of the Lovell office of the US Forest Service for a tour of the Bighorn Medicine Wheel. Chris Finley of the NPS provided us with a camp spot while at Last Canyon Cave and a place to store equipment until next season. We are most grateful to him. Terry Wilson did a tremendous job organizing the second Don't Come Fundraiser. The gifts generated helped us get through the summer. Last, but not least, we appreciate the participation of Bob Patten and Bill Beekman at the WAS summer meeting at Hell Gap. Their flintknapping workshop was the highlight of the summer meeting.



Above: The Board of the Friends of the Frison Institute.

FALL FRIENDS MEETING

The fall meeting of the Friends of the Frison Institute began with a morning session of papers by anthropology students and visiting scholars several of which featured Institute projects. The excellent presentations ranged from site reports on Last Canyon Cave in Montana, Matcharak Lake in Alaska, and Plenge sites in Pennsylvania, to studies of Apache Hunting Landscapes, Native American stereotypes in shows, and Argentinean prehistory. Twenty people attended the Board meeting following the presentations. The meeting covered the outside Institute review completed last year, highlights of the current research and publications, and continuing internationalization of our programs, and the financial state of the Institute including continued increase in the endowment.

The Friends of the Institute meeting ended with the 11th Annual Frison Institute Speaker, Dr. Janine Gasco of California State University at Dominguez Hills. Dr. Gasco talked about cacao production and the economic and social role of chocolate in Mesoamerica.

PUBLICATIONS

In the last several years we have been very successful in terms of publications:

1. In 2008 The Medicine Lodge Creed Site, edited by George Frison and Danny Walker was completed.
2. In 2009 Mary Lou Larson, Marcel Kornfeld, and George Frison finished the Hell Gap Site monograph.
3. The 3rd edition of Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains (now Prehistoric Hunter-gatherers of the High Plains and Rockies) will be published early in 2010.

In addition to these major research results, the Institute projects have been reported in Current Research in the Pleistocene, Quaternary International, and the Suyanggae Symposium proceedings in Miyazaki, Japan.

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Putting in the new sink at Hell Gap, Stu and Barb Nahas and Don and Eva Peden.



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