



GEORGE C. FRISON INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

**BULLETIN # 22**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

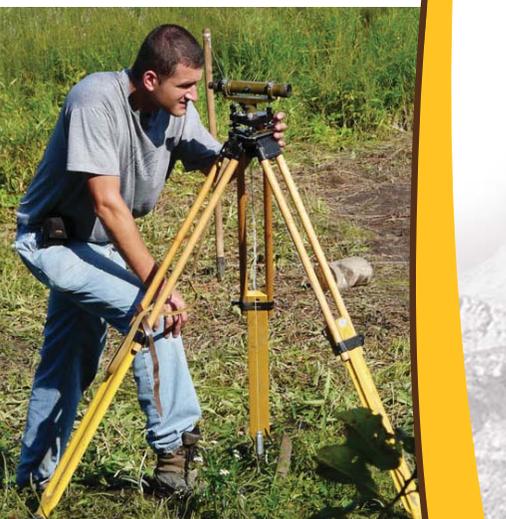
This summer I will be going on sabbatical and will not be around next year. In addition, after 14 years of most delightful service, my term as the director of the Institute is ending. It has been a tremendous 14 years. I want to thank the Board and the Friends of the Institute for letting me serve you and I look forward to working with all of you in the future as our research will continue and the need for support will be required. I want to take this opportunity to outline our accomplishments over the years. All that I mention below could not have been done without the Friends and the Board of Friends and for this I am most grateful. I will list our joint major accomplishments in more or less a chronological order.

After developing the Institute goals and mission statements along with the Anthropology Department, the Institute was approved by the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees in 1998. This allowed us to operate within the University structure and proceed to develop our programs including conception of three Academic Plans guiding Institute growth.

One of the early requests for efficient Institute operation was office staff, which was approved in 2001. The staff expedited communication with the Board, Friends, the Anthropology Department, University administration, regional societies, and international colleagues on several continents. Especially useful was the production of the Bulletins, which were expanded and revised several times to meet our needs and the development and revision of the web page.

The establishment of the Frison Institute Endowment was one of the crowning accomplishments of the past 14 years, successfully executed with the able assistance of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF, associated with the Wyoming Archaeological Society) for which we owe them a large debt of gratitude. It was the first endowment related to the Anthropology Department in the whopping amount of \$100,000. The early success resulted in a second pledge of \$50,000 from the WAF, which is currently 65% met for the current total of \$165,000, the largest Department permanent fund available. The endowment will now support the Frison Institute Speaker, Paleoindian and Faunal grants, Rhoda O. Lewis Award for Non-Traditional Students, and the fall meeting of the Board of the Frison Institute in perpetuity.

*At left, from the top: Ivor Karavanic at the Medicine Lodge Creek site; Briggs Buchanan in the lab; Board chair Susan Bupp cutting the ribbon for the new Anthropology building; Norbert Wasilik surveying in Russia.*



Although the WAF was directly involved with the fundraising for the Institute endowment the Wyoming Archaeological Society contributed to the fund, but as significant is the long term support the WAS has given to the institute and its programs. The WAS has been the bulwark of support to archaeology throughout the state. They support the Wyoming Archaeology Month that includes an annual speaker, which for the past 10 years and now permanently through the endowment, is combined with the Frison Institute Fall Speaker. Immediate past-president of the WAS is automatically a GFI board member, another WAS member acts as a liaison between the GFI and the WAS, and the Institute board includes several other WAS members. All this and the many WAS members that have volunteered for Institute projects form a strong link between the two organizations. In addition, the WAS library is now housed in the new Institute library providing for easy access to the collections. We are delighted to be able to provide this service to the WAS.

During the past 14 years the Institute hosted over 30 fellows. Several of these were funded by the Institute grants, others through their own sources which included Fulbright Foundation, IREX, Wenner-Gren, and CONICET (Argentina). The externally funded fellows were from Russia and Argentina. The fellows, all of whom participated in the Institute and Department seminars, enhanced the faculty and student appreciation of global anthropology and archaeology. The foreign fellows were also a catalyst for a series of co-operative international agreements that brought Russian, Swedish, French, Argentine, Croatian, and Japanese students to the University of Wyoming and our field projects. In return a number of our students participated in field studies in Russia, France, and Croatia. Funding prevented more active cooperation, but this should be enhanced by the now established endowment. The benefits to our students of this program are immense.

Of course the main reason for the Frison Institute is enhancement of Paleoindian, Plains and Rocky Mountain anthropological and archaeological research. In this regard nearly \$0.5 million was raised, with able assistance of the Board and Friends of the Frison Institute, for a series of ongoing projects that have been featured in past bulletins. The main ones are investigations at Paleoindian sites such as Krmpotich, Hell Gap, Betty Green, Agate Basin, and Medicine Lodge Creek. 100s of students from the University of Wyoming and dozens of other North American institutions participated and were trained

through these projects, including several that now hold academic positions in North American universities as well as a prestigious post-doctoral position at Australian National University. The research also resulted in dozens if not 100s of student papers at regional and national conferences, theses, dissertations from the University of Wyoming, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Arizona, and Washington State University. A significant amount of funding also came from the Wyoming, Colorado and Montana Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, some of which supported research on Paleoindian sites in Middle Park of Colorado and the Bighorn Range of Wyoming. The sheer amount of research undertaken was only possible because of the structure of the Institute and the Board. The end result, other than dozens of published papers are a series of monographs, including: *Survival by Hunting* (Frison), *Debitage Analysis* (Hall and Larson), *Près du bord d'un Abri* (Kornfeld, Vasil'ev and Miotti), *Affluent Foragers* (Kornfeld), *Medicine Lodge Creek* (Frison and Walker), *Changing Perspectives on the Archaic of the Northwest Plains and Rockies* (Larson and Francis), *Island in the Plains* (Kornfeld and Osborn), *Hell Gap* (Larson, Kornfeld and Frison), and finally *YES IT IS NOW OUT FOLKS* the third edition of *Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers of the High Plains and Rockies* (Kornfeld, Frison, and Larson).

And the final accomplishment to mention is the central place of the Institute in the new Anthropology building. If you have not yet seen it, the Frison Institute Library, the commemorative wall plaques, the office, and an exhibit of ongoing Institute projects are a major feature of the second floor of the Anthropology building.

To enable us get to reach these accomplishments you the Friends and Board of Friends of the Institute have been invaluable. You worked tirelessly to promote the Institute in various communities throughout North America. The development of several brochures, pins (for volunteers, donors, and board), a distinguishable Institute symbol, and numerous fundraisers all brought the Institute the necessary visibility for success. And efforts of many board members to establish the endowment by promoting its benefits were indispensable. Because of the Board and the Friends the Institute is now financially solvent, we envision future growth to further enhance the Anthropology Department programs and student experiences. The next director, Robert L. Kelly, looks forward to working with you and I look forward to being of any assistance in this process.

## FALL SPEAKER

Ted Goebel from The Center for the Study of the First Americans will be the fall Frison Institute Speaker on September 23. Ted is one of the foremost authorities on Beringian assemblages and their role in the peopling of the Americas. Ted will speak about the current research and thinking about the relationships of the Russian Far East Paleolithic and the earliest Alaskan occupations.

## FIRST TWO RHODA O. LEWIS AWARDS

Gifts for the R.O. Lewis student Award were solicited and received from her colleagues, friends, and family several years ago and became a part of the Frison Institute Endowment. The generated income from the \$25,000 portion of the endowment is currently approximately \$900 annually. The Institute is using other funds to round this off to a \$1000 award. Since the award was not presented last year, the inaugural awards this year go to Cynthia Squarcia and Joseph Wheeler.

Both Cynthia and Joe are non-traditional students, a preferable recipient according to the award agreement with the Lewis family. Cynthia is an undergraduate working towards a bachelor's degree in anthropology with an interest in prehistory. She has already presented several conference papers. Joe is a graduate student with an interest in historical archaeology. He plans to write a thesis on Ft. Sanders south of Laramie. To that end he has been doing background research, contacting landowners, received permission to map and test the site, and in other ways he has been active and on the fast track to receiving his MA degree.

## FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Dr. Briggs Buchannan was awarded a Frison Institute grant to analyze Folsom artifacts in his continuing study of Paleoindian projectile point variation. Briggs, who received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and worked for many years at the Lubbock Lake site, is currently in a post-doctoral position at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Briggs spent three days analyzing most of the complete Folsom points and a number of point fragments, including those from the Hell Gap Site in Wyoming and the Barger Gulch Site in Colorado. He also presented a brown bag "Cultural transmission of Folsom projectile point technology" to an audience of students and faculty.

## OTHER ONGOING RESEARCH

George Frison is continuing analysis and writing of the Medicine Lodge Creek Project. Other than the

Medicine Lodge Creek site and the immediate nearby shelters, the project investigated open air and closed sites throughout the western Bighorn Mountains, foothills, and basin. Over the past year Frison has analyzed the Southsider Shelter material, Rice Cave, Carter Cave, and Paint Rock V. The second Medicine Lodge volume that will contain these and other results of the 1970s Medicine Lodge Creek Project is well on its way.

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

We are in the process of institutionalizing two international co-operative agreements, one with the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires – Unicen, Olavarria in Argentina and the other with Novosibirsk State University and the Russian Academy of Sciences-Siberian Branch, in Novosibirsk. The formal agreements have been worked out with Professor Gustavo Politis from Olavarria and Professor Andrei Tabarev from the Novosibirsk State University and the Russian Academy of Sciences over the past several years. Exchanges of students, staff, and faculty are the primary purposes of these agreements and such exchanges have already been occurring on a regular basis.

We are also working with several Japanese institutions with which we have had some exchanges of students and faculty in the past to initiate formal agreements. Stand-by for more internationalization! These programs are broadening our student's perspectives, professionally and personally.

## CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

The standing co-operative agreement with the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation to continue investigations of the Hell Gap Site was extended for 10 years, with slight modification. Research progress over the last 10 years has been slower than expected and the original proposed goal has been less than one half met. Pending funding and time, field investigation may now occur annually.

## SUMMER 2010 FIELD PROJECTS

### *Last Canyon*

Last Canyon Cave was found to be a deeply stratified rockshelter with Late Pleistocene sediment up to nearly 40,000 years in age. Faunal remains and pollen are abundant throughout the stratigraphic profile. Human activity is only evident at 10,800 years ago in the form of a hearth and a very recent occupation of approximately

1000 years ago resulted in excavation of a pit that appears to be a pithouse in the front part of the shelter. Little artifactual material is in the shelter, a few flakes, several pieces of cordage and cordage manufacturing material, and possibly some butchered bone.

During 2010 we will continue to investigate the Clovis age hearth and its vicinity as well as the pithouse. Samples below the Clovis occupation will be taken to examine change in vegetation and climate through the Late Pleistocene and into the Holocene. We are interested in climates that accompanied the earliest human occupants into the Americas as well as examining sediments that could have pre-Clovis material encased in them. Last Canyon presents us with such a possibility. In addition we may be employing Ground Penetration Radar to get a sense of the deposit inside the cave and have a better opportunity to plan future research.

### ***Two Moon Shelter***

Two Moon Shelter, part of the Black Mountain Archaeological District, has been under excavation since 1993. However, it was not until the past season (2009) that sufficient spatial extent was exposed to begin considering the analysis of prehistoric use of space. If funding is available, during the summer of 2009, we will continue excavating the Folsom component of this rockshelter.

### ***BA Cave***

BA Cave, Part of the Black Mountain Archaeological District, has produced one of the best stratigraphic sequences of Holocene occupation of a rockshelter in the region. Last field season (2009) we reached the Late Paleoindian deposits that appear to be very close to the Early Archaic components. In fact the two components may be inseparable due to the depositional or post-depositional regimes. We will continue to investigate these components and attempt to reach the bottom of the shelter, the goal we have had for some time.

### ***White Creek Canyon***

A survey and rockshelter testing program has been ongoing at White Creek Canyon, close to the Black Mountain Archaeological District, for the past several years. About 80 rockshelters have been recorded in the canyon as well as a few open air sites. Although a few shelters contained small quantities of surface artifacts, testing of half dozen shelters yielded no buried archeological material. Last year, however, one shelter produced a rich record of prehistoric occupation. We will complete the work on shelter and site recording of White Creek Canyon and at least this phase of testing. Future studies may be warranted.

### ***Fieldwork dates:***

May 14-23 Last Canyon Cave  
May 28-June 6 Last Canon Cave  
June 11-20 Last Canyon Cave  
June 25-July 4 Black Mountain/White Creek  
July 9-18 Black Mountain/White Creek  
Contact Marcel Kornfeld or Willa Mullen for additional details

### **DONORS:**

#### **Clovis Sponsors**

**(gifts over \$5000)**

Richard Reider  
Wyoming Archaeological  
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#### **Folsom Sponsors**

**(gifts of \$1000- \$4999)**

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**(gifts of \$100-\$999)**

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#### **Paleoindian Sponsors (gifts under \$100)**

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John and Barb Vietti  
Tom Young

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Mark Luzmoor  
Krista Evans  
Katie Ritter

**VOLUNTEER and CREW APPLICATION FORM\***  
(One per applicant)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Crew
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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 \_\_\_\_ 2010.

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:  
George C. Frison Institute  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Wyoming  
Dept. 3431, 1000 E. University  
Laramie, WY 82071-3431

or submit by email to: Willa Mullen [wmullen@uwyo.edu](mailto:wmullen@uwyo.edu)

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

By submitting this form you authorize the University of Wyoming, its agents, successors, and assigns, to use and reproduce photograph(s) in which you appear in official UW publications, and I waive any right that I may have to inspect and approve said photograph (or any copy that may be used in connection therewith) or to receive compensation for the use of said photograph..

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: \_\_\_\_\_



College of Arts & Sciences  
University of Wyoming  
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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Check     Credit Card

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I would like my gift to support the following UW Anthropology activities

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(please check all that apply):

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- George Frison Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology
- Mulloy Lecture Series
- Anthropology Museum
- General Department Needs - Student Scholarship fund

Please make check payable to  
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All gifts to the University of Wyoming are  
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Do not sell stock in your own name, if you do, you will be liable for capital gains tax.

Many companies and firms have matching gift programs  
for their employees, employees' spouses and board members.  
Please check with your human resources or community relations  
department for more information.

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(307) 766-6300 or email mag@uwyo.edu*

Please send me information about planned giving.

### 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:

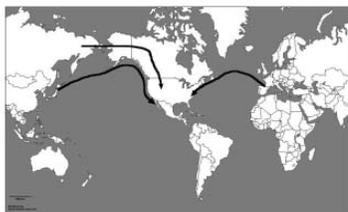
Installment	Amount:	Date	Please Mail to: George C. Frison Institute Dept. 3431 1000 E. University Laramie, WY 82071
Payment #1	\$		
Payment #2	\$		
Payment #3	\$		
Payment #4	\$		
Payment #5 (Sept. 1, 2011)	\$		

EXECUTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

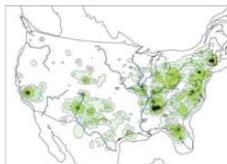
(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

# AGATE BASIN SITE AND PALEOINDIANS

Archaeologists are still arguing which of three proposed routes the First Americans followed to settle the continents, where they came from, and to whom they were related. The most likely route is from Siberia, through Alaska, into the rest of North America, Mesoamerica, and South America.



People first occupied the Americas between 14,000 and 13,000 years ago\*. Based on their points these people are known as Clovis. Clovis and other fluted points were widespread throughout the continents from 14,000 to 12,000 years ago.



Darker areas indicate greater concentration of fluted points (map modified from Anderson and Faught)



CLOVIS POINTS



Clovis groups were followed by a series of other peoples until about 9000 calendar years ago, known collectively as Paleoindians.

**MOSS AGATE ARROYO.** The head of the Moss Agate Arroyo northwest of Edgemont is the type site (the place where it was first identified) for the Agate Basin Complex, one of the early groups of Paleoindians following Clovis, Goshen, and Folsom at about 12,000 calendar years ago.



In 1916 **William Spencer**, a livestock owner from Edgemont area found large bones and projectile points eroding out of the Moss Agate Arroyo and alerted avocational archaeologists who eventually brought in professionals to inspect the site; after some excavation the location became known as Area 1 of the Agate Basin Site and the type site for the complex.

**Robert E. Frison**, a game warden in east-central Wyoming in the early 1940s, was an artifact collector and an acquaintance of Roy Coffin of Ft. Collins, Colorado. Coffin, an amateur archaeologist, had discovered the Lindenmeier site and excavated at the Dent site. Through Coffin, Frison became informed about early American projectile point styles.

Robert Frison met William Spencer and was shown the points the latter had found at Agate Basin. Frison recognized them as being old. This is significant because archaeologists at the time thought that no one was living on the Great Plains before the introduction of the horse. Frison and Spencer visited Agate Basin in 1942, found more points and bone and sent the material to Frank Roberts of the Smithsonian Institution. Later that year Roberts and others conducted the first professional excavations at the Agate Basin Site.



**Frank Harold Hanna Roberts** was an archaeologist at the Smithsonian Institution with an interest in Paleoindian prehistory. He excavated the Lindenmeier Folsom site in the 1930s and coined the term Paleoindian to refer to the first inhabitants of the Americas. Roberts excavated at Agate Basin in 1942 and again in 1961. He published a short report on the 1942 investigations and a longer article with illustrations of the points in 1951.

### Result I - The Agate Basin Complex

The primary result of Robert's 1942 season at the Agate Basin Site was the definition of the Agate Basin Complex. The projectile points illustrated in his 1951 report were described as a type, but their chronological position was unknown at the time. Another Smithsonian archaeologist, Richard Wheeler was able to place them chronologically in a sequence and define the Agate Basin Complex in 1954.



AGATE BASIN POINTS

### Result II - Looting and Site Damage

A secondary and much less fortunate result of Roberts's 1942 excavation and the lack of follow-up on the investigation was extensive looting. Between 1942 and 1961, when Roberts returned for a more extensive excavation, much of the site area where Agate Basin points and bone were recovered had been heavily looted to recover projectile points.

\* Years ago in these displays refer to calendar years ago or before the present. Archaeologists usually refer to time as radiocarbon years ago. These measures of time, however, diverge the farther one goes back into prehistory. Thus 12,000 radiocarbon years ago is approximately equivalent to 14,000 calendar years ago.

This display was made possible by the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of the University of Wyoming, the South Dakota Humanities Council, and National Endowment for the Humanities



## PUBLIC OUTREACH

*Part of the Trails, Trains and Pioneer Museum display on the Agate Basin Site.*

The Institute has recently completed construction or consultation on displays in the Anthropology Museum on UW campus, Trails, Trains and Pioneers Museum in Edgemont, South Dakota, and the Worland Museum. The Anthropology Museum displays highlight Institute's major research projects and are 95% complete. Hell Gap Site, Middle Park Paleoindian Study, and the Bighorn Rockshelter Studies are the focus of the displays. Over the past year we have been consulting on the development of the Worland Museum displays for a brand new building. The prehistory display, designed and produced by ECOS of Boulder, features hunting and gathering societies of the Bighorn region. The story centers on entering the Bighorn Basin and the mammoth procurement at the Colby Site, followed by settling in with the Late Paleoindian and Archaic societies. Major past Institute projects such as the Medicine Lodge Creek Site are prominent in the story, as is the Horner Site. Settlement and subsistence, resources, hunting and gathering and other aspects of prehistoric life in the basin are the focus of the displays. The Trails, Trains and Pioneer Museum displays are about Paleoindian prehistory and specifically the Agate Basin Site. Edgemont, South Dakota is the closest town to the site and the people of Edgemont have had a long term involvement in its research including originally reporting the site to professional archaeologists. This is the first display on the site in a local museum.



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SPRING 2010

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FRISON INSTITUTE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LECTURE TO BE HELD  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010**

Be sure to check our website for details later in the summer.