

University of Guyana Cooperative Efforts

Since 1986 Boise State University's Anthropology Department has worked cooperatively with the Amerindian Research Unit (ARU), the University of Guyana. Initiated through the efforts of Dr. Mark Plew and Janette Forte, Coordinator of ARU, the department has facilitated a number of cooperative efforts. The cooperative program supports collaborative research, faculty and student exchanges and provides support of a variety of projects.

Dr. Plew has made several visits to Guyana for the purpose of study and research. In 1995 during a spring sabbatical he conducted research among the Wapishana who inhabit the southern portion of the Rupununi Savannah in southern Guyana. The study focused upon variability in fishing strategies relating to technological organization associated with seasonal variation in catch diversity and sought to analyze the cost-benefit returns emanating from the variable costs associated with portability, storage and nutritional losses associated with processing. During a sabbatical semester Plew researched the 19th century Im Thurn collections at Oxford and Cambridge Universities as part of a cooperative effort with ARU to locate and describe 19th and 20th century collections in foreign repositories.

During the past 12 years the department has worked cooperatively with ARU in sponsoring and aiding a number of projects, including the publication of *Amerindian Testimonies* (1989), a series of ethnographic essays on Guyana Amerindians, edited by Janette Forte and Ian Melville, and support of the *Fanshawe/Boyan Glossary of Arawak Names in Natural History* (1996) edited by Forte. Recently, Plew and Forte published *A Bibliography of Guyana Anthropology* (1998) which is intended to serve as a working bibliography for students and scholars interested in the anthropology of Guyana, the Guianas generally and the northern Amazonian region. It is the first bibliography to bring together anthropological, historical and archaeological references pertaining to Guyana. The bibliography was recently launched at a reception hosted by IWOKRAMA, the International Center for Rain Forest Conservation and Development and Boise State University in Georgetown, Guyana, at which Dr. Plew and Ms. Forte presented Her Excellency, President Janet Jagan, with a copy of the bibliography. Proceeds from the bibliography will be used to support efforts of the cooperative program.

BSU has also assisted ARU with the development of an Amerindian Scholarship fund to support Amerindian students attending the University of Guyana and the Cyril Potter College of Education and has recently donated equipment to the Makushi Language Project in the Pakaraima region.

Dr. Plew recently attended a conference entitled "Carib Studies in the Guianas: Ethnobotany, Language and Society" held in Georgetown, Guyana and sponsored by the University of Utrecht, University of Guyana and the Trobenbos Guyana Programme. He presented a paper summarizing the status of Guyanese archaeology, which is scheduled to

appear in a Carib studies volume, to be published by University of Utrecht and the Trobenbos-Guyana Programme.

Plew is also participating in a cooperative project with Dr. David Singh, Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Raymond Ramsaroop, Department of Chemistry, University of Guyana analyzing the nutritional composition of fishes utilized by Guyanese Amerindians.

Presently the department is establishing a cooperative relationship with the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology for support of its children's archaeology program and for the conduct of archaeological research in Guyana. It has recently donated field equipment for the museum's research program. The department anticipates an expansion of its relationship with the University of Guyana, which will include expanded research opportunities for faculty and students as well as exchanges. During the next year Janette Forte, Coordinator of the Amerindian Research Unit, and Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, Boise State University, will travel to Boise to present a series of workshops on her ethnographic and linguistic research in Guyana.

During the past two months Dr. Plew assisted in the development of the first cooperative anthropological research project joining the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology and the Amerindian Research Unit, University of Guyana. He led an archaeological expedition into the south Rupununi Savannas to conduct an archaeological survey of the Shiriri Mountain region in January 1999. The project trained local scholars in archaeological methods and recorded a number of archaeological sites, which suggest a greater range of variation in sites types than previously noted. Dr. Plew has been named to the Guyana Science Advisory Board, serves as a consultant/advisor for the Guyana Archaeological Program and as co-editor of the national journal *Archaeology and Anthropology*.

Inaugural Desert Studies Institute A Success

The first annual Desert Studies Institute was held during summer 1998. As a cooperative effort between the Anthropology Department and Celebration Park, operated by Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways, the Institute provided workshops on archaeology, biology, history, ecology and politics of Idaho's deserts. The Institute, which is presented to enrich the understanding and appreciation of the Idaho's desert ecosystems and foster their preservation as educational resources, was an overwhelming success. Workshops consisted of one day classroom instruction and one day field investigation. Workshops were well attended and feedback extremely positive. The 1999 summer session will see a range of new offerings:

Plants and People of Southern Idaho, June 11-12, 1999, Glenda King, Idaho State Historical Society and Nancy Cole, Bureau of Land Mangement (ANTH/BIOL).*

Archaeology of the Owyhee Deserts, June 18-19, 1999, Mark Plew, Boise State University.

Ecology of Raptors in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area, July, 6-7, 1999, Karen Steenhoff, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Biological Resources Division (ANTH/BIOL).

Volcanic Geology of the Snake River Plain, July 9-10, 1999, Craig White, Boise State University (ANTH/GEOL).

Historical Geography of the Snake River Plain, July 12-13, 1999, Elton Bentley, Boise State University (ANTH/GEOL).

Science, Democracy and Desert Politics, July 14-15, John Freemuth, Boise State University (ANTH/POLS).

Native and Exotic Fish Resources and Riparian Habitats in the Mid-Snake River. July 16-17, 1999, Samuel Lohr, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (ANTH/BIOL).

Historical Archaeology: Rethinking Our Own Past, July 23-24, 1999, Richard Goddard, University of Nevada, Reno (ANTH/HIST).

Observations on Cape Vulture Biology, July 26-27, 1999, Patrick Benson, University of Witwatersrand (ANTH/BIOL).

Paleoecology of Southern Idaho, July 30-31, 1999, Gregory McDonald, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (ANTH/GEOL).

*indicate cross-listed courses

Guyana Bibliography Published

Mark Plew and Janette Forte's *A Bibliography of Guyana Anthropology* (1998) was published by the Department, summer 1998. The volume is the first bibliography of Guyana anthropology, which focuses upon Amerindians. It includes anthropological, historical and archaeological references. With a foreword by Cambridge anthropologist Aubrey Butt Colson, the bibliography is indexed by subject and author and contains works of important Guyanese and regional scholars. The book is available through the Department of Anthropology, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725 (\$5.95 U.S. plus \$2.00 U.S. postage and handling).

Department Assists in Development of ICRMP

Mark Plew and Sharon Plager (Idaho State University) will prepare for the Idaho Army National Guard a management plan for the Orchard Training Area near Boise. Similar to

other plans being developed nationally at the request of the DOD, the Idaho Cultural Resources Management Plan will provide a broad overview of the training area utilizing GIS data layers as the basis for developing a long range resources management strategy. A Planning Level Cultural Resources Survey has been completed. The survey document will be completed during 1999.

Plew Conducts Canadian Research

Under a Canadian Studies Faculty Enrichment Grant Dr. Mark Plew conducted archival and library research at the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and British Columbia during July 1998. His research is to serve as the basis for the development of an academic course focusing on the archaeology of the western Canadian provinces. He offered a workshop entitled: "The Archaeology of Western Canada."

Under other news:

Dr. Virginia Cox was re-elected department chair and continues in her leadership role as Interim Director of Canadian Studies. She has broadened substantially the number of Canadian Studies Workshops offered by the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs.

Dr. Robert McCarl continued to digitalize the Duck Valley "pakkiata" project and complete the archive of materials for the Shoshoni-Paiute Tribes. He is co-editing *Lessons of Work* for the University of Illinois Press and presented papers at the Northwest Meetings and at the American Folklore Society Meeting.

Dr. Max Pavesic and Robert Yohe presented a poster on early domesticated dogs at the 8th International Congress of the International Council on Archaeozoology. He is collaborating with researchers at UC, Davis who are analyzing human mtDNA from the Braden and DeMoss burial localities. He presented a paper entitled "Beyond the Glyphs: The Bonneville Flood as Sacred Landscape on the Western Snake River Plain."

Dr. Plew presented the Wesley R. Hurt Memorial Lecture at Indiana University in April 1998. His edited volume *Explorations in American Archaeology: Essays in Honor of Wesley R. Hurt* was published by University Press of America in August 1998.

Kendall House, Adjunct Assistant Professor, completed his doctoral dissertation at UC, Davis, entitled "Between Ideology and Utopia: Heavy Construction Workers in Contemporary Southwestern Idaho". He presented a paper at the 1998 American Folklore Society Meeting and published reviews in *Anthropology of Work Review* and *Anthropology Review Database*. His review of "Transitional Capitalism's Hydropower in Argentina" by Gustavo Riberio is scheduled for publication in the *Journal of Political Ecology*.

Dr. Robert Yohe, Adjunct Assistant Professor and Idaho State Archaeologist, has accepted a teaching position at the University of California, Bakersfield. He has authored several publications in the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* as well as the *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* and the *Idaho Archaeologist*.

1998-1999 Departmental Lectures

“Numic Origin Tales,” Daniel Myers.

“Why Historical Archaeology?,” Richard A. Goddard, University of Nevada, Reno.

“Archaeological and Immunological Studies at the Head-Smashed-In Site, Alberta, Canada,” Margaret Newman, University of Calgary.

“Landscape Traveled by Crane and Coyote: Coeur d’ Alene Indian Views of Their World,” Rodney Frey, University of Idaho.

“Chronometrics, Behavior Change and Evolutionary Theory,” Jeffery Eighmy, Colorado State University.

“Postivist Science,” William Davis, University of California, Davis.

Anthropology Club

The officers for the 1998-99 year were:

Gretchen Kennedy/Trish Webb--President

Kim Stout--Secretary

John Kennedy--Treasurer

1998-99 Scholarships

Jamie Richmond received the university-wide scholarship. Lisa Lawson, Natalie Okelberry, and Elizabeth Ackerman received departmental scholarships. Gretchen Kennedy received the Roderick Sprague Archaeology Award and Sabra Haney the Liljeblad Cultural Anthropology Award.

Recent Graduates

Tracy Ballantyne, Nancy Boomgaarden, Suzanne Halsey Brown, Garth Fisher, Jake Fruhlinger, Bryan Hanks, Stephanie Itza, Jane Lehrman, Jessica McCool, Dana Schuster, Michael Stevens, Tommi White.

Student News

Members of the Anthropology Club taught a Boise Community Education course on “Idaho Archaeology” in fall 1998.

Janet Howard has prepared a graduate program needs assessment for the department.

John Kennedy has taken an active role in the department’s support of the Junior archaeology program, Walter Roth Museum.

See web page updates at: www.boisestate.edu/anthro/

Alumni News

Tommi White (B.A. ‘98) is a teaching assistant at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **Adam Berg** (B.A. ‘97) is in the graduate program at Northern Arizona University. He is employed by the Grand Canyon Archaeology Project and is completing a thesis examining late Archaic hunter-gatherer horticultural transitions. **Craig Hauer** (B.A. ‘97) is enrolled in the graduate program at the University of California, Chico where he is serving as a field assistant for the UCC summer field school. **Jake Fruhlinger** (B.A. ‘98) is in the graduate program at the University of Idaho and is conducting an experimental use-wear analysis of lithic assemblages from southwestern Idaho. **Brian Hanks** (B.A. ‘98) is enrolled in an M.A. program at the University of Sheffield where his research interests focus on Kurgan burials in Russia. **Jody Young** (B.A. ‘97) is a graduate research assistant in the Dept. of Institutional & Performance Technology at Boise State University. **Stephanie Itza** (B.A. ‘98) is teaching in Elko, Nevada. **Joel Boas** (B.A. ‘82) completed his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on Norwegian Mesolithic hunter-gatherer variability. He recently began a three-year post-doc at the University of Oslo.

Upcoming Meetings

June 19-23, 1999, 80th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California.

September 30-October 2, 1999, Fourth Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.