As we begin a new fall semester, I am pleased to introduce this issue of the Anthropology Department Newsletter. As always, the newsletter affords us an opportunity to highlight the many individual and collective accomplishments of the past year. Among the department’s curriculum accomplishments is the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum. Designed to provide greater flexibility in meeting degree requirements, the new curriculum has received positive marks from students. To better assess curricular outcomes, the department finalized a new outcomes assessment program that it plans to implement during the 2006-2007 academic year. The new instrument will allow the department to better identify and evaluate student learning. The department continues its planning of two new Masters programs. The proposed programs include a Master of Arts and Master of Applied Anthropology degrees. Though the core preparation for the programs is identical, the two degrees will allow students to opt for the preparation of a traditional thesis or a project. During the past year, the faculty have been extremely active in research and external funding. Dr. Christopher Hill was co-author with George Rapp of the book *Geoarchaeology* (2nd ed.) published by Yale University Press. Dr. John Ziker with colleagues published an important article in *Science* in which popular market theory is challenged by data, indicating that across diverse societies people share fairly and withhold from those who do not. In addition, he was part of a team of researchers to receive a three-year continuing NSF grant to study *Home, Hearth and Household in the Circumpolar North*. Dr. Margaret Streeter, with colleagues in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Material Sciences and Engineering/Electrical and Computer Engineering, received an NSF grant to purchase a confocal microscope. The department received approval of a title change for the Archaeological Research Facility (ARF). The ARF has been renamed the Center for Applied Archaeological Science (CAAS) and has a new web page that can be accessed from the department web page. The name change better reflects the range of activities conducted by the facility. In addition to departmental and disciplinary involvements, the faculty have been active in supporting college and university initiatives. During the past year faculty served on the university’s Internationalization Task Force and Charting the Course: A Strategic Vision for Boise State University. Faculty service is not limited to the campus, with the anthropology faculty serving on more than twenty community boards, task forces and working groups. At present the department has five tenured/tenure track faculty, one professor emerita, five part-time faculty and five affiliated research faculty. The faculty continue to provide outstanding undergraduate preparation, conduct basic and applied research across varied geographic and topical areas, and inform students within the university and community of the diverse nature of the human experience.
“Home, Hearth, and Household in the Circumpolar North” NSF Grant Awarded

On August 1, the National Science Foundation announced the funding of a 3-year grant entitled, “Home, Hearth, and Household in Siberia and Northern Canada” under the direction of Anthropology professor John Ziker as principle investigator. The project is one component in an international collaborative project developed for the European Science Foundation under the program “BOREAS: Histories from the North—environments, movements, narratives.” Our collaborative proposal also includes teams from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Canada and the UK. We chose the central concepts of home, hearth, and household for their significance both to indigenous people across the Arctic and scientifically to the fields of human ecology, ethnoarchaeology, and historical demographics. The U.S.-based research will focus on the home, hearth, and household in the central Taimyr Region and Vitim River in Siberia, as well as in Rae-Edzo, Northwest Territories, Canada, in cooperation with the holdings of the National Museum of the American Indian [NMAI] in Washington, D.C.

The research comprises five activities engaging in detailed ethnographic, demographic, and spatial studies in indigenous communities in the central and eastern Taimyr Region, and participatory research exchanges with aboriginal peoples from Canada and Russia in collaboration with museums. Together with its sister projects, our research aims to contextualize the vernacular architecture of portable skin lodges in the North, analyze the use of space within contemporary and prehistoric dwellings, and analyze the dynamics of contemporary and historic households. The main scientific purpose of the project is to improve understanding of the dynamics of northern indigenous households and their relationships with the environment. Each of the activities will add to contextual knowledge of circumpolar dwellings and their role as arenas of learning, memory, and communication. The project’s research activities will investigate the construction of mobile dwellings, the social movement of resources among households, as well as the use of space, including documentation of important features of cultural landscape. This project will expand to new geographic areas Ziker’s long-term research in the Western Taimyr Region on topics of land and resource use, demography, and cosmology. The project also supports joint publication and repatriation of the information back to local communities.

The project will document and support the reinvigoration of traditional knowledge about caribou skin lodges held in the museum collections of the NMAI in Washington DC, uniting museum ethnographers, field anthropologists, and indigenous craftspeople. The project will link contemporary ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological work to recently available historical demographic records. This will support public access to important historical and ethnographic data sets in local languages. Collaboration with regional scholars and indigenous people in the Taimyr Region and in the Northwest Territories of Canada, as well as with scholars in Dudinka and Irkutsk, adds to the study of change and contact of native peoples of the North, while emphasizing the global role of the Arctic region. Boise State University (BSU) is promoting internationalization, meant to educate competent and culturally sensitive citizens as active participants in society. Support of this project will provide opportunities for students in an international pool of applicants to pursue a graduate degree in Anthropology at BSU, including fieldwork in the Taimyr Region. The project will also involve local undergraduate students adding to their educational experience. The project’s focus on circumpolar dwellings as arenas of learning and memory, providers of mobility in and interaction with the environment, and the social center of households will add to understandings of cooperation, global interdependence, human rights, and diverse cultural, social, political, and economic systems in the Arctic.

The full list of participants is:

**Project Leader:**
Dr David Anderson, Univ. of Tromso, Norway

**Principal Investigators:**
Professor Bjørnar Olsen, University of Tromsø (Norway)
Dr. Charles Arnold, Yellowknife (Canada)
Dr. Gerald Oetelaar, University of Calgary (Canada)
Prof. Mika Laventuo / Mr Petri Hallinen, University of Helsinki (Finland)
Dr. Per Axelsson, Umeå University (Sweden)
Prof. Hugh Beach, Uppsala University (Sweden)
Dr. John Ziker, Boise State University (U.S.A.)
Dr. Patricia Nietfeld, Smithsonian Institution (U.S.A.)

**Associated Partner:**
Dr. Robert Wishart, University of Aberdeen (UK).

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Faculty News

Robert McCarl

A double-issue volume of *Western Folklore* will present “Lessons of Work: Studies in Occupational Folklore,” edited and with a contribution by Robert McCarl. This volume represents a decade-long process of presentation and editing of articles on the documentation and interpretation of work cultures from throughout the United States that began in the Lessons of Work conference held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1995— with follow-up conferences held in different locations around the country every year. As the keynote speaker at the Chapel Hill conference, and editor of the special issue, McCarl has worked with scholars in the lab field to update and expand the scope of the contributions. The volume will be published in November 2006.

During the summer, McCarl worked on the first draft of a book entitled “Elements of Ethnography.” The book is patterned on William Strunk and E.B. White’s well known text, *The Elements of Style*. Strunk and White’s “little book” has been a mainstay of college writing classes for decades due to its clarity, brevity and effectiveness at improving writing. McCarl’s book aims for the same goals focusing on ethnography as a type of writing that can benefit from concrete description, open communication between participant and writer and a succinct, active narrative voice. The book is scheduled for completion in the spring.

Mark Plew

Mark Plew continued to conduct archaeological research in southern Idaho and in Guyana. He conducted several archaeological projects including a fourth field season at site 10-CN-6 with the BSU Archaeological Field School. In this context he published four technical reports and four monographs including *The Archaeology of Antelope Creek Overhang, Southeastern Oregon* with Sharon Plager and Christopher Willson. He also published papers on excavations at Hammett, Idaho and provided a critical assessment of recent publications on the use of ice caves on the Snake River Plain. In March, 2006 he conducted an archaeological survey along the Rupununi River in southern Guyana. The results of this work appear in an *Archaeological Survey along the Rupununi River between Karanambu and Yupukari, Southern Guyana*. Two papers on previous surveys in the interior of Guyana are scheduled for publication in the *Journal of Anthropology and Archaeology*. Plew’s book, *The Archaeology of Guyana*, was published by Archaeopress, British Archaeological Reports, International Series during the past year. Dr. Plew received more than $70,000 in external funding of his research.

Christopher Hill

Christopher Hill had several major publications in 2005 and 2006. A chapter on geoarchaeology in the *Handbook on Archaeological Methods* was published and a co-authored journal article on fossil ground sloths from eastern Montana was published in *Current Research in the Pleistocene*. Three abstracts were published in 2005; these were based on papers presented at the Earth System Processes conference of the Geological Society of America, the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, and an international conference on geoarchaeology. A review article titled “Pleistocene Ecology and Public Policy” was published in *Geotimes* in 2006.

Two books by Dr. Hill were recently produced. The Montana Office of the Bureau of Land Management published a book on the geology, paleontology, and prehistoric archaeology of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, co-edited by Dr. Hill. The book reports on the discovery and analysis of mammoth, camel, horse, bison, wolf, and sabertooth cat fossils dated to about 19,000 years ago or older in southwest Montana, and contains four chapters by Dr. Hill. Also, the second edition of *Geoarchaeology: The Earth Science Approach to Archaeological Interpretation* was published by Yale University Press. It has been described by a reviewer as “…the most comprehensive treatise on geoarchaeology yet written.” Three abstracts and a journal article have so far been published in 2006. In 2006 Dr. Hill was promoted to full member in Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society.

Margaret Streeter

Margaret Streeter is co-recipient of a National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program grant. The multidisciplinary grant was awarded to biology’s Julie Oxford, the principal investigator, and eight other BSU faculty members representing six departments.

Dr. Streeter was a co-presenter in a day-long workshop teaching histological ageing methods at the American Association of Forensic Sciences meeting in Seattle, Washington this February. She published an abstract in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology describing her new method of histological age estimation for use on the rib cortex of subadults that was presented at the association’s annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Margaret Streeter also completed work on a chapter in the English version of a book on the Mayan Lord Hanab Pakal to be released soon and her work continues on a histomorphology manual that is to be published in Spanish and English.
By John Ziker, Assistant Professor

Cross-Cultural Research Shows Relationship between Fairness and Sharing

Those who feel they are living in a world of greed and apathy can take heart. New research shows that people in a diverse sample of societies have a predisposition for altruism and fairness. Flying in the face of popular market theory that emphasizes self-interest, findings by a team of researchers including Boise State University anthropology professor John Ziker indicate that in diverse societies across the globe, people are not only willing to share fairly, but also willing to withhold benefits to those who do not.

The main research question was namely, how cooperative behavior evolved and can be maintained in human groups and other animal societies. Cooperation is difficult to maintain, especially when individuals are tempted to defect. Defection in this sense is simply taking a benefit without paying the cost. This problem is particularly noted for public goods or common-pool resources. Programs on public radio and television provide a clear example. Once the program is aired, it is difficult to prevent people from consuming it; in addition, one person’s consumption does not decrease the value of consumption for others. In a population of defectors, resources are likely to be degraded and what is known as a Tragedy of the Commons can develop. Some examples are deforestation, overuse of agricultural land (desertification), air and water pollution. Anthropologists have documented how small-scale indigenous societies have maintained cooperation and sustainable use of public goods through various institutions. They have also documented the collapse of societies that have overused their resource base.

The project, funded by the National Science Foundation, involved a series of controlled experiments in 15 societies on five continents, ranging from Tanzanian nomads and South American foragers to Siberian hunter-fishers and Missouri farmers. The study addressed one of what Science magazine identified in 2005 as the top 25 unanswered science questions: How did cooperative behavior evolve?

The study utilized a series of standardized scenarios, or games, in which participants are asked to share money in a one-shot anonymous context. Such games have been conducted with university students across the developed world for at least 20 years. Previous results have shown that respondents behave more fairly than would be predicted by the rational choice theory underlying economics. What was unknown was how widespread this was, and whether there was any variability, and whether that variability can be explained using independent variables.

Entitled “Costly Punishment Across Human Societies,” a summary article in the June 23, 2006 issue of Science magazine describes how we utilized three games to measure generosity, fairness and participants’ willingness to punish others they deem are acting unfairly. Each game involved the division of a sum of money equal to a day’s wage in that society; the first two games measured a willingness to punish selfishness; the third game was a measure of altruism.

Results across the board show that members of all societies are willing to punish unfairness, even at a personal cost, and that in some societies those perceptions of unfairness also extend to hyperfair offers, or those above 50 percent. And the higher the willingness to punish inequality in games 1 and 2, the greater the altruism shown in game 3.

Adults from all these societies tend to offer more to recipients than an income maximizing offer based on the real rejection rates of other participants from the group. For example, rejection rates were fairly low among the Dolgan and Nganasan groups in Siberia (see photo), providing an income maximizing offer of 10%. Real mean offers in the ultimatum game (game 1) were 43% and the interquartile offers were between 32% and 50%.

Surprisingly, contrary to what researchers might have expected, the greatest emphasis on fairness was found in market economies and not in small-scale non-western societies. There may be something about markets that teach people about fairness in these one-shot anonymous contexts. In small-scale societies, there was a more common acceptance of less fair offers, although this varied with group size and market integration.

The project was developed to identify a common attribute of human psychology relevant to understanding cooperation in large groups. Participants in all groups seem to be willing to take on a cost in order to promote fairness. All of this indicates a universal emotional (non-profit-maximizing) motivation to be altruistic in a windfall situation and to promote fairness in anonymous exchanges.

While these results are unexpected but not surprising, hypotheses about the evolution of cooperation can be useful when studying issues ranging from criminal behavior to how to get people to cooperate on the use and respect of common resources, such as the Boise Greenbelt or national forests.

Dolgan and Nganasan people in Siberia participate in sharing and fairness games conducted by Dr. John Ziker.
Adjunct Faculty and Research Affiliate Staff Activities

Pei-Lin Yu was awarded her PhD this past spring from Southern Methodist University. Her dissertation is entitled, “Pit Cooking and Intensification in the American Southwest and Pacific Northwest.” Dr. Yu also has an article appearing in The Archaeology and Ethnoarchaeology of Mobility that she co-edited with Frédéric Sellet and Rusty Greaves. The article is entitled, “From Atlatl to Bow and Arrow: Implicating Projectile Technology in Changing Systems of Hunter-gatherer Mobility.” In October Yu will be teaching a weekend workshop on the evolutionary perspectives on the human diet.

Kendall House, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, is currently conducting his research on an ethnological study of world views focusing initially on the Americas, the anthropology of the European Enlightenment, and the cultural devolution and the transition from farming to foraging in the western deserts of aboriginal North America

Chris Wilson has assumed responsibility for overseeing the Archaeology Laboratory and GIS Station and has taken the lead in developing a new webpage for the Center for Applied Archaeological Science (CAAS). He published a paper on his XRF research in Oregon and Idaho in the spring issue of the Idaho Archaeologist.

Janette Balkan has just returned to Yale University following fieldwork in summer 2006 in Suriname and Guyana. The focus of her research is on rainforest sustainability with respect to indigenous Amerindian communities in the Guianas. Balkan recently published with Warren Wilson and others “Weaning Practices of the Makushi of Guyana and Their Relationship to Infant and Child Mortality: A Preliminary Assessment of International Recommendations” in the American Journal of Human Biology.

Jake Fruhlinger presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The paper examined the use of GIS in developing data bases for military ranges.

Confocal Microscope

Dr. Streeter is co-recipient of a National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program grant. The Principal investigator on the grant to purchase a confocal microscope is Julie Oxford of the Biology department. Members of six BSU departments collaborated on the multidisciplinary grant proposal including Juliette Tinker, Marcello Serpe, and Jim Smith, also from the Biology department; Ken Cornell, from Chemistry, Bill Knowlton in Material Sciences and Engineering/Electrical and Computer Engineering, Michelle Sabick from Mechanical Engineering and Byung Kim, in Physics. The confocal microscope will broaden research opportunities for Dr. Streeter allowing less invasive investigation of bone growth and development and it will provide training and research opportunities for students.
Center for Applied Archaeological Science

The Center for Applied Archaeological Science (CAAS) is a research and contract archaeology program established in 1986 and housed within the Department of Anthropology at Boise State University. CAAS, formerly known as the Archaeological Research Facility, has conducted over 300 small and large-scale cultural resource surveys and excavations throughout Idaho and other western states that include the development of archaeological research designs, archaeological and historical surveys, testing programs, data recovery protocols, full-scale and multi-year excavations, Section 106 compliance coordination, archival research, National Register Nominations, NAGPRA consultations, the production of scholarly and technical papers, and monographs and popular posters and brochures.

Faculty Publications and External Funding

During the past year faculty produced an impressive range of publications and received in excess of $70,000 in external funding. The faculty produced a total of 33 publications including 4 books, 9 journal articles, 14 book chapters, 4 monographs, 2 abstracts and 2 book reviews. This included Streeter’s contribution to *Loss and Osteoporosis: An Anthropological Perspective* edited by Argarwal and Kluwer and published by Academic/Plenum.

**2005-2006 Lecture Series in Review**

**LECTURE SERIES:**
- Dr. Loren Davis, Oregon State University, lectured on the “Lower Salmon River Canyon Archaeology and Geoarchaeology 1996-2006: What We’ve Learned and Strategies for the Next 10 Years.”

**FRIENDS OF ANTHROPOLOGY:**
- Dr. Leslie Martin, Department of Sociology, spoke on “The Politics of Neighborhood Change.”
- Dr. Jennifer Pierce, Department of Geosciences, spoke on “Holocene Records of Fire and Erosion in Central Idaho.”

2006-2007 Anthropology Lectures

**DEPARTMENT LECTURE SERIES:**
- Dr. Carol Ward, University of Missouri-Columbia has been invited to speak on Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 2:00 PM in the Barnwell Room, SUB. Her lecture is entitled, “Newest Fossil Evidence of the Earliest Human Ancestors.”
- Dr. Wayne Allen, from Minnesota State University, Mankato will speak on the “Disturbances in the Dreamtime: Evidence for Prehistoric Violence in Subarctic Dene Traditional Oral Narratives.” Dr. Allen’s lecture is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2007 at 2:00 PM in the Farnsworth Room in the SUB.

**FRIENDS OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
- Drs. Sheryl and Bruce Dowlin, Professors Emerita from Minnesota State University, Mankato, will speak on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 3:00 PM in the Jordan A Ballroom, SUB. Their lecture is entitled, “The Return of the Hochunk: Reconciliation after 142 Years.”
- Dr. Julia Oxford, Associate Professor in the BSU Biology Department, has been invited to speak in the Spring of 2007. Details will be forthcoming.
Donations Needed for Scholarships

If you are interested in making a donation, please make your inquiries to:

Dr. Mark Plew, Chair
Department of Anthropology
1910 University Drive
Boise State University
Boise, ID  83725-1950

You may designate your gift to the Anthropology Department Scholarship fund (#SR026), the Cultural Learning Project (#SR035), the Wesley Hurt Undergraduate Research Fellowship (#SR044), or the Native American Scholarship (#SR050). Your donation is tax deductible and will be used to build principal in scholarship accounts so that the interest may be used for student awards. In this way your gift will form the basis of financial aid for many years. No amount is too small; please do not hesitate to participate.

OUR THANKS

to the following individuals who made donations to the department’s scholarship account in 2006:


In Memoriam

The Department sadly notes the passing of Edith Benson and Gary Bowyer. Edith was an emeritus staff member at Boise State University who annually contributed to the Wesley R. Hurt Fellowship. Gary studied at Boise State and served as a crew chief for the department's first Archaeological Field School in 1986. He regularly contributed to the department's scholarship fund.

Alumni In Action

Shelby Day (B.A., ’05) is employed at the State Historic Preservation Office performing Section 106 compliance review.

Naomi Ollie (B.A., ’03) received a fellowship to study at the Buffalo Bill Historic Center. Naomi is a graduate student at Colorado State University.

Jillian Martin (B.A., ’03) and Molly Humphreys (B.A., ’92) are working as archaeologists with Bionomics.

We Want to Hear From You!

What have you done since graduation? Do you have any news or an event you would like to contribute to the Department of Anthropology newsletter? Please fill in the information coupon and attach it to your news story. Send it to: Department of Anthropology, 1910 University Drive, Boise State University, Boise, ID  83725-1950.

Name ____________________________________________________________

Degree and Year Graduated _____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________

City ______________________ State __________ Zip Code ________________

Phone ______________________ email address ___________________________

My News ____________________________________________________________

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Anthropology Club
The officers for 2006-2007 are:
President—Rebecca Baird
Vice-President—Chris Carpenter
Treasurer—Khara Barfield
Secretary—Kimberly Ritz

Archaeological Student Association
The officers for 2006-2007 are:
Director—Drew Asbury
Events Coordinator—Rebecca Baird
Secretary—Amanda Vaughn
Treasurer—Anna Carter

Kristi Harter has been working at Celebration Park as an Interpretive Specialist.

Betsy Venard received $8,000 to study in Amman, Jordan. Venard is an Anthropology major from Bonners Ferry. She received a $5,000 award plus $3,000 from the U.S. Department of State. The additional funding was made available for students studying a critical need language. Venard will study Arabic language and culture in Jordan.

Maria Venegas, a McNair Scholar and Anthropology major, is working on an ethnography of fishing families on Venado Island, Costa Rica. As the recipient of a University Studies Abroad Consortium summer stipend, Venegas spent five weeks conducting interviews and doing fieldwork on the island. She is currently working with Dr. McCarl in the processing of her field materials and writing the ethnography. Her research focuses on land and fishing rights of the islanders who are being negatively affected by the growing tourist industry.

2006 Anthropology Graduates

Dean’s List Spring 2006

2006-2007 Scholarship Recipients
Niki Willis, Kersti Harter, Alicia Cowger, and Kelly Gillman received Anthropology Department scholarships. Jimmy Schultz received the Native American Student Scholarship. Garrett Webb received the Roderick Sprague Archaeology Book Award. Brett Ritz received the Liljeblad Cultural Anthropology Book Award.