Notes from our Past
ASA President

I’ve always had an interest in the human element. When I started at Boise State I selected anthropology as my major because I knew it would give me a holistic perspective. After my first year of 100-level courses I spent my summer on a dig with archaeologist Steve Armstrong on the Rackliff site along the Selway River in northern Idaho. This was the deciding factor for my career path in archaeology and once that decision was made I chose an advisor to help me focus on what I needed to succeed.

Following field school at Celebration Park I volunteered to work on projects in the university lab curating diagnostic artifacts. Additionally, I did some surveying at the Gowen Field Orchard Training Area Range and a road monitoring at Celebration Park. I also attended the SAA Annual Meetings and Idaho Archaeological Society Conferences. In 2006 I published a paper, “Analysis of a Pottery Vessel from the Celebration Park Area, Southwest Idaho,” Idaho Archaeologist, and presented a paper at the Idaho Archaeological Society 33rd Annual Conference titled, “Fungal Contamination: A Limiting Factor on Storage Time.” I’ve also been active in excavations and this past summer worked on two projects; the Danskin Floatboat Access Relocation Project with the Center for Applied Archaeological Science and The Reaves Excavation with Byron Loosle in the Ashley National Forest in Utah. For the last three years I’ve been working for the Boise National Forest performing project compliance related to Federal Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including pre-field research, field survey, site recording and GIS mapping of sites in project areas while providing the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) with reports.

I’ve been a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society for four years and a contributing member of the Idaho Archaeological Society: Intermountain Chapter for three years. Most recently I was awarded a scholarship from the Anthropology Department, Boise State University which will help me begin a research project this fall. My time as an undergraduate has been very busy and extremely rewarding. With all the hard work and help I received, I’m prepared to move on to a master’s degree.

—Contributed by Susan Hawkins

On-Site at Celebration Park, 2005

Archaeology and the SCA

This summer I served with the Student Conservation Association as an archaeological technician for the Manti-LaSal National Forest District. The Moab-Monticello ranger districts of the Manti-LaSal represent “islands in the sky” that tower above the Canyonslands. The environment is diverse, with lower elevation canyons that lead up into high country, transitioning from red rock to forested green. Home to the ancient Ancestral Puebloans, we surveyed and recorded archaeological sites spanning 6,000 years of prehistoric and historic human occupation.

I was responsible for laboratory preparation of documentation and reports using GPS, site mapping, site form preparation, and in-field artifact analysis. Survey conditions were awesomely strenuous (scenic) at times, including extremes in temperature and rugged terrain. I plan on a return trip this winter to support independent research.

—Contributed by Amber Thompson

Welcome Back, ASA

Archaeological Students
Association Newsletter

We’re on the Web! http://anthro.boisestate.edu/

The ASA is happy to present this edition of the fall 2007, Archaeological Student Association newsletter. Included in this edition are student experiences in archaeology over the summer break and beyond. Up-coming activities include ASA-sponsored lectures, local archaeological news, and future community outreach opportunities. Remember that there is a meeting September 20th in the Anthropology Department conference room. There are several initiatives up for discussion this semester, and we would appreciate your input.

Get involved! Archaeology is worth discussing. – A.T

We’re on the Web! http://anthro.boisestate.edu/
Student Archaeology

Field School, 2007

One of the more enjoyable archaeology classes and one of the most useful is archaeology field school held in the summer. It is a six-week course and covers learning the basic skills an archaeologist needs to know in the field, as well as teaching you some of the underlying principles of archaeology through selected readings and discussion groups.

After our time at Celebration Park, we went to the site of an old Japanese internment camp outside of Nyssa, Oregon, where we learned how to do a short survey and help get a report finished for the area so it could be developed.

The last place we went to was more of a recovery project, a rock shelter that had been badly looted and it was our job to determine whether anything was left to document. Unfortunately, there really wasn’t anything left. Each of these places were pretty unique and really gave us a broad range of styles and processes.

So, if you enjoy camping and archaeology then I would strongly recommend checking field school out—it is a great opportunity and a great experience for those who are interested.

—Contributed by Bill Knowlden

ASA

Colloquium Series:

Join us, the week of September 24th, 2007
For an informal discussion with Brian Wallace on Culture Resource Management in the Bureau of Land Management.
Details forthcoming......

Upcoming Activities:

Student Organization Fair
Wednesday, September 12, 2007
1:00 am—2:00 pm
BBQ and Community service at Celebration Park,
Early October

Idaho Archaeology:

Idaho Archaeological Society Conference
Saturday, October 27, 2007
Boise State University, Engineering Technology Bldg, Rm. 110
8:00-5:00 PM

Other Archaeological Links:
www.shovelbum.com
www.archaeologyfieldwork.com
www.thesca.org

ASA Meetings
• Don’t forget! The ASA is meeting Thursday, September 20, at 9 am in the Anthropology Department Conference Room.
• Meetings will be posted through e-mail and on the web page.......................... Get involved!
• For additional information about the ASA go to: http://anthro.boisestate.edu/asaclub/index.html

Boise State University