### Anthropology Schedule of Classes

**Fall, 2008**

- Anth 101 Physical Anthropology
- Anth 102 Cultural Anthropology
- Anth 103 Introduction to Archaeology
- Anth 201 History of Anthropology
- Anth 203 Old World Prehistory
- Anth 307 Indians of North America
- Anth 311 Environmental Anthropology
- Anth 402 Geoarchaeology
- Anth 419 Prehistory of Mexico
- Anth 492 Senior Practicum—Portfolio

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### Upcoming Events

#### ASA Spring 2008

**Colloquium Series**
Please join us for our *Spring Colloquium discussion* with Tedd Jacobs, Department of Anthropology, Thursday, April 24th, 6:00 p.m. at PAPA JOES.

**Making Sense of the Undergraduate and Graduate Experience:**
What Have I done That Makes Sense?

**ASA Elections**
The ASA will conduct elections April 28-May 2, 2008. Submit nominations online or drop by the BSU Anthropology Department. Be sure to include your name, the nominee name and position nominated for, and email to fbrigha@boisestate.edu

**Archaeological Field School**
Summer 2008, *Prehistoric Archaeological Excavations In Southwestern Idaho.*
The deadline for applications is Friday, May 2, 2008. Submit applications to:
Archaeology Field School
Department of Anthropology
1910 University Drive
Boise State University

ASA Contacts:
Advisors: Dr. Chris Hill: chill2@boisestate.edu
Mr. Chris Willson: anthro4556@yahoo.com
President: Amber Thompson : AmberThompson@mail.boisestate.edu
My Semester in Egypt

Last semester I studied in Egypt, the Land of the Pharaohs. The first week I was in Cairo I went to see the pyramids. The great stone monuments rose up out of the hot, barren sand. I took a horseback ride around the pyramids and got to go into one of the smaller ones.

Alexandria, in the Delta, is a lot different from Cairo. It’s a port city located on the Mediterranean. Its ancient remains are Graeco-Roman, since it was founded by Alexander the Great. I saw monuments like Pompey’s Pillar, and the medieval fortress of Sultan Qait Bey, which stands where the Pharos Lighthouse once was.

The most fascinating site was the catacombs, which once housed the bodies of ancient Alexandrians. It contains exquisite and often realistic examples of Roman-style Egyptian art carved into its stone walls. One of the places that I did not get to visit was, sadly, Luxor, home of the massive Karnak temple complex and the nearby Valley of the Kings.

If you’re interested in studying there, I’d definitely take Arabic classes during your stay. Luckily, most people there can communicate reasonably well in English. Studying in Egypt can often be frustrating, but it’s always an adventure, and if you’re serious about the country’s history, then I definitely recommend giving it a try.

-Samantha Royce

Impacts of Moisture and Temperature on Stored Seeds in Subterranean Pits

By Susan Hawkins

The ethnographic record has served archaeologists as a way of interpreting archaeological data. The Western Snake River Plain subsistence practice has been described as relying mostly on fishing supplemented by hunting, root and seed gathering. It has been suggested that winter storage was an important part of the subsistence strategy. However, recent comparisons of archaeological sites show little evidence of storage which fails to support the assumption of storage in the ethnographic record.

Previously replicated storage facilities were evaluated on the impact of fungal contamination on raw and dry seeds and established that storing seeds in underground pits through the winter months resulted in near immediate fungal contamination. It suggests that fungal contamination impacts the duration of storage and implies a short-term caching strategy of the type commonly associated with highly mobile foragers.

It also provides a possible explanation for the archaeological absence of storage facilities or features. Two underground conditioners, moisture and temperature, may influence fungal contamination and impact how long stored food will last. The objective of this project was to measure moisture and temperature levels of subterranean stored seed using Lascar EL-USB-2 Relative Humidity (RH), Temperature and Dew Point Data Loggers to determine if these factors influence the growth of fungi.

Seed samples were wet mounted on slides with lactophenol and compared against the data from the Data Loggers. The result demonstrates that fungi development occurs almost immediately upon storage when moisture levels have increased in the pits limiting storage to a short-term caching strategy.