Barrick continues research

Museum Co-Director and Curator of Paleontology, Reese Barrick, Ph.D., continues to research dinosaurs and their ecology at College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum and campus in collaboration with colleagues at Duke Stable Isotope Laboratory, North Carolina.

Fascinated by how dinosaurs lived and interacted, Barrick is currently researching the existence of warm-blooded dinosaurs.

While working on his masters thesis of reconstructing ancient ocean temperatures, Barrick suspected that utilizing oxygen and carbon isotopes could also be applied in his oceanic research as well as studying dinosaurs.

Consequently, Barrick has expanded his current research to include the diet and food webs of dinosaurian communities, and the ecologic and climatic reconstruction of the dinosaurian world throughout the Mesozoic period.

Barrick’s research into the existence of warm-blooded dinosaurs involves drilling small holes into dinosaur bones or tooth enamel then subjecting the powder to a chemical procedure that removes mineral contaminants involved in bone fossilization.

The powder samples are then dissolved or combusted to release carbon and oxygen gases.

The gases are then analyzed by a mass spectrometer, a machine that calculates the ratio of heavy to light atoms of oxygen and/or carbon.

“The application of oxygen isotopic analysis to vertebrate skeletons can give you a picture of body temperature variability.

“This directly relates to [dinosaurs’] ability to control body temperature and this defines warm- or cold-bloodedness.

“Reconstructing the changes in physiology throughout the history of life is vital in understanding the evolution of life on land and how animals interact with each other and their environment,” stated Barrick.

In addition to studying dinosaur physiology, Barrick is using isotopes to reconstruct climate changes throughout the Cedar Mountain Formation in order to study the effects of climate change on the growth rates of CMF local area dinosaurs.

See Research, page 2
Prehistory Week

a success

This year’s annual Prehistory Week held May 1-8, 14, was a smashing success thanks to the efforts of the Castle Valley Archaeological Society, Friends of Paleontology Raptor Chapter, and CEU Prehistoric Museum staff, which organized and implemented the activities.

The Nine Mile Canyon dinner, hosted by the Castle Valley Archaeological Society and attended by 85 people, included a free tour of Nine Mile Canyon and dinner at Mead’s Bunk and Breakfast.

The Castle Valley Archaeological Society also played host to “Magic, Trance and Taboo: An Ecological Perspective of Shamans,” a lecture by Richard Owens, museum volunteer coordinator.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Owens’ lecture explained the role of Shamans in hunter-gatherer societies.

The Friends of Paleontology Raptor Chapter hosted “The Ankylosaur Evolution” by guest speaker Dr. James L. Kirkland.

Kirkland’s vivid PowerPoint presentation illustrated the evolution of the ankylosaur and the process in which one specimen’s bones went through to be cast and later displayed in a museum.

Museum Family Day was attended by over 1,000 people; making it the most successful component of this year’s Prehistory Week.

Family Day attractions included atlatl throw, children’s activities, flint knapping, cordage, and bead making demonstrations, vendors, and the Nine Mile Players.

Information tables helped families learn more about Native Americans, teepees, mountain men, and more.

The annual Dino Feast and silent auction was attended by 80 people and featured guest lecturer Dr. Dale Russell.

Russell, Professor Emeritus in the department of marine, earth and atmospheric sciences and Senior Curator of Paleontology for North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, was sponsored by the Raptor Chapter to present his insightful lecture, “Moorish Dinosaurs in the San Rafael Swell?”

The Dino Feast ended with the announcement of the silent auction winners, all of whom were very happy with their purchases.

The museum staff would like to thank the Prehistory Week committee, Castle Valley Archaeological Society, Friends of Paleontology Raptor Chapter and all those who participated in the events of Prehistory Week.

We are all looking forward to next year’s events.

For amazing gifts or to enhance your museum visit, stop by and see what we have to offer.

Research

Barrick is also working with past graduate students and John Bird to describe and name the museum’s brachiosaur from the PR11 quarry.

“Naming a new dinosaur involves describing the external morphologic features of all of the bones and then comparing these features to those of similar dinosaurs from around the world in order to prove that your dinosaur is indeed different and also to determine which of these other dinosaurs it is most closely related,” stated Barrick.

Progress is continual and museum patrons and supporting members can look forward to many exciting discoveries through Barrick’s research.

Special Thanks

Big Al and his friends at the museum would like to thank all of the museum members for their generous contributions and support:

Nicole Bradley, Robert & Margene Hackney, Richard Hengst, Mike & Lisa Hubbard, Michael & Mary Kava, John & Kathleen Lionakis, Alice Mann, Blaine & Pamela Miller, Wes Safrit, Lance Tomkins, E. Ivan White, Maurine Dorman, Harold Driver, Brent & Linda Keetch, Brian McClellan, Reid Olsen, Samuel & Colleen Quigley, John & B. Jeanne Senulis, Dennis Willis, Ken & Michelle Fleck, Frank & Dorothy Karras, Harold Driver, Reese & Michelle Barrick, Steven & Patrice Rigby, Allynson Ford, Justin Keetch, Christy Engar, Cheryl Marzec, Kristy Fee, Rob & Karen Radley, and Brad & Tami King.

See “Become a member” on page 5 for more information.
Wanted: Volunteers

Volunteers offer an array of services and time that can never be paid for by the museum; enabling the museum to conduct research and provide excellent exhibits and displays to the general public.

In the past quarter, the museum has utilized volunteers for several projects during April and June, including but certainly not limited to assisting with Prehistory Week, dismantling of Chasmosaurus, construction of the Animantax exhibit, tours, and operation of booths.

Prior to the commencement of Prehistory Week, volunteers helped dismantle "Cassie," the Chasmosaurus exhibit, to provide room for "Tank," the new Animantax exhibit.

Prehistory Week began with a tour of Nine-mile Canyon, during which volunteers assisted participants as guides.

During Prehistory Week, volunteers and staff worked together to provide a successful week of activities for museum patrons.

Family Day concluded Prehistory Week with volunteers operating booths and tables to provide museum patrons with information regarding displays, exhibits and local points of interest.

The tremendous success of Prehistory Week lies entirely with the work of volunteers who helped set-up the displays, tables, activities, and games for the visiting community, in addition to the countless tours they gave.

Volunteers have contributed to maintaining the Museum's scrap book, running the CEU museum extension library, gluing dinosaur footprints to cardboard, hanging art in the gallery for the Joe Venus exhibit, as well as writing and distributing this newsletter.

Volunteers have also assisted with the cataloguing of archaeological and paleontology resources, in addition to collecting dinosaur bones from PRII and Yellow Cat quarry sites.

The museum would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in the planning and operation of Family Day, as well as all those from the United Way and Americorps for their generous support and hard work.

We are continually looking for volunteers to assist with tours, daily museum operations, the gift shop and story hours on Fridays; hours are flexible.

Contact Richard Owens, museum volunteer coordinator, at (435) 637-5757, extension 5381, or by e-mail, Richard.Owens@ceu.edu.

New Exhibits

The museum opened several new exhibits during May and June.


Regular museum visitors recognized Venus as the artist of the Ice Age mural, depicting life in Utah 12,000 years ago.

During the exhibit the museum had over 50 Venus' original paintings, Giclees and Limited Edition prints on display.

His works are noted for transporting the viewer back in time, to a prehistoric era, when the history of man was documented not by pen or pencil on paper, but by chisel and hammerstone.

Venus' works have been shown in art galleries from California to New York. At the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan, Venus' prints depicting historic American Culture, Wildlife, and Rodeo Cowboys were given as gifts to Japanese dignitaries and city representatives of Salt Lake City's sister city, Matsumoto, Japan.

For the past eight years, Venus has served as Supervisor of Fine Arts at the Utah State Fair.

The Joseph S. Venus Art Scholarship is awarded annually at the Utah State Fair. The scholarship provides the recipient with a full tuition, complete home study course from the Art Instruction Schools in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Museum patrons sincerely hope that another exhibit by Joe Venus returns in the near future.

Vandalism Exhibit

The College of Eastern Utah's museum studies class developed a new exhibit on archaeology and paleontology vandalism; an exhibit which aims to educate the public about antiquities and anti-vandalism laws and demonstrates the types of fossils which can legally be collected in Utah.

Taught by Museum Curator of Archaeology, Pam Miller, students in the museum exhibit class engage in a two-semester class that involves exhibition plan development, topic research, object identification for the exhibit, writing labels, and exhibit fabrication.

Students involved in developing the exhibit were: Cory Kollum, Tiffani Baker, and Denise Thayn.

The vandalism exhibit is located in the gallery for fall.

Coming soon... In January, we will open a special exhibition called "Relics Revisited: the Pectol-Lee Artifacts from Capitol Reef."

In addition to the Capitol Reef exhibit, we are working with the Utah Museum of Natural History to develop an exhibition on Range Creek.
Look who’s new to our staff!

Hello, my name is Richard C. Owens, the new volunteer coordinator at the museum.

I pursued my education at the University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and earned a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in anthropology, respectively.

In addition to volunteer coordinator, I work as an archaeology field technician with Senco-Phenix, teaching cultural anthropology at the College of Eastern Utah.

Having just arrived to Price in February, I have learned a great deal about the area and hope to keep exploring the region. I joined the USAS and URARA groups and I have been attending UFOP meetings. Recently, I completed training to monitor and record a rock art site for the Moab BLM office, went on a dinosaur dig, and visited Nine Mile Canyon.

Prior to moving to Price, I completed a year of service in AmeriCorps working to enhance literacy among at-risk children by recruiting volunteers to work with them in public schools. This experience made me realize just how vital volunteers are to the success of valuable programs found in AmeriCorps and at the museum.

Volunteers contribute a great deal of time and effort to making a real difference in the areas that affect them. As a volunteer coordinator, I hope to contribute my expertise to the benefit of the community and the Prehistoric Museum.

Hello, I am Christine K. Trease, the new College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum Gift Shop Manager.

I enjoy working at the museum because I am able to "rub elbows" with some of the finest, most caring and intelligent people that I have ever been blessed to be around as well as some of the finest youth in our community. My shop clerks are the greatest!

Speaking of the museum gift shop, you really should come and visit us. We have added many new and wonderful items (and the rest of the museum isn't bad either!)

As a returning, non-traditional student at CEU, I am working to attain a degree in graphic arts and computers; a goal I should have pursued many, many years ago.

I am the mother of seven children; a diverse collection of "yours, mine and ours" personalities that tend to keep me on my toes. If the kids don't keep me running, the grandkids certainly do as I have five of them!

I am looking forward to meeting and serving the many interesting and colorful characters from our local community as well as the many amazing people who travel to Price from far away. I just hope the museum directors let me stay.

Yes, we're open!

Summer operating hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays.

As of June 1, 2004, new general admission fees will take effect to help defray museum operating costs:

$7 ...... Family Admission
$3 ...... Adult Admission
$1 ...... Child Admission

Your continued support and patronage are appreciated.

Tours are scheduled for various groups throughout the year and it is recommended that they be scheduled at least a week in advance.

School groups enjoy free tours but should be scheduled two weeks in advance.

To schedule a guided tour, call the museum at 637-5060.

Story Hour

Looking for an exciting way to spend your Friday afternoons with the kids? Check out the museum's Story Hour! It's free to all families with museum membership and is held the first and third Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m.

Children have enjoyed listening to our volunteers read stories like The Story of the Indian Paintbrush and the telling of the famous Utah raptor's discovery.

Following story time, children are able to make a craft that correlates with the story they listened to such as a raptor claw shoe ornament, paper bag vests, and Native American headaddresses. The crafts are always a big hit with the children.

As always, the stories and crafts are done with a short tour of a corresponding exhibit such as the Utah raptor, and Chief Washakie's vision robe.

The museum hopes to maintain its story hour well into the future. Story Hour coordinator, Carrie Miller, would appreciate suggestions for titles of age-appropriate stories. If you or your children have enjoyed a particular book about dinosaurs, ancient animals, or Native Americans, please give Carrie a call at the museum (637-5060).

www.museum.ceu
Cedar Mountain Traveling Exhibit hits the road

Question: What is over seven feet tall, weighs close to a ton, has ventured over 200 miles throughout Carbon and Emery counties and has been viewed by over 2500 students, parents, educators, businessmen and the general public?

Answer: The College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum’s Cedar Mountain Traveling Exhibit.

The Cedar Mountain Traveling Exhibit under the direction of staff artist Denise Thayn, is the result of a collaborative effort with the museum, ChevronTexaco, Carbon County Restaurant Tax, Anadalex, Southeastern Education Service, and various volunteers.

Over three years and thousands of hours of research, design and construction were needed to create the $50,000 exhibit. The exhibit was created to educate and inform the public of the eight new dinosaurs discovered in the Cedar Mountain Formation.

During the past eight months the exhibit toured six different elementary schools, temporarily residing at each school for a month. Included with the exhibit are more than 20 lesson plans and hands-on activities for teachers.

The exhibit also visited various CEU functions and a celebration at the Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale, Utah.

The pop icon, “Paleo-Dude,” a.k.a. John Bird, caused additional excitement among elementary students as Bird spent a day at each school lecturing and motivating students to learn more about the dinosaurs found in their own backyard. Students consistently hoarded around him for autographs and a chance to speak with the dinosaur guru.

Many teachers have praised the exhibit and general feedback has been extremely positive.

Requests for the exhibit have come from around the state and California. The museum hopes to continue to provide the exhibit as funding allows.

For further information, contact the museum.

Become a member

Annual memberships will soon be due. It is time to renew your membership or become a new member of the museum.

We are offering a great deal: for an annual membership of $30.00 you have unlimited admission to the museum, a subscription to the museum newsletter, “Al’s Archives,” 10% discount in the Gift Shop and on selected programs as well as invitations to special events sponsored by the museum.

The museum also offers a selection of club memberships with added benefits for your family, friends or business associates.

All club memberships offer your name or corporate logo in the museum’s newsletter, a 20% discount on the purchase of additional memberships (which is a great gift idea), two subscriptions to the newsletter and a 15% discount at the museum gift shop.

For $100.00, you can join the Saber Tooth club. This provides all of the above benefits plus one designated annual Family Membership, five family or 15 adult single-day admission passes, and a Saber Tooth Club Certificate of Appreciation.

You can belong to the Utah Raptor Club with a $500.00 donation. In addition to the above club benefits it also includes two designated annual Family Memberships, 10 family or 30 adult single-day admission passes, a Utah Raptor Club Certificate of Appreciation and your name on the new Donor Wall at the museum.

The Eolambia Club membership comes with a $1,000.00 donation. This includes the benefits of the Saber Tooth and Utah Raptor clubs in addition to three designated annual Family Memberships, 20 family or 60 adult single-day admission passes, Eolambia Club framed Certificate of Appreciation, your name on the Donor Wall, and best of all, one behind-the-scenes guided tour of the museum’s collections for a dozen of your guests.

A $5,000.00 donation brings you into the Mammoth Club. In addition to all the club benefits there are five designated annual Family Memberships, 30 family or 90 adult one-day passes, your name on the Donor Wall, one behind-the-scenes guided tour of the Museum’s collections for a dozen of your guests, and a one-day dig for 10 of your guests.

Allosaurus Club membership comes with a donation of $10,000 and the Tyrannosaurus Club designation is given for a $25,000 donation. Please contact the museum, (435) 613-5060, for benefits of these membership levels.

We hope you will take advantage of renewing your membership or becoming a club member of the museum.

Just complete the form on page 5 of the newsletter and mail it in with your contribution. You’ll be glad you did.

Don’t forget, memberships also make fabulous gifts for your family and friends.
Kids' Corner
Color the dinosaurs. Can you name them?