In November, a British film crew from Pioneer Productions visited Price to film a segment on dinosaurs in the Cretaceous period for their documentary on Earth history. The documentary covers all of Earth history and will be premiering on the History Channel this May. Lucy Haken, the assistant producer for the documentary set up the filming that took one day including shots at the museum and in the field. Pioneer had spent 6 months traveling around the world filming geological features representing different periods in Earth history and felt that southeastern Utah presented the best opportunity for covering the dinosaurian world of the Mesozoic Era. Utah was the next to last location for the production, followed by a trip to California’s La Brea tar pits to cover the Ice Ages. Fortunately, the weather held out and offered a beautiful day. For those of you that have never been on camera, the interesting aspect of being filmed for a documentary like this is that you end up being asked questions while the camera is rolling, perhaps even while walking through the desert, and have to formulate an answer in under 3 seconds and spit it out without tripping over your tongue within a time frame expected by the producer. If it doesn’t work out, try again. If the camera person trips while filming, try again, and again. I suppose it would help if you knew what the questions were in advance so you could wax eloquent, but what fun would that be!

Director of Collections and Research, Jeff Bartlett found out how hard it is to be an actor when he was asked to talk about the same bone, while a camera was 6 inches from his face with the same enthusiasm in his voice ten times in a row. Only he didn’t have a script in front of him to repeat! It will be fun to see how it turns out. Another lighted event new at the museum this year was our Cretaceous Christmas celebration December 15th and 16th. Staff worked hard lighting up all of the skeletons in the Hall of Dinosaurs for the two-night event. Friday night featured the Carbon High School choirs singing on the second floor of the dinosaur hall with visitors listening on both levels. The acoustics in the museum are absolutely fabulous for live music. On the second night a horn quartet played while visitors wandered through the archaeology exhibits or marveled at bright red, green and blue lights in the darkened dinosaur hall. Kids of all ages had the opportunity to visit Santa in the classroom as well as create beaded ornaments with the education staff to take home and decorate their trees. Parents had a great opportunity to find those last minute paleo-gifts or stocking stuffers from the gift shop. The highlight had to be the education staff singing Cretaceous Christmas carols including the ever popular 12 days of Christmas, “On the first day of Christmas my Raptor gave to me, a pterodactyl in a cycad treeeee.....”. For all the lyrics feel free to email a request to Christine Trease! christine.trease@ceu.edu
The collections department at CEU Prehistoric Museum has had a very, very active fall season.

-Biggest [!] year ever for donations

“So you’re having an exhibit on petrified wood? Well I can send you something...”

It all started with this offhand remark from our colleague Michael Sincak, of Treasures of the Earth Inc. His quip would become the understatement of museum history, I suspect. Not long after Michael and Barbara Sincak, major exhibitors in the Fossilized Forests exhibit made this remark, we received his “something” at the museum. The Sincaks had already sent some lovely polished specimens, so we were ready for something spectacular, but we were all surprised by the sheer quantity of their gift. Six pallets of solid, silicified stem from an Indonesian fossil forest, boated to Pennsylvania and then trucked to Price. Best of all, they fit together as segments from a single giant log over ten feet long! I won’t reveal the total weight but if anyone is interested in helping me roll them around, I won’t turn anyone down. It can safely be said that this is by far the largest donation ever made to the museum! In addition to the beautiful new wood specimens donated previously, as well as some great new invertebrates from field collections and the Washburn family, we have made significant gains in the acquisition of amazing fossil materials.

-Collections and Research

- Big leap for technology

Thanks to the Office of Museum Services grant obtained earlier in 2006, we have set up scanning and processing equipment for the museum Digital Archives Initiative. Digitizing work continues, such as documenting and scanning all photos, slides and important documents the museum has collected over the last 40 years. Whew, what a task! But the result will be a spectacular new dimension to museum holdings, increased accessibility to information, and connectivity with similar museums, researchers, and the public.

- Big new space

The outfitting of a new archive room represents a major step forward in repository capability for the museum. We have prepared the space and shelving for over 1000 cubic feet of new, controlled space. This year, mapping and indexing our existing storage rooms has become an addition to our regular inventory process.

- Big influx of objects

Several interesting finds have crossed the Collections threshold recently. For instance, we have been looking at a private archeological collection from the Uintah Basin, which has proven very interesting. This includes a wooden bead or button, a white stone ball which appears to have been attached on one end to something, and a tangle of snare cords. Several nice projectile points, knives and axe heads were included too. This is a loan, for study, and will be returned to the owner.

Also on loan from the Bureau of Land Management are a number of sandstone slabs with large footprints recorded in the ancient sediments. These rare finds preserve a record of the mammal population present in Utah back in the Eocene Epoch. We hope to work with the BLM and curation partners to look through this unique window into the shoreline ecology of the Green River Formation.

Our favorite activity this fall was being asked to participate in the excavation and repositing of a prehistoric flute from the Division of Wildlife Resources Management area in Range Creek. It is about 27 inches long and has 4 holes. What an artifact for further study! So far our research shows very few flutes have been found in recent archeology, so this may be one of a kind!
Paleontology Field and Lab notes – Winter Solstice 2006

The daylight hours have grown short, the air remains biting cold through the weak winter sun and the ground is frozen at most of our quarry sites. It’s time to move indoors to the toasty confines of the Prehistoric Museum’s bone prep lab, to lay out our newly collected material and see what this bountiful high desert has yielded.

It’s been a busy dig season. We focused on just four of our quarry sites this year, raking up 37 full days and gathering all together over 440 fossilized dinosaur bones. In addition, we surveyed and identified five new quarry sites, collected some remarkably fine surface material (large sauropod), three new sites provided sandstone slabs with tracks and one site with marine fossils.

Central and southeastern Utah is a rich repository of ancient fossilized life forms. We are fortunate to have all this right out our back door. Additionally, most all of the 440 bones we collected this year are in excellent condition, our quarry sites are highly accessible and situated in some of the most stunningly beautiful country that Utah has to offer. This would be the appropriate time to remind all of you that your museum membership entitles you to join us on any of our outings for the 2007 season and most any weekday this winter and early spring at the bone lab. Your participation is always welcome. If you have never seen where all our collections are stored or the lab where fossils are prepared, call or just come by and we would be happy to show you around. Remember, this is a part of your museum membership. There is no additional cost to access areas that the general public does not get to visit. And, if you find it interesting, we will sit you down at a workstation and teach you how to clean, reassemble and stabilize a 100 million year old dinosaur bone. It is a thrill.

The principal focus of our quarry work this past season was at the Suarez Sisters Site near Green River. This is the location where we have collected over 555 bones of the little therizinosaur, *Falcarius utahensis*. This 120 million year old dino may well have had feathers, at least its descendants found in Asia certainly were so endowed. Of particular interest this year has been the finding of a number of illuims (pelvic bones) of several individuals. These bones are fragile. For them to survive 120 million years suggests that the hardier bones, limbs and vertebrae, should continue to present themselves in large numbers during future dig seasons.

Good news. Also of interest at this site are the well preserved bones of, currently, the largest nodosaur found anywhere. Smaller versions of this dino-tank are on display upstairs in the Hall of Dinosaurs. This new guy is considerably bigger than the two on exhibit. These quarry bones sit directly below the much smaller bones in the *Falcarius* bed. In the 2007 dig season, we are hopeful of finding many more samples of this big boy.

Out at PR2, south of Wellington, we continue to find huge sauropod bones, a giant in the dino world. It’s undeniably exciting to excavate these massive bones, where a femur leg bone can measure two meters or six feet tall.

Some high quality nodosaur material is coming out of PR2 as well. A nice pair of vertebrae and a tibia were found this summer. This individual is not quite as large as the monster out at Suarez Sister Site, but still bigger than the two on exhibit at the museum. Some small, but very rare material can also be found at PR2.

In just one day early this summer a young fellow spotted a croc tooth and a tiny tooth of a theropod. These are not common at this site. And one of the coolest finds this summer was provided by a visiting paleontologist, Ken Carpenter of the Denver Museum, when he spotted a little 10 cm finger bone sitting among massive sauropod bones in one of our collections storage areas and identified it as belonging to a pterosaur, a “flying lizard”. Not only is it the only bone we have of a pterosaur, but it is the only one ever known to have been found in the Cedar Mountain Formation – PR2, this is so cool.

Two sites down in the Mussentuchit area received some attention this summer. Willow Springs 8 was worked for the second year and yielded 53 very high quality *Eolambia* fossil bones. That brings us up to 265 total bones to date at this site spanning two sub-adults, one juvenile and two small juvenile individuals. This bone bed is thinning slightly, but we remain hopeful that more material will be forthcoming. Currently the museum does not have a mount of an *Eolambia* to exhibit. If this site continues to yield material we could have a whole family to present.

Nearby is the old quarry site EO2. We spent five days this summer removing tons of overburden to reopen this *Eolambia* site. Before we ran out of time we were able to get back down to the bone bed and found 15 high quality bones. We will be anxious next spring to get back out to EO2 to see if this bone bed is productive. EO2 has given us 1085 *Eolambia* bones over the years. Not bad for a quarry that’s barely 20 feet wide.

As members of the Prehistoric Museum we invite you to take advantage of your membership privileges and join us this winter at the bone lab and the coming quarry season of 2007. These are wonderful opportunities to have fun while providing valuable support to your museum.

If interested, call the museum 453-637-5060 and simply ask how you can become involved.
Cretaceous Christmas Celebration

This past December, the CEU Museum celebrated its first ever Cretaceous Christmas. This two night event was held on December 15th and 16th, and had something for everybody. The Hall of Dinosaurs was decorated for the occasion and the dinosaurs were decked out with twinkling lights of every color.

Santa “Claws” was on hand to talk to all of the children who came.

Each child also was able to make their very own take-home ornament with two of Santa’s helper elves. The two evenings were made complete with holiday music provided by Carbon High School Choir Department and the CEU French Horn Quartet.

Education

Inventory in Library is finished

The inventory of the Dr. J. Eldon Dorman Research Library was completed this last year, thanks to the help of the Educational Interns and Museum Volunteers. Thanks to everybody who worked on this project and got the job done.

New in 2007! Classroom Discovery Boxes Coming Soon

Classroom Discovery boxes will be available soon to elementary school teachers who want to take a piece of the Museum back to the classroom and get their students excited about natural history.

Science Cart Tours

Come visit the Museum this year and take a science cart tour. These are available for Kindergarten through 6th grades. All tours must be booked a minimum of two weeks in advance.

Super Saturday

On the second Saturday of each month the educational staff will be doing activities in the classroom starting at 10:00. The cost is $2.00 per child, or free with a current museum membership. Call Shawna at 613-5760 to reserve your child(s) spot at least one week prior to the event.

Cedar Mountain Traveling Exhibit

The Cedar Mountain Traveling Exhibit is now available for rental for the 2007 season. Call Shawna at 613-5760 to reserve the exciting exhibit today.

Community Volunteers Wanted

The Museum is in great need of community volunteers this year. We can use volunteers in the following areas:

- Tour Guides
- Track Handout Preparation
- Public Event Preparation
- Public Event Activities
- Prehistory Week Events
- Library Assistant
- Bone Lab
- Artifact Cataloging
- Inventory
- Digital imaging

If you would be interested in any of these activities please contact Shawna Carroll at 1-435-613-5760.
NAME: TURNED-DOWN BEAK OR TASAF (A NAVAJO KACHINA)
REPRESENTS: DANCER IN ALL REGULAR KACHINA DANCES
COLOR IT: Case mask-green; body-pink with yellow stripes; mocassins-red; hair on head-red; tufts for ears-red
Duckbill dinosaurs, or hadrosaurs, were peaceful plant-eaters. Many had bony head crests or special skin flaps. Help the hungry hadrosaurs reach the plants at the other end of the maze.
As we end another successful year in the gift shop, and the beginning of the New Year 2007. The gift shop would like to thank all of you who have supported the gift shop.

We continue to appreciate are valued customers, in helping us inform the surrounding communities of the Museum Gift Shop, and that it is free and open to the public.

Noteworthy News
Our shop clerk, Christie Downard, who started at the Museum gift shop after graduating from Carbon High in the spring of 2006, will soon become an Aussie.

After showing an interest in horticulture, for her first semester at CEU, Christie has been interning at the Museum, while also working in the gift shop, and tending to the plants located in the Green House, 2nd floor of the Reeves Building. She immediately became interested in our Mesozoic Gardens that will be featured in the new Museum.

Working with Sinan Ogun from Australia, who is helping with this project, and executive Director of GSI Australia (Global Studies Institute) along with the help of local GSI Director Jared Haddock.

Christie will leave in January 2007, and has been asked to go to Australia, She’ll be working and learning about plant horticulture, working under the instruction of Sinan. We’ll be keeping in touch by weekly e-mail, and let you know in our next Raptor Review of her progress.

With her enthusiasm for the Museum and interest in horticulture . . . Christie’s job in the gift shop, along with the green house on campus and museum internship, will all be waiting upon her return to Price.

We wish her a wonderful adventure!

Another familiar face of almost two years now, is Mandy Taylor Devaney. After passing on the Miss Carbon County crown this summer, she has continued to work in the gift shop, and be a dependable organizer and supporter of Museum events, mainly our 2nd annual Haunted Museum & the Millionth Plus Visitor.

Both Christie and Mandy had the opportunity of going on an over night dinosaur dig this past August at the Suarez Site. They already have plans to make it a 2nd annual dig this summer, when Christie arrives back to Utah.

Gift Shop News
We are always looking for new and interesting dinosaur books for all ages, and outdoor enthusiasts books for local travel in the area.

This coming year watch for the arrival of Museum patches with our new logo, more of the Museum hats and arrival of Laz Art, and Western Woods.

Right now we have a large inventory of Gaston bone replicas. Along with a “Falcarius” Skull replica for the dinosaur lover, which is for sale in the gift shop.

Please come visit us soon and spend a “Day at the Museum.”

“Happy New Year”!
Dino Search

Locate the words below in the letter block to the right

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CEU Prehistoric Museum
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