Ceremonial Groundbreaking

One hundred interested residents of Carbon and Emery Counties gathered at the site of newly donated land that will house the future of the Prehistoric Museum. On hand were many leaders of Carbon County, Price City and the College of Eastern Utah as well as interested businesspeople, college faculty, students. As the Director, I was especially gratified to see so many people take time out of their work day to hear about and support the museum’s expansion plans. The museum has constantly been growing since its inception in 1961 with the leadership of Director Don Burge. Under him the museum grew from a single room in City Hall to a 23,000 square-foot facility and has become a hub for Price City, a major attraction for Carbon County, a vital strength of the College of Eastern Utah and an important research repository for paleontologists and archaeologists around the world. Now the plan is to again dramatically increase the museum’s impact for all these communities.

Marc Bingham is the benefactor of the museum. His gift of nearly 19 1/2 acres will allow the museum the space to fulfill its growth potential. Marc described his time living in Price as crucial to laying the foundation of his goal to become a millionaire. Marc began his Phone Directories Company in Carbon County, and it quickly grew into a dynamic Fortune 500 company now centered in Orem, Utah with directories throughout the western United States and Canada. As his property, with easy visual and vehicular access to Hwy 6 and the Fairgrounds, was identified as the best potential for housing museum expansion, College president Ryan Thomas contacted Marc to determine if the property, with a value of over $750,000, might be for sale. With the crowd giving rapt attention, Marc gave voice to his appreciation of the role that many in Carbon County had in his development as a person and businessman. He expressed his desire to give something substantial back to the County and how he felt that donating this property, with scenic view of the Book Cliffs, Wasatch Range, the San Rafael Swell and downtown Price, to the College for the Museum was the most impactful way he could give back to the area— Indeed!

The first step toward achieving our vision is the development and construction of the Mesozoic Gardens and 1/2-acre conservatory with a dynamic pyramid design. Internally, the Gardens will house an evolutionary botanist’s dream: a research garden with plants from around the world that happen to have a direct genetic link to the extinct plants of western North America populating the area in the Mesozoic – dinosaur time. Many of these plants are responsible for the Cretaceous forests whose demise has given the region its rich coal resources. In addition, animals considered “living fossils” from the dinosaurian age will inhabit water features and airways within the conservatory, making the experience complete for tourist, student and researcher alike.

Outside and surrounding the conservatory will be the Bingham Evolutionary Gardens, where the visitor will have the opportunity to walk through Utah landscaper through 3.8 billion years of geologic time! Continued on page 2
Collections and Research

Fremont flute measures up against the biggies – slightly longer and with different design

Assistant registrar Karen Green recently had the chance to see first-hand how the flute artifact recovered this winter from Range Creek compared with other prehistoric instruments. Her travels took her to Arizona, where the finest examples of Anasazi and contemporary flutes reside in well-tended collections. The Anasazi artifacts turn out to have slightly different design and construction, with different arrangements of finger-holes — a very important distinction if you are building an instrument that actually makes sound! Curator Nancy Odegard, who also consults with CEUPM on the flute’s conservation, was instrumental (so to speak) in providing the comparative materials. We are generally jealous of Karen’s travels, but especially her visit with these famous Anasazi wonders!

Photos, Flutes and Photos of Flutes!

The collections department has recently been working on its digital initiative. Collections has gotten all 40 years of photographs indexed to the Mac, and are well on our way to getting them scanned. Karen Green is scanning 2-3 books of photos a day, so we’ll be done in no time. All photographs from the 40 years of CEU Museum archives have been indexed in the past six months, and about 1/5th have been digitally scanned. This is a time consuming but necessary project, for the history of the Museum to be saved for posterity and in an easily accessible manner for future research. It’s been really fun and hugely interesting to learn about our museums history. Karen has worked diligently on the annual inventory which, with the help of student interns, went even smoothly and with fewer revisions than ever!

Groundbreaking from page 1

The second step of museum expansion will be a new Prehistoric Museum building of over 100,000 square feet. Included will be a repository for the nearly exponential expansion of the museum’s archaeological and paleontological collections. The museum will display and interpret a greater proportion of these collections in dynamic settings. An important aspect of museum expansion will be research facilities for archaeological and paleontological researchers from around the world to focus on southeastern Utah and ensure the training of new generations of science enthusiasts at CEU! As we move toward these goals, we will continue to keep our most important resources (you, our members) apprised of our advances and ways to support your museum!

Collections has completed 99% of the 2007 inventory of artifacts and natural history items. The staff worked diligently on this year’s inventory, and Shawna lent Collections two of her interns to help with the Hall of Dinosaurs and the Hall of Man. Greatly appreciated!

Our newest artifact- (the wooden flute on loan from the BLM)- has brought Kathy Kankainen from the Utah Museum of Natural History to photograph and measure said item. She helped in getting details to a conservator, Nancy Odegard from Arizona, so that her visit in March was as productive as possible. Her consultation allows us to proceed with conservation and stabilization. CEU Museum is planning on a Prehistory Week opening for the flute exhibit. Our local flute expert, Elias Perez is making a replica of the flute for display on Family Activity Day, so that all the local and other citizenry may learn and enjoy what we know so far about the flute. With any luck, all things will come together for a great display!
Preparation work continues in the bone lab. It’s nice to have a warm, dry spot indoors to work on these dino bones. Though on those bright, sunny days our thoughts can’t help but drift to plans for this coming dig season and being out of doors at our quarry sites. Progress on the bones collected from last year is slow and steady. We have been focusing mostly on the material from the Therizinosaur and Eolambia sites. Lots of good material. Our collection from these two sites is growing quite impressive. John Bird just catalogued and numbered a variety of small limb bones, proportionately long and delicate, from the bird-like Falcarius utahensis (therizinosaur). I am in the middle of preparation of a quite different bone from that same quarry that is short and very stocky, possibly a femur from a sub-adult of the massively armored and yet to be named Nodosaur. If this is confirmed upon completion of the preparation, this will be our first sub-adult bone for this powerful dinosaur. Remember, as a museum member, we invite you to drop by the bone lab at any time. If you have an hour or so free to explore, come on in and take a look at these rare fossil bones in their various stages of cleaning and reconstruction.

It may be some time before they make it to the museum for display. So, take advantage of your membership and get a preview showing. We have some new preparation equipment at the bone lab, in part thanks to Mr. Jeff Bartlett. Jeff was kind enough to share with us from his personal collection of tools a small, very portable electric grinder equipped with a diamond cutting blade that makes short work of the sandstone blocks that contain some of our best fossils. Literally, five minutes of cutting can save us an hour or two of chipping away with the air scribes. Great fun and great clouds of dust.

Also, on order and hopefully to arrive soon, are two air abrader units (small sand blasters) that will add another dimension to our ability to prepare fossil bones for study or display. To the future, we hope to arrange something with some of Reese Barrick’s students to have access to acid baths, as yet another tool to further our preparation capabilities. All kinds of new possibilities.

There have been lots of warm, sunny days this winter and on one such day last week a CEU student and Utah Friends of Paleontology member led John and me deep into The Swell to share some surface bone that he spotted while poking around the high desert. We are always on the lookout for new quarry sites. It is a great service to the Prehistoric Museum when members and friends of the community guide us to possible new dig sites. We would like to encourage all of our museum members to keep a lookout for fossils any time you are out playing in the desert. Being many extra pairs of eyes is an important part of your relationship with this museum. Ideally, if you own a GPS unit, keep it in your vehicle on any outings to The Swell and you would be able to give an exact location.

Winding down here, I will mention that recently Mike Leschin, manager of the BLM’s Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, invited the staff here at the museum to tour the newly renovated facilities. I am pleased to report that things look very nice there, much needed and deserved improvements. The size of the interpretive building has been doubled. The new half is much taller and provides better lighting and a much more impressive display of their Allosaurus. You now enter through the same doorway, follow the flow of the new exhibits and exit through a new door on the north side of the new expansion. This leads you directly down to the quarry building. That building has all new siding, new skylights and a new door on the long side that allows entry at ground level. All nice improvements. The quarry is open on weekends now and will have its official grand reopening on the 28th of April at 11:00 am and stay open on weekends until Memorial weekend, then the quarry will be open from Memorial weekend through the summer on a daily basis. Call the information desk at 435.613.5744 for directions, information or particulars about the quarry. Have a great spring.

Dem Bones

Field Notes by Bill Heffner

Remember this year’s
Dinosaurs of Utah Symposium
and
Utah Friends of Paleontology
Annual Meeting
Dates: May 17 - 20, 2007
Green River, Utah
Website:
http://www.utahpaleo.org/annual-meeting.html
May Super Saturday

Because of Family Activity Day there will be no Super Saturday in May.

Family Activity Day

This year’s Prehistory Week Family Activity Day will be on May 12th, starting at 10:00 A.M. in the Peace Gardens. Children’s activities this year will include face painting, a rock art wall, clay figurines, splatter painting, beading, paper plate tepee, corn grinding, and story sticks. Prehistory Week exhibitors and vendors will be on hand as well. So mark your calendars and join us for Family Activity Day.

Educator Open House

The Education Department recently held its very first Educator Open House on February 28th. The classroom was set up with displays informing the local educators about what type of school programs the museum has to offer. Thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedules and attended this event!

Volunteer Open House

The Education Department recently held a Volunteer Open House, on March 7th. The classroom was set up with displays informing interested volunteer groups about all the different types of volunteer opportunities available at the Museum. The museum is in need of volunteer groups to help with upcoming events and projects. If you are interested in helping with public events or museum projects, please call Shawna Carroll at 1-435-613-5760.

St. Patrick’s Day Float

The Education Department recently completed a float the St. Patrick’s Day Parade held in Price on Saturday March 17th. The float was a green dinosaur dressed for the occasion, riding in a truck polka-dotted with green shamrocks. The Easter Bunny hitched a ride on the float to help promote the Museum’s upcoming Dino Egg Hunt. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped with the project.

Dino Eggstravaganza

The Annual Dino Egg Hunt was held on March 31st and was a huge success. This year two hunts were held. The Easter Bunny was our special guest. All of the dino egg hunters also participated in other activities, such as, Face Painting, Dino Egg Painting, and Easter coloring activities. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make our event great.
KIDS ONLY

Cenozoic Animals

G P B Z Y D D K Z H Z C R T L
A P A L T O G P T G E N O R O
R J O C N Z U T A N J R S E W
N O I T H R J V U F A X E B E
W R E E D H S I R I W I Y A R
M A S T O D O N K O O S G S I
T I T A N O T H E R E K Y P D
A K I L A B R P B V X P E G R

CALICO THERE
CAVE BEAR
DIRE WOLF
GIANT KANGAROO
GIANT PIG

HORSE
IRISH DEER
MASTODON

SABERTOOTH CAT
TITANOTHERE
WOOLY MAMMOTH

MASTODON'T
RHINOCEROS
Australia or Bust

Australia is a land of the unexpected, within a vast area of amazing natural wealth, beautiful scenery, exotic animals, plants and our Museum Shop Clerk: Christie Downard. The following is an update from Christie on Aussie Land, including some photos.

“My experience in Australia has been a somewhat unconventional internship experience, however, that is what has made it an exceptional growing and learning adventure. ‘Part of the reason I came here was to “wet my feet” for the upcoming Mesozoic Gardens Conservatory. Cairns, my place of residence, is surrounded by a rain forest ecosystem, which will be represented (or featured) in the Mesozoic Gardens. It has been educational to see and explore this first hand. I have also been able to participate in the business planning and construction aspects of the project. After being involved at this level I’m very enthusiastic about the new Museum and Conservatory. On a personal level, I have grown and matured so much. Living and traveling on my own has opened my eyes to all of the amazing things that are in the world, such as the Great Barrier Reef, rainforest, and a variety of exotic animals and plants. I have also met many people from all over the world and have even learned a few “Turkish” words.

It is interesting to learn about different cultures, values, and way of living, which other people have. Although this has been the experience of a lifetime, it will be nice to return to my hometown of Price, San Rafael Swell, dinosaur digs and especially the Museum with anticipation of the soon to be home of “the Mesozoic Garden.”

Gidday – Christie

Gift Shop

New Merchandise
Stop by and check out the newest work of Artist, Joe Venus, which is a hardcover edition featuring “The Art of Joseph S. Venus.” This beautiful book contains 108 pages with eight sections from Prehistoric Fremont Indian Culture to Ice Age, Wildlife and more. Dedicated to the memory of his wife, Shirley Ann Clark Venus. The eight featured sections are: Prehistoric Fremont Indian Culture; Utah Ice Age Animals and People; Wildlife; Native Americans; Explorers of the West; American Cowboys; and a Brief Biography. $59.99

NEW T-Shirts!
Adults $14.99
Youth $12.99
2XL $16.99
Youth “Bite Me!” XS S M L
Navy/Pink/Red/Grey/Light Blue

T-Shirts with Museum Logo
S M L XL 2XL Grey/Pink
Lime/Forest Green/Black

Sweatshirts with Museum Logo
$16.99 2XL $18.99
S M L XL 2XL
Pink/Chocolate Brown/Navy/Black

Dancing In The Cliffs T-Shirts
S M L XL 2XL $16.49
Fallen Phrases
Home of the Utahraptor

Instructions: Use the letters below the columns to fill in the blocks to form a special phrase. Once you use a letter, cross it off.

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Located at 155 East Main Street
Visit us on the web at
http://museum.ceu.edu

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED