From The Director
by Dr. Kenneth Carpenter

It is hard to believe that the year is almost over. Dr. Tim Riley joined the museum team as the Curator of Archaeology, and Claire Bennett as my administrative assistant.

The year has been a very busy, but productive time for the museum. The Utahraptor now greets visitors in the lobby; the kangaroo-stance of the Camptosaurus has been changed into a lumbering four-legged pose; “Al” has been dismantled and is now undergoing cleaning to reveal the hidden bone. Once that is done it will join the Camptosaurus in a new pose in the dino pit. We will then start on the Stegosaurus.

Other exhibit work includes a refurbished Fremont figurine display, featuring the long-lost Pilling figurine, and many other less-flashy figurines from the museum’s collections.

The refreshed exhibit makes the uniqueness of the Pilling figurines more apparent.

The Fremont pithouse was also revamped to give it a more live-in look. A lot of small details have been added, such as dirt swept into the corners and smoke staining on the ladder and pithouse opening.

Lloyd, Tim and I traveled to the Anasazi Heritage Center near Cortez, Colorado, the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding, and the Fremont Indian State Park. The visits gave us ideas for the new museum (such as a walk-through pithouse diorama), as well as for tweaking the archaeological exhibits we already have. One major exhibit now in development is “What Is Archaeology?” This exhibit should be finished in January and will be featured in the next newsletter.

Continued on page 3
Happy New Year from prehistoric Utah! The last three months have been a flurry of activity in the Hall of Archaeology. The month of October started with a Castle Valley Archaeological Society (CVAS) fieldtrip to the Range Creek Archaeological Field Station. This trip was ably led by Alan Green, a former DWR officer for the canyon, and Corrine Springer, the Range Creek site manager. The group enjoyed the rocky ride into Range Creek as well as the spectacular rock art and archaeological sites. Stopping by Burnout Village, a site excavated by Renee Barlow, the former Curator of Archaeology, was a personal highlight.

At the end of October, I made the long haul to Lake Tahoe for the Great Basin Anthropological Conference. This is one of the largest archaeological conferences in the country and the museum was well represented at it. I gave a presentation on coprolite data from the Colorado Plateau, focusing on the identification of common food combinations revealed through cluster analysis. The collections of the museum were also highlighted in a symposium on the Pilling Figurines.

Following the return of the long-missing figurine to Utah State University, Dr. Bonnie Pitblado organized a top-notch team of researchers to analyze and authenticate the returned figurine with the rest of the set. Much of this research was presented at the well-attended symposium. Presenters included two former Curators at the Museum, Pam Miller and Renee Barlow, as well as many other esteemed experts in textiles, ceramic studies and Fremont archaeology. Research topics included the examination of basketry imprints on the figurines, chemical characterization of the clay, interviews with Pilling family members, and an examination of the site of discovery.

The exhibit design team is in the process of creating a “What is Archaeology” exhibit that will be prominently featured in the entryway to the Hall of Archaeology. The exhibit will focus on the story of a Fremont pithouse, from initial excavation through laboratory analysis to a reconstruction of the pithouse. This approach will allow us to highlight how we know what we know about the archaeological past. This exhibit should be in place early next year. This new exhibit has also given us the opportunity to reorganize our life-size pithouse diorama, which is based on the 1936 excavation of Valley Village by John Gilpin. The pithouse diorama will serve as a focal point for associated wall displays exploring Fremont subsistence, social organization, family structure and other aspects of daily life in Nine Mile Canyon.

I have increased my engagement with the student body of USU-Eastern. I had several volunteers from Pam Miller’s museum studies class provide a helping hand with collections. I certainly appreciate their time and effort, as well as that of the other volunteers throughout the community. I have also begun a Museum Studies student organization with several interested students. We hope this club will provide interested students an opportunity to explore the world of museum studies, both here at the Prehistoric Museum as well as with other museums in the area.

Additionally, I have started to host Wednesday evening volunteer sessions at the museum. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum but have trouble fitting time into your busy daily schedule, we would love to see you at the evening sessions!

As many of you know, there was an explosion at the Dry Canyon compressor station in Nine Mile Canyon, part of the ongoing natural gas development of the West Tavaputs Plateau. Thankfully, the two men who were badly burned at the station are both expected to make a full recovery. The station was located very close to both Rasmussen Cave and the Daddy Canyon area of Nine Mile Canyon, two very important archaeological sites in the canyon. Rasmussen Cave is the only excavated site in Nine Mile Canyon with evidence of Archaic hunters and gatherers, while the Daddy Canyon area is one of the densest concentrations of rock art in the entire canyon.

To end on a positive note, I wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2013!
One other area of the museum that underwent a major overhaul was the gift shop. New displays and cases were recently installed. Come on in and browse.

The gift shop has undergone a complete overhaul and is now a thing of beauty! All new slatwall was installed, along with a flat screen television in the book and movie area to preview movies that are for sale.

The big discoveries (literally) of the year are several four foot clams from near Green River. One of these was presented to the USU Geology Department and the other is about to go on display in the museum. Our specimen has a colony of oysters that grew on it; these giant clams provided the only solid surface on a muddy sea floor 80 million years ago.

Field work also included trips to the Lower Cretaceous (132-100 million years ago) Cedar Mountain Formation near Green River, as well as to the Triassic Chinle Formation (228-201 mya). Although some specimens were found, display quality specimens for the new museum still elude us. We had several visitors to our fossil collections, including three students from Japan looking at our Cedar Mountain dinosaurs.

I hope that you are pleased with what the museum has accomplished this past year. Much of this was made possible through your generous donations and membership. Thank you all and watch for more changes next year!

\[Signature\]

From The Director Continued

\[Signature\]

**Gift Shop**

The gift shop has undergone a complete overhaul and is now a thing of beauty! All new slatwall was installed, along with a flat screen television in the book and movie area to preview movies that are for sale.

The shop looks organized and new, something that it has needed for some time now. You should make a point to stop by and check it out. The transformation is quite striking.

While you are here, you will be able to see the beautiful new pottery. These are fabulous pieces. They are Indian Hand Painted from Cedar Mesa Pottery. There are three styles to choose from, plus we have great pit fired pieces by Blaine Atwood.

We hope to see you soon.

**Memberships**

The annual Membership Appreciation Dinner was held at the Tuscan Restaurant on December 14, 2012. The event was well-attended in spite of the snow that fell outside. Members and staff that came were treated to delicious food and were fortunate to hear Dr. Kenneth Carpenter’s presentation about the museum’s accomplishments and future goals. He even showed some of the master plan for the new proposed museum to the members, showing several potential exhibit ideas. It was wonderful to get the chance to meet some of the members.

The holiday season abounded on Saturday for the museum’s Cretaceous Christmas event on December 15th. Many people took advantage to see the museum with free entry. Those in attendance were also entertained with crafts, performances from the Carbon High School Jazz Choir and the Lazlos Brothers Band, and an appearance by Santa Claus. Military families also participated in Operation Teddy Bear, and organization that donates teddy bears to families that are being deployed. All-in-all, it was quite a fun day.

The museum was fortunate to have two new Allosaurus-level memberships. Thank you to the Benson and Leschin families for their support of the museum at this very generous level. We also had one non-profit membership. Thanks to Price City for your support of the museum.

For information about museum membership, contact Claire Bennett, claire.bennett@usu.edu, or (435) 613-5755.
Another year has passed and since you are reading this, the “End of the World” must not have happened. We had another productive year in the field. The field crew found some crinoids in the Mancos, among other fun stuff, including some very big clams. A fish was found in one of the clams. That was fun.

We explored more of the Chinle and Moenkopi formations and we spent time at the Suarez site, excavating more fossil bone. The weather has been good and the museum is fortunate to have great volunteers that help us in the field (and at the museum). Thank you for all your help. I hope the new year brings each of you good health and good fortune so you can return and we will have the pleasure of your company and you can help us find more treasures of the earths past.

For the past couple months I have been working on a clam for museum display. Ralph, Casey and I excavated this clam last August. We found it near Green River, Utah. In October I was able to start the cleaning process to expose the oysters and other details on the shell. I used dental picks, small brushes and other small tools. The process was slow.

This is the clam at the beginning of the cleaning process. As you can see, it is difficult to make out that the clam is even there. It takes a trained eye to spot these in the field.

Here the clam begins to surface and is much more noticeable. It definitely looks like a clam now, although there is still much work to do.

The good part is that I was working in the center area of the museum on the paleo side. I was able to talk with the visitors and answer their questions. Many of them were impressed with the personal attention they received from me and Lloyd and the rest of our staff.

The clam is now finished and Lloyd is framing it, preparing it to be mounted. This should be done before Christmas. I am now working on the remount of the allosaur. Come in and check on our progress.

Casey Dooms, who has helped me for a few years, both as a volunteer and later as my assistant is leaving the museum to pursue his education. Casey has a knack for finding fossils and has been an asset to the museum both in the field and the lab. He will be missed, but we do wish him the best of luck.

John
Greetings. A lot has been going in the exhibits realm since the last newsletter.

A new Living Fossil exhibit, titled Armored Survivors, features the gar. These fish with ganoid scales, and a swim bladder that can function as a primitive lung, have been around since the Cretaceous and are well known to fishermen in the southeastern US today. This exhibit may be seen near the alligator tank.

The Green River Formation, Crocodiles and Alligators exhibit, on the second floor of the Paleontology Hall, has been given a face-lift and new text labels have been added. This was part of a much larger, long term, ongoing project to remove the sand from the bottoms of all the display cases in the museum. This sand removal (and lining the cases with cloth-covered panels) will produce a cleaner look to the exhibits as well as reduce dust and abrasion on our valuable specimens. This project is off to a good start with the small, freestanding cases in the Paleontology Hall now free of sand.

Our giant clam, over four feet in diameter, is nearly ready to go on display in the Paleontology Hall. This spectacular specimen came from near Green River, Emery County, Utah. Unfortunately, we can’t claim the largest clam ever found – this same species has been found just over the state line in Colorado with some individuals ten feet in diameter, making ours an overgrown sprat (that’s science speak for a juvenile shellfish). Be sure to stop by and take a look at this great fossil the next time you are at the museum.

The Temporary Exhibit Gallery has not escaped attention. I have constructed large, freestanding panel pairs, covered with fabric, to go around the gallery, increasing the visual interest of the space as well as increasing the available space to hang exhibits by about 20%. This additional space will come in handy in late February when we have our annual Community Art Show. This year we are opening the show up to all Utah artists east of the Wasatch Front and combining our traditional art and photography shows into one large show. Show dates are from February 23 through May 10, 2013. Watch for submission information in the not too distant future.

Opening to the public January 10, and running through February 15, 2013, is the Traveling Exhibition of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. Scientific Illustrations are illustrations to be published or otherwise utilized to assist scientists in communicating with others, thus they must be accurate depictions of the original material. One aspect of scientific illustration familiar to nearly everyone is the two or three dimension reconstruction of extinct organisms. From textbooks to National Geographic, and television to the big screen blockbusters such as Jurassic Park, scientific illustrations touch and enrich all of our lives.

Scientific illustration is a subject near and dear to my heart. I joined the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNSI) in 1977, served as corresponding secretary of this international organization from 1978 to 1984, watching it grow from nearly 260 members when I joined to a membership of nearly 1100 members. I also served as education chairman of GNSI from 1984 to 1993. I began teaching workshops in scientific illustration at the University of Georgia (UGA) in 1979, designed and implemented classes, and served as the UGA Scientific Illustration Area Chairman from 1984 to 1993, teaching six different classes and leading the program to a number one ranking in the US in less than 4 years. While I taught at Georgia, nearly 7% of all students entering graduate school programs for Medical Illustration in the US, were graduates of the UGA scientific illustration program.

I have been in contact with several of my former students to see if I could borrow some illustrations to accompany the traveling exhibit. I am pleased to say that several have agreed to send me some of their student illustrations and possibly some of their current illustrations. I may be able to get some current student work from UGA. One of my former students is now the Chairman of the Scientific Illustration Area.
Prehistoric Museum
155 East Main Street
Price, Utah 84501
Visit us on the web at
http://museum.ceu.edu

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED