From the Director
By Dr. Ken Carpenter

Changes continue to happen in the museum staff. Shai (pronounced “Shay”) Reiswig has joined the staff, taking over for Claire, who is now in Seattle. Please welcome Shai when you stop by the museum. She is a great asset and we are glad to have her. Katy Corneli has joined us as the temporary collections manager. Katy has finished the inventory of the paleontology collections and is now documenting the location for each fossil to make it easier to locate specimens. She was helped tremendously by some volunteers from Denver. Finally, our newest employee, Sandra Budd will be joining us as the head of exhibits. We stole her from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh, PA). Her first project will be the Five Kivas cliff dwelling diorama that Lloyd and I rescued from the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake a couple of years ago.

Until Sandra gets here, I’ll continue working on exhibits about geologic time and on Utah’s first residents (about 1 billion years old). I had hoped to finish by the end of August, but too many other things occupied my time. As most of you know, we continue trying to get a new museum so that we can unite the exhibits and collections under one roof. We had sought the now empty Kmart building, but unfortunately other businesses also have an interest. We will keep up the search.

“Cocktails with Curators” is a new feature being offered to our premier members at the Allosaurus and Utahraptor levels. These events will give members exclusive interaction with the curators, including their latest on-going research. If you are not at the premier membership levels, we hope you will consider it in the future.

My popular (non-technical) book Acrocanthosaurus: Inside and Out was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. This glossy, all colored book uses this carnivorous dinosaur to explain how paleontologists know what they know (or infer) about dinosaurs.

I personally thank all of our members for supporting the museum and hope to see you all at the Member’s Appreciation Dinner on December 2. Remember to RSVP to Shai.

ACROCANTHOSAURUS
INSIDE AND OUT
KENNETH CARPENTER
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Greetings from the Hall of Archaeology! Monsoon season is running late this year and the high desert looks stunning clothed in fall wildflowers. Thankfully, the water has not significantly hampered our fieldwork out at the Martinez Pithouse site near East Carbon. Working with a student intern and several volunteers, we have learned quite a bit about the construction and collapse of this structure and are starting to explore the living space used by a Fremont family a thousand years ago. The burnt and collapsed structure has been removed in several units, exposing a bright red surface prepared as a floor by the occupants of this house. We will continue to expand out and explore this floor until the snow flies. The artifact assemblage on the floor is quite different from that found across the very large surface of the site. The outside areas of the site have lots of broken pottery, chipped flakes of stone from making stone tools, and broken and discarded grinding stones. The interior of the home has yielded complete stone tools such as arrowheads and knives, bone awls, slate and bone beads and the bone gaming piece pictured on the right. Very little artifactual material was found interspersed with the daub, wood, and plaster remnants of the structure itself. As we expand the excavation across the floor of the house, the data will provide a snapshot of the family of Fremont people who called this place their home. This household archaeology will be presented at the Society for American Archaeology conference this coming spring.

In early October, my intern and I participated in the Great Basin Anthropological Conference out in Reno, NV. Our presentation situated the Martinez Pithouse in the larger Fremont community dispersed along the upper Grassy Trail Creek. It was interesting to think about this site from a larger landscape point of view and great to see my student intern participate at a professional conference and network with so many excellent archaeologists.

**Artifact of the Quarter**

Finally, I would like to introduce a new feature to this column. Each newsletter I will feature an artifact in the museum’s collections. For the inaugural artifact, I chose a bone gaming piece recently excavated at the Martinez Pithouse site. While archaeologists call these small polished and decorated bones gaming pieces, there may have been other uses for these such as counters, ritual objects, or even specialized scraping tools. Archaeologists identify them as gaming pieces based on their similarity to the markers used in several ethnographically documented games. They are fairly common in household contexts from both Fremont and Ancestral Pueblo sites. This one is fairly weathered, but the parallel lines along the margins are clearly visible. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming member’s appreciation dinner in December.
Hello from our storage areas. My name is Katy Corneli and I am the new Collections Manager here at the museum. So far I love my new job. It is a change of pace for me, having come from Jamestown, Virginia, but I love the desert and I really “dig” dinosaurs and Southwestern archaeology, so I couldn’t be happier.

The Prehistoric Museum has a vast and incredible collection of paleontological specimens and archaeological artifacts. As with most museums, the majority of the collection is in storage and, as is often the case with museums that have been around for a long time, the storage area could use a little tidying. My first task therefore has been to organize and inventory the Paleontological collection. That’s no small task but I had some real help in September when volunteers from the Western Interior Paleontological Society in Colorado came all the way to Price to help!

There is plenty more to do and we are always looking for volunteers. If you like getting up close and personal with fossils and artifacts and can donate a few hours of your time every week or even every month we would love to have you as a volunteer. Perks include, but are not limited to, seeing parts of the collection no one else gets to see, access to cheap soda in the break room, and of course, working with some fun, cool people! Volunteer work also looks great on a resume. Please contact me at k.corneli@aggiemail.utah.edu if you are interested.

Volunteers Barbra and Tom identifying fossils, and Fred entering specimens into the database. Bob is holding one of the Specimens to be entered.
Gift Shop
By Jennifer Shorthill

Come visit the Museum and stop by the gift shop. Meet our friendly gift shop clerks, Caitlin, Taylor and Betzy. They are here to help you and provide excellent customer service. We have some new products that will be coming soon and we have made some changes, too. Come on in and check it out!! There are great times to be had at the Prehistoric Museum!!!
I see dead things....  
by Dave Alderks

The past three months have been a roller coaster ride here with many new projects being started. Several new specimens were collected from the field. The wet weather we have had has toyed with me, and my streak of never getting rained out of field work came to an end this summer, but we have needed the moisture. I have, however, been able to finish collecting the Plesiosaur from Eastern Utah. Crynoids, bryazoans, and brachiopods have also been collected for a new exhibit. A theropod discovered near Price last field season was collected between storms.

The main project I have been working on is the Dimetrodon skeleton for a remake of the Dimetrodon exhibit. I have been sculpting the left side of the skeleton so the two dimensional exhibit will become a 3-D exhibit. With this project I joke that I have become a foot surgeon, a back surgeon, and a general surgeon. I have constructed new feet, the left side of the spine, new ribs, and new limb bones. I am currently assembling the skeleton in a life-like pose with the Dimetrodon running towards the visitor with its mouth open roaring at you. It should be a great new pose for this exhibit.

The second large project that I have been working on is the preparing of several trilobites that have been collected this year from the Western Desert of Utah. Several nice specimens of Elrathia kingi, Peronopsis interstricta, and Asaphiscus wheeleri, have been prepared and identified. There are several more boxes of trilobites to be prepared.

I am also looking forward to meeting you all this coming December for the member’s appreciation dinner. I will also be preparing these specimens once they have been collected. If you would like to participate, then please contact me at: dave.alderks@usu.edu or call 435. 613. 5756.
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