

CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY &

CONNECTICUT ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER



2007

ANNUAL

REPORT

OUR MISSION

The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center serve the University of Connecticut and the public by promoting an understanding and appreciation of our natural and cultural world, especially as related to New England.

Within the mission, the Museum's fundamental goals are to acquire and preserve collections and to use collections, exhibits, and programs:

- To cultivate an interest about natural history among the citizens of Connecticut.
- To communicate the significance and vulnerability of archaeological and natural resources.
- To enhance University learning, teaching, and research.
- To enrich elementary and secondary education.
- To acquire and present knowledge about the natural and cultural history of Connecticut and New England.
- To showcase the academic resources of the University of Connecticut and provide a public connection to them.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

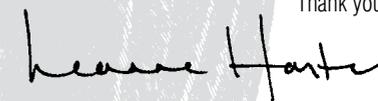
Dear Friends,

The creation of a Natural History Museum at UConn dates back to the 1880s, when then-faculty member and future president Benjamin Koons established and maintained collections in the Old Main Building. One hundred years later, Carl Rettenmeyer founded the State Museum of Natural History at UConn, which was officially established by state legislation in 1985. The Museum occupied several temporary locations on campus until 2000 when we settled in our first permanent home on Hillside Road, the historic Apple Sales Building. Having our own space allowed for the creation of administrative offices and a small new exhibit area in the building's first floor.

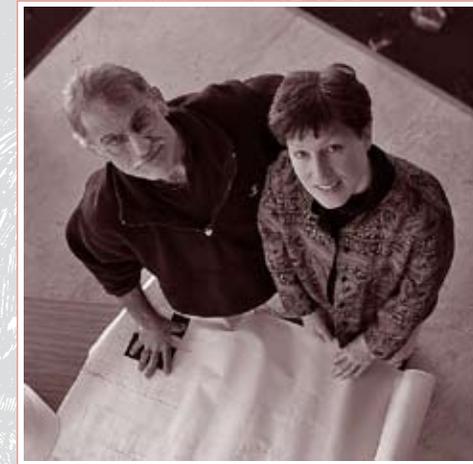
The creation of the Connecticut Archaeology Center in 2004 expanded the Museum's role on campus and in the community, and in the summer of 2006, the renovation of our building's second floor began. A successful partnership between private donors and public funding through the UConn 21st Century program, this expansion created permanent public programming and exhibit space for the first time in the Museum's history. Additional private donations and grants made the Museum's wonderful new permanent exhibits possible and we reopened in April of 2007 with a new slate of programs and gratifying public support.

2007 will be remembered as a hallmark year for the Museum and Archaeology Center, made possible by our wonderful members, donors and friends. Your generosity and ongoing commitment has made all the difference. With Bill Morlock, our tireless Board Chairman, and steady support from the UConn College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we have together turned challenges into opportunities and looked ahead to envision future goals.

Thank you!



Leanne Harty
Director



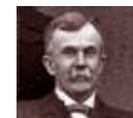
Museum Director Leanne Harty
with State Archaeologist
Nick Bellantoni.

A MUSEUM TIMELINE

More Than 125 Years in the Making



1880
Charles & Augustus Storrs offer the State of Connecticut 170 acres of farmland to establish an agricultural school for boys.



1881
Benjamin Koons, faculty member and future president of the school, establishes the natural history collection.

HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UConn, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History shares an important academic tradition. This tradition is founded not only on passing knowledge to future generations, but also on applying this knowledge to solve problems and improve the quality of people's lives. The University of Connecticut is on the forefront of teaching and research in the sciences and humanities, and having direct access to University resources is one of the Museum's greatest assets. Museum programs and exhibits explore the dynamic relationships between nature and culture through time, sharing University research and scholarship with visitors of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum fosters the University's commitment to lifelong learning by creating opportunities for diverse audiences to acquire new knowledge, develop critical thinking skills, and gain broader perspectives on issues that effect their communities, their world, and their lives.

This year saw the opening of permanent exhibit space and dedicated classrooms for the first time in the Museum's 25-year history. This effort was the culmination of over three years of planning and fundraising to renovate the Museum's second floor, and over two years of planning and production to create the new permanent exhibits.

The Museum worked with architects, UConn Architecture and Engineering, UConn Facilities, and contractors to ensure the renovations met institutional needs, were completed on budget and on schedule to provide classrooms for programming in February and to have the exhibit in place for the Museum's April reopening.

Over 200 members and friends attended a public open house to celebrate the completion of second floor renovations and the exhibit opening of *Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment*. The Museum's new permanent exhibit tells a story that integrates Connecticut's natural history with its cultural history. Through the exhibit and related programming, the Museum and Archaeology Center help visitors explore how the natural history of southern New England has shaped, and continues to shape, the lives of the people who live here—and how people, in turn, reshape the environment.

The Museum continues to work with many of its traditional partners—geologists, climatologists, conservation biologists, archaeologists—while bringing new voices into the fold, including sociologists, agricultural and industrial historians, historic preser-

vationists, the medical and business communities, and representatives of Connecticut's Native American tribes. This multidisciplinary approach more accurately expresses how the sciences are practiced today. The educational objective of this approach is to create a context for understanding natural history and archaeology that authentically connects to people's lives. It also helps the Museum reach out to new audiences, develop new avenues for fundraising, and better support the diverse work of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and

the broader University community. As the Museum celebrated the second floor opening, a significant financial gift this year also allowed us to begin the next chapter in the institution's future. The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center will benefit greatly from a transformational \$1-million private gift made by Mrs. Julia B. Budney. The current and deferred gift support will be used to promote educational programs as well as the design and construction of the next phase of the Museum's renovations. It also includes support for the Henry S. Budney Natural History Collection, comprising more than 100 vertebrate specimens and assorted ethnographic items collected by Mrs. Budney's late husband, and contributed by his estate. Mrs. Budney's gift will also help the Museum move forward more quickly on the next phase of facility expansion, construction of permanent collections, laboratory and library space.

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1913
The most complete mastodon found in New England is uncovered in Farmington, CT. In 1988 it came to the Museum of Natural History.



1916
The "Museum Room" is open to the public in the Old Main Building at the heart of campus.



1923
The "Apple Sales Building," future home of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, is built.



1939
What was once the Connecticut Agricultural College becomes the University of Connecticut.



1939
The College of Arts and Sciences is established as one of seven divisions of the newly named University.



1940
The Wilber Cross Building opens as the University's library.

EDUCATION

Through campus programs, community involvement, and outreach activities, the Museum served more than 80,000 people this year. Program highlights and an accounting of participation follows.

Campus Public Programs & Events This year the Museum presented over 80 advertised public programs. Three seasonal program brochures promoted these opportunities which included family activities and field workshops, day trips, summer camps, lectures and special events.

Lectures, workshops and classes have long been the foundation of the Museum's public programming, and new topics and activities have been met with enthusiastic participation by long-time Museum patrons and new friends. From the Ancient Technologies hands-on family workshops to lectures on diverse topics for adults and UConn students, a growing variety of programs continues to be offered. In addition to presenters from the Museum and Center's "home" departments of Anthropology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, lecture and workshop presenters included individuals from several other UConn Departments and the following: National Undersea Research Center, The Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc., Connecticut Valley Mycological Society, The Mohegan Tribe Historic Preservation Department, National Parks Service, Yale University, Watkinson School, Mansfield Historical Society, Institute for American Indian Studies, and the Public Archaeology Lab.

UConn undergraduate student attendance at public programs continued to grow this year, as the Museum worked to expand promotion and involvement of that population. University student participation highlighted the 3rd Annual Connecticut Archaeology Expo, where undergraduate and graduate students were active as volunteers, exhibitors and visitors. Over 300 people attended the fall event held in the Rome Ballroom. Children and adults enjoyed activities and exhibits from 24 institutions and organizations with

69 total event staff/volunteers, three guest lecturers, and 15 student volunteers. Activities throughout Archaeology Month are scheduled and coordinated jointly by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Museum of Natural History. This collaborative effort has expanded as we develop new and engaging public activities as a part of the statewide Archaeology Month of October.

The Museum and Archaeology Center expanded the successful archaeology summer day camps this year at the site of an authentic archaeological excavation on the UConn campus. The site, selected in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the State Historic Preservation Office in 2004, has been an ongoing archaeological investigation under the supervision of UConn archaeologists. This year an advanced session of camp was added for those who had participated in previous sessions. The advanced camp featured special topic presenters from UConn and from other organizations. A selection of the artifacts recovered by the children has been exhibited in the Museum of Natural History and at the Archaeology Expo, and subsequent excavations will update that portable exhibit.

The Museum's small first floor gathering area was necessarily closed to visitors for much of the year due to building renovations. Special school group programs were relocated elsewhere during that period as Museum staff utilized the Student Union and other campus locations for Museum programs. The largest of these programs was a group of 52 students from the Pomfret Schools who attended Museum presentations in a meeting room at the new Student Union.

After completion of the Museum's renovation and opening of the new permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature*, on April 29th, school group visits began. On May 4th a group of forty eighth grade students from the Great Explorations junior high school enrichment program at the UConn Health Center was the Museum's first school group to visit the new exhibit. The Museum's expanded group visit options include guided tours of the exhibit, showing Museum-related videos,



such as National Geographic's "BioBlitz!", and the option of a classroom-based activity in addition to touring the exhibit. In June, all fourth grade classes from the Chaplin Schools visited the Museum's new exhibit and participated in an accompanying workshop, "Shoebbox Archaeology", which took place in the Museum's new adjoining classroom space.

Since the Museum's reopening in April, nearly 700 individuals have visited the Museum, and the response to *Human's Nature* has been overwhelmingly positive. Preliminary evaluation indicates that visitors find the information new, interesting, thought provoking and useful.

Outreach Once again, the Museum and Archaeology Center co-sponsored the annual meeting of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology featuring a special lecture by Dr. Douglas Scott of the National Parks Service. A near-capacity crowd of three hundred individuals attended this lecture on the archaeology of Little Bighorn held at Glastonbury Middle School on January 27th.



This year the Museum of Natural History collaborated with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to produce the 7th Connecticut State BioBlitz in Middletown, June 8th and 9th. Professor David Wagner, Co-Director of the Center for Conservation and Biodiversity and Museum Board Member, again took the lead in coordinating the event with the Museum. Working with Wilbert Snow School, the Middletown Public Schools and Wesleyan University, the event had participation from over 200 scientists, surveyors and volunteers. Forty middleschool students from across the state participated as Junior Surveyors and had unique 24-hour mentor experiences with selected participating scientists. There was wide promotion in the schools and strong local media coverage, including radio appearances by Professor Wagner, which supported the public attendance of over 600 at the event. Notable new components this year were a teachers forum with a keynote address by Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of Connecticut Depart-

ment of Environmental Protection, and a new survey component made possible by the CLAS Center for Applied Genetics and Research. Associate Professor Kenneth Noll and his team for the first time identified bacteria from the area's water and soil—adding over 40,000 different (unique ribosomal 16S) "species" to the tally. Plans for future BioBlitz events include similar school partnerships, teacher components and bacteria analysis.

The Museum and Archaeology Center provide a wide variety of outreach programs designed to meet the needs of schools and organizations throughout the State of Connecticut. These programs are often not publicized, but are special outreach activities that range from small group presentations in local schools to larger organized events. New programs are continually being developed that align with the needs of schools and communities.

There were many requests for Museum programs on Connecticut bats this year. Museum staff presentations ranged from a family hands-on program for 30 individuals at the Tolland Public Library in February and to a large school assembly program for 330 students at the Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School in Plainville in June.

The Archaeology Center and Office of State Archaeology presented programs to groups all across the region this year. Middle School presentations are especially popular, due to curriculum frameworks, and assembly-style programs on "The Science of Archaeology" were presented in numerous schools across the state including Ridgefield Middle School, Highland Middle School in Cheshire, Woodstock Middle School, Johnson Middle School in Colchester, Branford Middle School, and McKee Middle School in Berlin. Many presentations on state and local archaeology were made to local historical societies and various special interest groups. These included the Trumbull Historical Society, First Descendants Society in Middletown, Greenwich Women's Club, the Y Men's Club of Westport, the Indian and Colonial Research Center in Old Mystic, and the Fairfield Historical Society.

The State Archaeologist is often asked to speak

at other museums, colleges and universities. This year special topic presentations were made at the Yale Peabody Museum, Connecticut College in New London, and Havre de Grace Maritime Museum in Havre de Grace, Maryland as well as UConn-based presentations made at the Bishop Center, School of Nursing, and the Chemistry Department.

Partnership Efforts The Museum collaborated with the Babbidge Library and the Dodd Research Center on an exhibit of Native American Art, which was in place from June through August of 2006. The Museum loaned artifacts from the anthropology collections for inclusion in the exhibit, and acted as advisors and curators on the project. In December, the Museum again collaborated with the Babbidge Library on an exhibit of butterflies and moths, featuring specimens from the Carpenter Collection. Numerous butterfly and moth specimens were included in the exhibit, which opened in January and was in place through March 2007.



In response to a request for input from the Mohegan Tribe's Museum Department, Museum staff worked with the Mohegan's new collections and museum staff to help train and prepare them for management and conservation of their collections in the Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville. After touring CSMNH's collections facilities and learning about options for collections care and management, Museum staff traveled to the Tantaquidgeon Museum to help assess the condition of their specimens, discuss pest infestation control measures and provide further recommendations for conservation of their materials. The Museum was also able to provide recommendations of more formal classes in archiving and conservation to the Mohegan staff.

The Museum began working with the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society this year to develop plans for a continuing series of co-sponsored programs at their historic home facilities. The first of these was held in the summer of 2007, at the Nathan Hale Homestead.

Exhibits & Publications As much of the conceptual planning for the new permanent exhibit was accomplished in the previous year, 2006 was dedicated to exhibit production. In order to keep costs down, the Museum produced almost the entire exhibit in-house. This involved storyboarding narratives, scouting locations and setting up video shots, working with UConn faculty to research, write, and edit the exhibit text, designing panel layouts, printing and laminating graphics, fabricating exhibit walls and furniture, conserving and mounting artifacts, and installing all exhibit components, including multi-media equipment. The two primary benefits of this approach were that the Museum maintained control over all content and storyline, and produced a highly professional exhibit for hundreds of thousands of dollars less than would normally be possible.

Human's Nature: Looking Closer at the Relationships between People and the Environment tells a story that integrates Connecticut's natural history with its cultural history. In the exhibit, visitors explore how the natural history of southern New England has shaped, and continues to shape, the lives of the people who live here—and how people, in turn, reshape the environment.

The Museum's broader approach to understanding natural history was also seen in many of its print pieces this year. Topics for this year's newsletters included the article *Uncovering a Life*, which documented the efforts of African American historians, archaeologists and geneticists working together to better understand the life of Venture Smith, and *A Subtle Reflection of Place*, which explores how Connecticut's geology shapes our cultural history. This year also saw the reintroduction of the Connecticut Archaeology Awareness Month poster, which was distributed to thousands of people statewide. The poster and accompanying material examined sport artifacts from the past to the present, and how material culture reflects changing cultural themes over time.



1940s
Plans for a new Alumni-Student Union are developed, including a wing for a Natural History Museum. The project never comes to full fruition.



1963
The Norris Bull collection of over 10,000 Connecticut Native American artifacts is donated to the University of Connecticut.



1982
Professor Dr. Carl Rettenmeyer approaches the University's Board of Trustees to establish a museum of natural history.



1982
Dr. Rettenmeyer becomes the first Director of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.



1983
The Museum establishes a General Endowment.



1983
A 15-foot great white shark, captured off the end of Long Island, is donated to the Museum.

World Wide Web There has been a steady increase in the use of Museum websites since 2004, when the new Connecticut Archaeology Center website went live. The Archaeology Center site interconnects with the Museum of Natural History website, and both have grown considerably since their initial design. The sites together create a professional and engaging face for the Museum—and more importantly, serve as useful tools for many different populations. With little site promotion, use has grown to an average of over 2,400 visitors per month. Aside from the home pages, the most popular destinations are the Museum's current calendar page, current exhibits page and the anthropological collections pages.

The Museum designed and maintains two additional sites—BioBlitz, which was recently redesigned, and Underwater Archaeology. The Underwater Archaeology site is primarily an educational tool for recreational divers. Considering the narrow audience, it is notable that the site gets an average of 200 visitors per month. The Stone Wall Initiative website can also be found on the larger Museum site. Originally designed by students in the Teachers for a New Era program, this site receives frequent updates from Robert Thorson, Professor of Geology, and receives hundreds of visits each month from individuals across the country seeking information on stone walls and their preservation.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING	
Workshops, Camps & Trips	....470
Lectures	.....688
Meetings & Events	.....750
Total	.....1,908
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	
Small Group	.....955
Community Events	.....42,700
Total	.....43,655
EXHIBITS	
Exhibits	.....1,484
Collections on Public View	....41,400
Total	.....42,884
Total Attendance	.....88,447

2007 ATTENDANCE

COLLECTIONS & LOANS

It has been an exciting year for the Collections Department. On August 22nd, the Museum and Archaeology Center received a unique collection of Central and South American masks and other ethnographic materials, donated by Eva Vavrousek Jakuba of West Hartford that is valued at \$20,520. These unique specimens were donated by Mrs. Jakuba for educational use. Because these materials can be considered an art collection as well as an ethnographic one, the Museum anticipates collaborating with several different departments within the University for the use and display of these objects.

On November 6th, the Museum received a substantial collection of taxidermy mounts and other natural history specimens from the collection of Henry S. Budney of Newington, donated by the Budney family, which is valued at \$274,590. These extraordinary specimens were donated by the Budney family for educational use. The Museum currently has an adult black bear permanently on display in the lobby and will be collaborating with departments within the University and expanding use of these mounts as classroom materials, and in future exhibits.

Small donations to Museum collections occur quite frequently: On November 21st, for example, the Museum received the donation of an antique Spencer medical microscope. This item was donated by Lottie Haller of Mansfield. Mrs. Haller's husband, Kurt Haller, was a renowned Professor Emeritus of Physics at UConn.

The Museum receives many questions from the public about natural history, artifacts, or specimens they have found, or about potential archaeology sites. The Museum staff, if unable to answer the query directly, uses the excellent academic resources of the University in order to give the public accurate information.

Through formal loans, artifacts and biological collection materials are frequently utilized by other institutions, creating a Museum presence in numerous locations across the state. Seventy objects from the Anthropological Collections at UConn are on permanent loan to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, and are featured in exhibits throughout the facility with appropriate acknowledgements.

The artifacts were selected for exhibit prior to the opening of the Museum and Research Center in 1998, and many thousands of visitors have had their learning experience enhanced as a result of this loan.

Museum of Natural History collection materials are exhibited by numerous organizations across the state. For example, the Museum provided photographs and information on the Ash House excavation by the Office of State Archaeology to the Mansfield Historical Society for their exhibit on that historic house this year. Trowbridge Nature Center rents mounted bird and mammal specimens for their changing seasonal exhibits three times each year. In addition, the Kellogg Nature Center exhibits specimens and photographs, which are on loan from the Museum.



1985
The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History is officially established by the Connecticut State Legislature.

1985
The Museum opens its doors to the public in the Wilbur Cross Building.

1985
The A.J. Carpenter Collection of butterflies is accepted by the Museum.

1987
The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) is established by the Connecticut State Legislature, as a part of the Museum of Natural History.

1988
The Museum accepts the Rex Brasher collection of bird paintings.

1992
The Barnum/Secor anthropology collection of over 18,000 artifacts is transferred to the Museum.

RESEARCH, PRESERVATION & ACADEMICS

The Office of State Archaeology The workload of the State Archaeologist continues to be staggering. State legislation has established numerous areas of responsibility for the Office of Archaeology (OSA), and as economic development projects increase in the state, the volume of work associated with each of the following duties has increased. Duties of the State Archaeologist include:

- Oversight of in situ preservation, archaeological excavation, or reburial of Native American human remains uncovered by any ground disturbance
- Curatorial oversight of over 600,000 artifacts repositied at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History
- Oversight of an inventory of Native American cemeteries, and preservation of other human remains and cemeteries
- Acting on recommendations made by the Native American Heritage Advisory Council
- Providing recommendations on proposed State Archaeological Preserves, and serving on the River Protection Advisory Committee
- Archaeological salvage of properties threatened with destruction
- Public and private research of "the highest possible standards in archaeological investigations"
- Publication and dissemination of information about the ethnohistory of the region, and answering inquiries about the state's archaeological resources
- Maintaining comprehensive site files and maps (more than 5,000 records)
- Membership on the Historic Preservation Council, which advises the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

In fulfilling these duties, State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni managed nearly 20 field excavations in the past year. Notable among these were the high-profile Venture Smith family burial excavation at the First Church of Christ Cemetery in East Haddam, CT. The Office worked as part of an interdisciplinary team to find anthropological artifacts, examine Venture's own narrative and historical documents, and discover genomic information to analyze DNA



of Venture and his family. This ongoing project was the subject of a conference at UConn and numerous presentations and papers. Also notable this year was a highly-publicized forensic investigation in Manchester, CT. As part of an unsolved murder investigation, the Office of State Archaeology was called upon to excavate a site located beneath a residential garage, where a body was allegedly buried. The OSA worked with the State Medical Examiner's Office and the Henry Lee Institute of Forensic Science in September to investigate and determine whether or not the body was buried in this location.

The State Archaeologist's research into New England vampire folk belief continues to be a popular topic for television. This was featured in one full episode of

a new National Geographic Channel series *Is it Real?* National Geographic originally aired *Vampires: Is it Real?* in October of 2006 to coincide with Halloween. The one-hour episode continues to be shown on the National Geographic Channel. This was the second program produced for National Geographic on this subject since 2004.

Charged with reviewing all proposals for construction and modification of land where archaeological sites may be located in Connecticut, the State Archaeologist conducted approximately 100 field reviews and site meetings in communities through April of this year. In addition, the OSA evaluated over 200 project proposals for state municipalities during that period using site files and other reference materials. OSA logged over 20,000 miles in travel this year.

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. (FOSA) is the volunteer organization that assists the State Archaeologist in field work and routine laboratory activities. The organization has over 100 dues-paying members, and contributed over 4,000 hours of their time in support activities. Approximately 20% of these individuals serve as the Office of State Archaeology crew for field excavation, and also provide staff support in the Lab/Office on Horsebarn Hill. Leanne Harty works closely with FOSA President Roger Thompson to sup-

port major goals for the organization each year. FOSA secured a grant through the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor in 2006 to support the Museum's new exhibit. 2007 goals focused on providing assistance to the State Archaeologist with routine research and reports for development projects. A few FOSA members have been specially trained in this area, and a protocol has been established. This spring the new assisted review process is being tested, with very positive results. By doing the up-front work of finding paper site files and noting known sites, the FOSA volunteers will help save the State Archaeologist considerable time going through files and gathering relevant info, and allow him to focus more energy on the decision-making process and process requests more quickly.

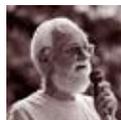
The Office of State Archaeology provides a wide variety of public education services. This year Dr. Bellantoni made over 40 public and academic presentations, reaching over 2,500 people in municipalities across the state. Requests to the OSA for professional training in forensics and other topics have increased, and the Museum has developed a plan to offer more formal workshops to professionals in relevant topics at the Connecticut Archaeology Center. Much of the State Archaeologist's travel is for the purpose of municipal visits to provide education and information



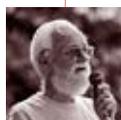
for local officials. By providing these services at a central location, to groups of professionals in need of similar training, we hope to maximize the State Archaeologist's time and reduce statewide travel for this purpose.

The State Archaeologist is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at UConn, and had three students in Investigation of Special Topics (ANTHRO 299) this year. Dr. Bellantoni had two papers published on the life and work of Douglas Jordan: the first in *The Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* (2006). Vol. 67(2), pp. 74-75, and the second in *The Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* (2006), Vol. 65, pp. 4-5.

Stone Wall Initiative Dr. Robert Thorson was on sabbatical this year, but the public education component of the Stone Wall Initiative (SWI) remained active. The SWI provides resources and guidance to the general public and interested professionals regarding stone walls via the web and in-person at the Horsebarn Hill location. The SWI maintains growing site files for the New England states, a reference collection of books and articles on stone walls, a reference collection of stones to help visitors identify stone composition, as well as geological maps (bedrock and surficial) for all states.



1996
Dr. Carl Rettenmeyer retires as the Director of the Museum. Jan Taigen is appointed Interim Director.



1997
Volunteers establish the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) to support the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology.



1998
The Museum becomes a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



1998
Dr. Ellen Censky is hired as Director of the Museum.



1999
The Museum conducts Connecticut's first state BioBlitz in Keney Park, Hartford.



1999
Due to UConn 2000 renovations, the Museum closes its public exhibit space in the Wilbur Cross Building.

VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERSHIP, PUBLIC INFORMATION & MARKETING

10

Volunteers are a vital part of the Museum's efforts to engage the public—providing innovative programming and an enriching museum experience.

With the reopening of the Museum and its new permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature*, also came the opportunity to provide a new and revamped Museum volunteer program. Now, those accepted into the program become volunteers of record with the University of Connecticut. New and returning Museum volunteers go through a basic orientation program, covering such topics as museum and exhibit operating procedures, personal policies, exhibit and program interpretation and presentation. As the program develops, volunteers can explore a number of exciting and challenging areas of responsibility. Whether guiding visitors through exhibits, presenting an educational program, or working behind the scenes, there are many support roles for people with various training and interests. The Museum's volunteer staff consists of a diverse pool of talented individuals including area professionals, UConn students, homemakers, retirees, teachers, community leaders, and others whose abilities and enthusiasm make all the difference.



The Museum's Teen Docent program is in its first stages of development. The Teen Docent program is part of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History's Youth Development Program, allowing youth to develop life skills as well as enrich their cultural and environmental understandings. As trained museum volunteers, Teen Docents will work alongside museum professionals, experiencing many facets of the Museum's operation. On a typical day, Teen Docents may work in the exhibit area, coordinate an activity, conduct research, and interact with museum guests and program participants. Teen Docents also have access to the educational programs and youth development activities offered by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System's 4-H Program - Connecticut's premier youth development organization.

Collections volunteers play a key role in maintaining and updating the Museum's collections. This year Bruce Green, a Friends group member, has con-

tinued entering many of the smaller archaeological collections into the Past Perfect database. The Museum uses this new database for collections work and as a mode for answering queries about specimens entered into it. Jeffrey Egan, an undergraduate student, began an inventory of the specimens in the Bull Collection this year as a Fall Semester independent project. He located and recorded the presence of Bull specimens in the Dodd Research Center and other facilities, updating the Bull catalog database for the first time since its accession.

Museum Membership The Membership Office experienced a change in staff this year following the retirement of Ann Merritt in September 2006. Emily Lanz became Membership Coordinator in December 2006, and is working to streamline membership operations and expand the Museum's membership base.

Museum membership continues to be strong, spurred on by the excitement surrounding the renovation and new exhibit. This excitement was exemplified on April 29th when over 200 patrons attended the Museum's Open House to preview the exhibit *Human's Nature* and the new multi-function classroom space, attend a lecture by Dr. Bellantoni, visit with Museum staff and exhibit collaborators, participate in children's activities, and enjoy UConn Dairy Bar ice cream. To make the most of the interest and enthusiasm surrounding renovation and reopening, the Museum is planning a membership drive. The Museum's Membership Office has also begun reaching out to schools with complimentary 1-year Family Memberships for school fundraising auctions. This has proved to be an effective method to promote the membership program, increase visibility, and support local schools and communities.

Public Information & Marketing The way people gather information and make decisions on how to spend their time and resources is constantly changing, and the Museum's public information and marketing office has sought to distribute information on the Museum's programming, events, and resources using various communication and

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promotion tools. Managed expertly by David Colberg beginning this year, print, broadcast, and online outlets featured Museum and Archaeology Center news and activities. Highlights include the following:

Mainstream media coverage remained an essential avenue for creating awareness of CSMNH and CAC activities. Electronic press releases, supplemented with traditional paper releases, allowed for a cost effective way to reach Connecticut and national media outlets with greater ease and frequency.

Opportunities for the public to discover museum programming increased through the use of over twenty cultural, tourism, media, and educational event calendar websites including ctnow.com, H-Net History, Connecticut Academy for Education, University of Connecticut Events, *Journal Inquirer*, Connecticut National Public Radio, *Willimantic Chronicle*, NBC 30, WFSB TV3, Connecticut Cultural Gateway, and Connecticut Heritage Gateway calendars. Additional program inclusion in print event listings and calendars included such outlets as *Connecticut Parent Magazine*, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Willimantic Chronicle*, and the *Parent Planner*.



Utilizing University listserv systems, the Museum reached over 36,000 UConn students, employees, and other list subscribers with each electronic announcement, building awareness of the Museum and its events and programming. Moviegoers at the Student Union Theater learned about Museum events through pre-movie slide shows.

An increased distribution of Museum programming information through third-party newsletters and electronic communications was made possible by directly sharing programming content with organizations likely to utilize museum offerings. These organizations included The Connecticut 4-H Program, Connecticut Audubon Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, home school groups, historical societies, libraries, senior centers, youth services agencies, town recreation departments, appropriate statewide college and university departments, and the Connecticut K-12 publication *Connecticut Science Connection*.

The State Archaeologist's work with the Venture Smith Project received an incredible amount of public and media attention. Coverage included media outlets such as *Archaeology News*, the USDA's *Natural Resources Conservation Services Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, Fox News, NPR, MSNBC, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *Middletown Press*, and *The Hartford Courant*. Local broadcast media included NBC30 TV, WFSB TV3, and WTNH TV8. Coverage by the Associated Press and United Press International was picked up by a number of media outlets including *The Kansan*, *Columbia Tribune*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, *Buffalo News*, and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The general public's interest in the project was also evident from the amount of coverage in various personal blogs and

online message boards. UConn's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences created *The Story of Venture Smith* website featuring the work of many University of Connecticut scholars including Dr. Bellantoni. In addition to its news reports, BBC coverage of the Venture Smith Project included a documentary, *A Slave's Story*.

On September 28th, WNPR interviewed Cheri Collins, Program Coordinator and Collection Manager, about ancient technologies and atlatl throwing during a morning broadcast. This broadcast included recorded interviews of Gary Nolf and Bob Inman, members of FOSA, which took place during the Museum's Atlatl Day program on September 16th.

The State Archaeologist's discoveries about New England vampire folk belief was the subject of one episode of *Vampires*, from a new National Geographic Channel series *Is it Real?* The program originally aired in October of 2006 to coincide with Halloween and continues to be shown on the National Geographic Channel.

The Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series on Nature & the Environment brings leading scholars and scientists to the University of Connecticut. The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History's public information and marketing office serves as the marketing arm for the series, publicizing visits from Carl Jones, International Research Fellow, Durrell Wildlife Conserva-



1999
The Museum is approved to relocate to its new home in the old "Apple Sales Building" on Hillside Road.



2000
The Museum offers the long-term loan of Native American artifacts for use in the Pequot Museum's new permanent exhibits.



2000
Phase I building renovations are completed, creating offices and a small exhibit area on the 1st floor.



2003
Dr. Ellen Censky steps down as Director of the Museum.



2004
Lou Lent celebrates her 20th year as a Museum volunteer.



2004
Interim Director Leanne Harty is appointed Director of the Museum and new Archaeology Center.

tion Trust, Scientific Director Mauritian Wildlife, "The Dodo's Legacy: Conservation on Mauritius."; William Nordhaus, Sterling Professor of Economics, Yale University, Member of the National Academy of Science, "Carbon Taxes to Slow Global Warming."; Mark Klett, Regents Professor of Art, Arizona State University, "Ideas About Time: Recent Projects that Investigate the Relationship of Time, Space and Photography."; Richard Somerville, Distinguished Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, "Climate, Climate Change, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change"; David Allen Sibley, Author and Illustrator, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, "Birds and Bird Guides."

The Museum's expansion and reopening generated coverage from *The Hartford Courant*, WTIC's Morning Show with Diane Smith and Ray Dunaway, *The Willimantic Chronicle*, *Reminder Newspapers*, the UConn *Advance*, UConn Foundation's *Momentum*, and *Daily Campus*.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology featured the renowned forensic anthropologist Dr. Douglas Scott who spoke on "New Archaeological Perspectives on the Battle of Little Bighorn". Publicity appeared in outlets such as *The Hartford Courant*, WTIC radio, www.h-net.org, www.ctacad.org, www.wfsb.com, and www.wtic.com.

The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History's public information and marketing office served as the Connecticut State BioBlitz information hub for public relations, providing up-to-date information to the media as well as BioBlitz partners. Media outlets such as the *Middletown Press*, *Hartford Courant*, and *The Middletown Chronicle* consistently covered the 2007 BioBlitz by announcing Middletown's selections to host the event, sponsor involvement, school activities, and the event itself. Additional awareness was created by providing small BioBlitz posters to Middletown businesses and organizations, banners to hang over Main Street and be displayed at the event, and vast electronic communication between schools, government agencies, universities, and numerous environmental organizations.



2007 BioBlitz at the Wilbert Snow School, Middletown, CT.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007

REVENUE	Operating Funds	Endowment Principle	Donation Funds	All Funds FY 2007
Operating Donations.....	\$32,962		\$404,614	\$437,576
Membership	\$17,802			\$17,802
Rental Income	\$2,340			\$2,340
Endowment Return	\$50,469	\$124,619		\$175,088
Endowment State Match.....		\$2,599		\$2,599
Programs, Fees, etc.	\$15,612			\$15,612
OSA Support.....	\$15,000			\$15,000
Student Support.....	\$7,500			\$7,500
Salary Allotment.....	\$374,362			\$374,362
Total Income	\$516,047	\$127,218	\$404,614	\$1,047,879

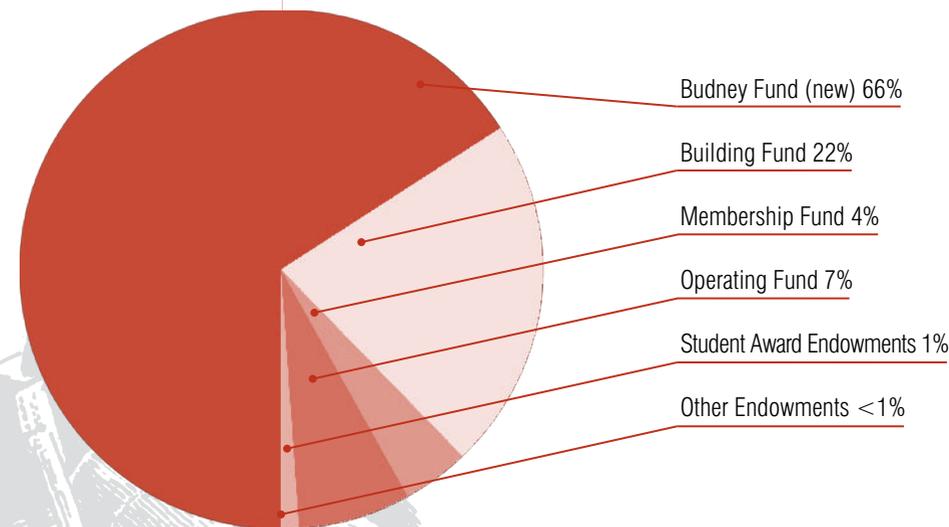
EXPENSES**

Salaries and Benefits.....	\$456,330
Program Support.....	\$6,929
Office Supplies	\$1,359
Office Equipment	\$2,380
Phone.....	\$4,188
Postage.....	\$5,835
Printing.....	\$10,131
Graphic Communication.....	\$2,100
Collections	\$1,242
OSA Vehicle Expenses.....	\$8,195
Professional Development.....	\$360
Student Awards	\$6,825
Volunteer Expenses	\$1,820
Miscellaneous	\$1,535
Total Expenses	\$509,229

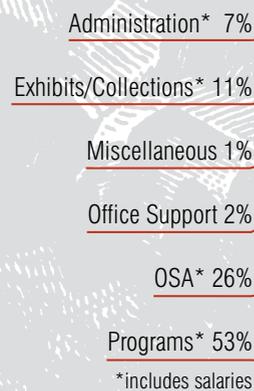
*CSMNH's finances are audited with the UConn Foundation and the University of Connecticut.

**Does not include building renovations and special projects.

FY 2007 DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP



FY 2007 OPERATING EXPENSES



2004 The Connecticut Archaeology Center is established as a part of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.



2004 The Stone Wall Initiative becomes part of the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.



2006 The Museum's total endowments surpass \$1M.



2007 The Henry S. Budney Vertebrate Collection is transferred to the Museum. The Julia B. Budney Fund is established.



2007 Phase II building renovations are completed. The Museum opens its new permanent exhibit, "Human's Nature," and two dedicated classrooms.



2008 Phase III expansion initiated, with plans for new collections facilities, archaeology lab and professional research library.

VOLUNTEERS

Contributing Science & Anthropology Experts

Daniel Adler*
 Peter Auster*
 Arthur Basto Archaeological Society
 Marc Banks*
 Kimberly Barber*
 William Berentsen*
 Akeia Bernard*
 Jeff Bendremer
 Connie Borodenko
 Ruth Shapleigh-Brown
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 Anthropology Department
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*Into the future—donors, volunteers
 and members will be the foundation we
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