

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY &  
CONNECTICUT ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER



University of Connecticut  
*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

# OUR MISSION



The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History & 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.

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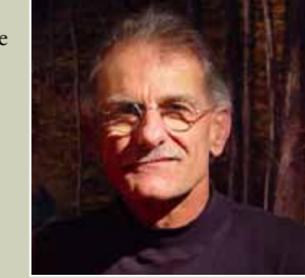
Sam Tracy

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.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

We began the year facing ongoing financial challenges, determined to find new and creative ways to meet them. We end the year having met those challenges, additionally pleased that we have created new avenues to advance the Museum's mission in spite of them.

People of all ages were able to explore *The Natural History of Food* in 2009 through engaging field learning activities, lectures, and workshops. Building on the success of the Food series, we began a second thematic series in 2010, *The Natural History of Health*, with new program offerings that examine how physical and biological processes shape our perceptions of health and influence our physical well-being.

The Office of State Archaeology reached people across the globe this year when producers from The History Channel asked the State Archaeologist to appear in the premiere episode of their new series *MysteryQuest*, traveling to Germany and Russia to unravel a mystery of Adolph Hitler's last days. The State Archaeologist also continued his service as the President of the National Association of State Archaeologists, where he guided the association in developing consensus views concerning conservation, policy, and research standards.

Two of our large-scale traveling exhibits underwent refits this year in order to be brought out of retirement and installed in venues across the state. A component of "Surrounded by the Past", originally produced in 1992, provided visitors to the Barkhamstead Historical Society with insight and information about the archaeology of Barkhamstead's Lighthouse site. At Goodwin College in East Hartford, site of the 2009 BioBlitz, the exhibit "Biodiversity: In Your Own Backyard" was displayed in the main entry hall for the entire year, giving students, staff, and visitors an opportunity to appreciate this popular and entertaining exhibit. Both exhibits expanded the reach and awareness of the Museum, building upon and enhancing its connections to communities throughout Connecticut.

We will continue to help people explore the intimate connections between people and the environment through unique and engaging collections, exhibits, and programming. We will also continue to make the most responsible decisions we can to maximize our limited resources as new budget plans play out for the State and the University in the coming year.

Thank you for your support.

Leanne Kennedy Harty  
Director

Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD  
State Archaeologist

# HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Museum of Natural History supports the University's most fundamental academic traditions—traditions built 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. Through the Museum and Archaeology Center's exhibits, campus programs, community involvement, and outreach activities, the Museum served more than 90,000 people this year.

The Museum presented 65 advertised public programs exploring the intimate connection between natural history and human culture. Our successful thematic series *The Natural History of Food* was followed by *The Natural History of Health* beginning in January. Connecting to topics in the news and broader popular discussion, this series quickly became an exceptionally effective vehicle for engaging our audience and exploring this connection in 2010. Through lectures, field activities, and workshops, experts from the University of Connecticut and other institutions helped Museum visitors and public program participants examine how the physical and biological processes occurring around us influence our well-being and shape our perceptions of what it means to be healthy. The themed series have been a popular new vehicle for engaging the public, and have also allowed us to work with a wider variety of organizations and UConn departments.

In addition to presenters from the University of Connecticut Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Anthropology, our Storrs campus program collaborators included UConn Farm Services, the Department of Sociology, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, UConn Physics Department, the UConn Center for Applied Genetics and Technology and the UConn Health Center in Farmington. Outside agency and institutional collaborators included the Noah Webster House, Project O, the Glastonbury Historical Society,

Friends of Hammonasset State Park, World Atlas Association, Connecticut Mycological Society, Priam Vineyards, Windsor Historical Society, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Primitive Technologies Inc., Wesleyan University, York University in the UK, and the University of Norway at Oslo.

Traveling exhibits continued to extend the Museum's presence beyond campus, with exhibits on display in East Hartford and Barkhamsted, providing an avenue for the public to connect with the academic and schol-



arly work of the University in their own communities. The Museum's Biodiversity Exhibit, "In Your Own Backyard", with content provided by UConn's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology faculty, remained on display at the 2009 BioBlitz site, Goodwin College, into the summer. The "Barkhamsted Lighthouse" exhibit also remained on display at the historic Squires Tavern at the Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted, CT.

Through awards made from dedicated named endowment funds, the Museum provided five graduate students in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with awards and financial support for field work and research projects this year. During this period, the Museum also participated in the Writing Internship Program in the Department of English. The program, designed for students in English and other Humanities disciplines, allowed two student interns to apply their skills and contribute to Museum efforts while also gaining writing experience outside a typical academic framework.

The Office of State Archaeology has long been a hub for the archaeological community in the state. Connecticut State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni receives numerous requests to provide special lectures about his experiences investigating some of the State's most fascinating historical mysteries, and over 2000 people attended public talks presented by Dr. Bellantoni across the state this year. In addition to his duties here at home, Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni continued his service as President of the National Association of State Archaeologists, leading the association in development of consensus views concerning the conservation of the Nation's cultural resources and providing guidance and direction regarding laws, procedures, current research, educational programs, and ethical standards related to the archaeology field.

The great success in 2008 of Dr. Bellantoni's contribution to the *MonsterQuest* series led to his involvement in a new History Channel series, *MysteryQuest*, in 2009-2010. The internationally-distributed production focused on Adolph Hitler and featured Dr. Bellantoni traveling to locations in Germany and Russia. On the UConn campus he was joined by Linda Strausbaugh from the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and her team from UConn's Center for Applied Genetics and Technology who analyzed the biological samples for DNA evidence. After the episode premier, continuous requests for lectures and showings of the program began, and have continued.



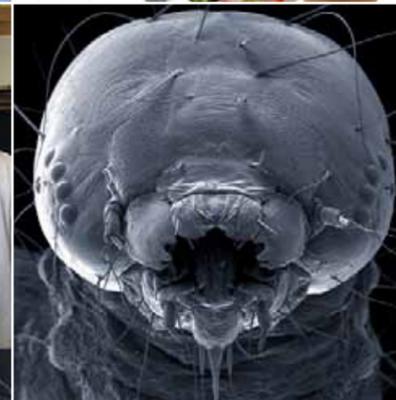
Photo by Kevin FitzPatrick

# EDUCATION

**Outreach & Public Engagement** The Museum continues to be a vital part of UConn's education and public engagement efforts by showcasing the teaching, research, facilities and resources of the University of Connecticut and providing opportunities for the public to interact with and learn from leading scholars in a meaningful and engaging way. Our ongoing collaborations with diverse communities and organizations throughout the state make vital connections between the University and people of Connecticut, establishing important and enduring relationships between UConn and the citizens it serves. The core of the Museum and Archaeology's educational strategy is the educational approach developed for our permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature*. We continued to incorporate elements of the new strategic plan this year, and build on the success of *The Natural History of Food* series with a new series this year—*The Natural History of Health*. Through the Museum's permanent exhibit, *Human's Nature*, campus programs, community involvement, and outreach activities, the Museum served more than 90,000 people this year. Program highlights and an accounting of participation follows.

**Public Programming** With the goal of developing our audience's understanding of natural and cultural history and humankind's intimate role in it, the Museum offered twelve field-learning workshops, eleven family activity and ancient technologies workshops, two Kids-Only workshops, eight children's drop-in activities, four KAST science modules, one adult field school, one day trip and nine Museum lectures. The Museum also co-sponsored six Teale lectures and one special lecture, and participated in six community events and four special events. The summer, fall, and spring seasonal brochures were sent to members, donors and other friends on our mailing list. Program brochures were also made available at community events, different departments on campus and through other organizations that have a cooperative relationship with the Museum. These programs were promoted on the website, and through newspaper, internet, and electronic campus announcements.

In 2009, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center helped people look closer at how what we eat has shaped who we are through the 2009 *Natural History of Food* series. In 2010, we began the successful second series called



*The Natural History of Health*, which engaged program participants in lectures, field activities, and workshops to explore how the physical and biological processes occurring around us influence our well-being and shape our perceptions of what it means to be healthy.

The Museum and Archaeology Center continued to participate in the popular and successful Kids Are Scientists Too (KAST) program in 2009—and added a new module, Botany from Basic to Bizarre, based in the EEB Greenhouses. The Archaeology modules, part of an ongoing state-sanctioned archaeological investigation, continued with two introductory sessions.

The site was selected in cooperation with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the State Historic Preservation Office in 2004, with the ongoing fieldwork being conducted under the supervision of UConn archaeologists and the Office of State Archaeology. The new KAST Botany module was an exciting collaborative effort with EEB Greenhouse staff Clint Morse, Dr. Matt Opel, and Dr. Cynthia Jones. The participants explored the greenhouses, newly organized by biome, and learned plant anatomy, evolutionary adaptations, and horticulture. They also participated in activities that included mixing the soil and potting up exotic plants to take home, a photographic scavenger hunt, and exotic fruit tasting. The students documented their experiences with photos, which were uploaded into the Greenhouses' website at the close of each session, allowing their families and friends to learn about each day's adventure.

Archaeology Field School for adults was held once again during the summer of 2009, led by Dr. Bellantoni. Seven registered participants spent the week at a colonial homestead archaeological dig site during this intensive class. A one-day side trip to a prehistoric rock

shelter dig added to the breadth of the participants' experience. Participants came from varied backgrounds, from interested high school and college students to members of historical societies and teachers. The participants were unanimously enthusiastic about this class, and a few were repeat participants. Upon completing the program, one high school participant was inspired to learn more and entered a rigorous cultural resources management program in the fall of 2010.

In 2009, Atlatl Day and Knap-in was combined with the Hammonasset Festival, a two-day event in Madison. It was attended by over 1,000 people, and was co-sponsored by the Friends



of Hammonasset State Park, Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, and the World Atlatl Association in collaboration with the Museum. There were World Atlatl Association sanctioned contests held in conjunction with this event, as well as activities for the general public.

The Musuem’s Ancient Technologies workshops continue to explore the evolution of human material culture from an archaeological and natural history perspective. Each workshop opens with a formal presentation on the subject

before participants are given instruction and materials for producing a reproduction of an ancient tool or other commonly-used item. The discussion about the pre-historic and historic basis of our understanding of these life ways continues throughout the workshop. These workshops are highly popular and well-attended.

By partnering with UConn’s Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, the Museum was able to provide a Kids-Only workshop using DNA analysis to explore forensic science. The students were given a “crime” scenario, and through the extraction of DNA from fruits and analysis of food dyes using scientific techniques and equipment they were able to “solve” the crime.

As we have in previous years, the Museum also co-sponsored the Edwin Way Teale Lecture Series, which brings leading scholars and scientists to the University of Connecticut to present public lectures on nature and the environment.

The summer of 2009 presented Museum patrons with several unique opportunities to learn about the history and current production of food. Participants visited the 19th century during a special “Tavern Night” meal at the Noah Webster House in West Hartford where they dined on authentic cuisine and were entertained with whaling songs and sea chanteys by performer Don Sinetti. In August, participants time-traveled to the 18th century to prepare, cook, and eat a meal made in an open hearth with “Jerusha Welles and family” at the Welles-Shipman-Ward house in Glastonbury. In September, the Museum provided the modern interpretation of a traditional Native American Clambake featuring food native to the area including

lobsters, clams, and corn with a nod to traditional cooking techniques. Dale Carson, member of the Abanaki nation and an authority on Native American foods, was on hand to discuss the origins and traditions of the meal.

The Museum’s continuing series of programs with Connecticut Landmarks and the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism took place with a tour of the Hezekiah Chaffee house, part of the Windsor Historical Soci-



ety, and presentation about eighteenth century medicine. Julia Baldini of the Windsor Historical Society shared rarely-seen medical instruments and written recipes for medicines from the Society’s collections during her presentation.

**Outreach Activities** Once again, the Museum joined with the Last Green Valley to offer a Walktober event with Dr. Bellantoni. These programs are so popular that they have become reservation-only event to keep participation at a manageable level.

The Museum participated as an exhibitor at a number of large-scale community events this year, reaching thousands of people and providing information in informal contexts. These events included the Mansfield Know Your Towns Fair with 1,000 visitors, the 2010 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show with 35,000 visitors, and the Annual Big Y Kids Fair with 20,000 visitors. The Museum also provided adult learners at the Redding Garden Club with a program on the archaeology and biology of fiber plants throughout the world. The goal of participation in these large-scale events is to create awareness of the Museum and Archaeology Center with special emphasis on museum visitation and educational opportunities for the general public.

New material for the BioBlitz Organizational Guide was collected and organized by UConn EEB graduate student Roberta Engel in 2010. The material was organized into draft booklets currently being piloted by the 2010 EASTCONN/Joshua’s Trust BioBlitz. The success of the Connecticut State BioBlitz had led countless communities and organizations across the globe to conduct their own BioBlitz. In many cases, the outcome of these BioBlitzes included new planning, educational, and research resources. A number of these were reviewed and included in this guide, reflecting the diverse global connections the BioBlitz truly encompasses.

The Museum’s second floor program and meeting space continues to be a popular special event and conference location for the entire University, hosting an array of VIP receptions, alumni and student programs, educational activities, and department meetings. This year’s events included numerous CLAS activities, Alumni Association and Foundation gatherings, and a wide variety of departmental gatherings and special events. The Museum does not charge campus departments and units for use of the space, and appreciates the opportunity to support University activities in this way. The diverse events and programs bring individuals and groups to the Museum who might not otherwise visit, and we are pleased to have the opportunity expand visitorship and visibility of the Museum and Archaeology Center in this manner.



Public Programming	
Workshops & Trips .....	711
Lectures .....	1,035
Meetings & Events .....	250
Total .....	1,996
Outreach Activities	
Small Group .....	737
Community Events .....	62,610
Total .....	63,347
Exhibits	
In-House Exhibits .....	3,236
Collections on Display .....	30,000*
Total .....	33,236
<b>Total Attendance .....</b>	<b>98,579</b>

\* Approximate--Does not include the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center.

**Exhibits** In an effort to maximize use of the Museum's second floor programming facilities, plans were implemented this year to upgrade the space. Improvements include the installation of a dedicated audio-video system that meets University-wide specifications for a High-Tech Classroom, the installation of a museum-quality hanging system for pictures on the perimeter walls, and the addition of a track lighting system. Our objective is to make the space better support our own educational programming, while making it more attractive and useful for people across the University community who need facilities for meetings and special events. The renovations will also allow the space to be used for temporary and changing exhibits. Engineering and budgeting for the project were completed in the spring, with our first exhibit scheduled for fall 2010 featuring works from the New England Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators.



Since its opening, the Museum's permanent exhibit *Human's Nature* has consistently drawn a diverse mix of faculty, staff, students, and the general public from around Connecticut and beyond. Each year we have expanded and refined how the overall theme developed in the exhibit—how the natural history of southern New England shapes the lives of people living here—integrates into our broader educational programming. The success of our two series of themed programs, *The Natural History of Food* and *The Natural History of Health* are examples of how this integrated approach to education and marketing can help meet our core mission, and more effectively reach out and serve a wider variety of audiences across the University community and

the across the state. Additionally, paired with the multi-use programming space located next to the exhibit, the Museum's unique venue has also helped attract new professional and academic audiences to campus for meeting and seminars.

To date, maintenance costs for *Human's Nature*, both in financial and human capital, have been well below the projected budget, amounting, literally, to no more than changing the occasional light bulb. The design, installation and reliability of the multi-media components of the exhibit have been a success beyond our highest expectations.

A multitude of school, camp, enrichment, and other organizations statewide arranged group visits to the museum over the year, incorporating the content provided by the permanent exhibit into their own lessons, programming, or interest areas. These visits often included



supplemental interpretation and activities by museum staff. This year's special group visitors included Wintergreen Magnet School, Quinnebaug ARC, Wethersfield High School and Elderhostel. UConn classes utilizing the Museum exhibit and resources included Anthropology 106, several UConn First Year Experience sections, Neag Secondary Science classes, as well as the History and American Studies departments at UConn.

Two traveling exhibits underwent extensive refits to bring them back into service. The first was a component of the exhibit *Surrounded by the Past*, which was originally produced in 1992, and explores the archaeology of the Lighthouse Site in Barkhamstead, CT. It continues to be on an open-ended loan to the Barkhamstead Historical Society. The second is the *Biodiversity* exhibit, originally produced in 2000, and refurbished for installation at Goodwin College in East Hartford, site of the 2009 Connecticut State BioBlitz. It was on display through the summer of 2010.

The collections displays in UConn's Biology/Physics Building were developed and designed with the Museum, and for six years have been featured in the lobby area of the building. In the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, two small exhibits have been on display for five years, highlighting the Museum and Archaeology Center collections with artifacts and specimens as well as a sample of photos from our traveling collection.

**Multimedia Communication** The Museum continues to develop and maintain four websites: the Museum of Natural History website, the Connecticut Archaeology Center website, the BioBlitz website, and Connecticut Underwater Archaeol-



ogy website. Together these sites contain over 100 pages of active information, which in FY2010 received over 60,000 page views. The five most viewed pages, in order, were the MNH/CAC homepage, the current calendar of events, information on our permanent exhibit, information on museum collections, and information on our hours and directions. Over 1,200 people viewed our holiday card online.

Friends and supporters world-wide can now also follow the Museum on Facebook. We currently have 250 fans and have seen consistent growth in that number since our Facebook presence went live. This year we also began exploring the potential of developing a Twitter feed for the Museum. We continue to research how other museums are using this technology, and weighing the potential pitfalls and possibilities. The web and online social media

are ever-changing landscapes that continually offer new venues for education and marketing that reach constituents many traditional museum marketing tools miss. The challenge is constantly keeping abreast of these changes, while balancing their real-world potential against the limits of our staff, finances, and time.

Print pieces in FY2010 included our tri-annual program flyer, biannual newsletter, and our annual donor letter. The content of the fall newsletter was focused largely on a remembrance of the Museum's Founding Director, Carl Rettenmeyer who passed away in April of 2009. The winter newsletter's content was tightly integrated with our *Natural History of Food* series, offering an archaeologist's insight on changing human foodways in the northeast and a profile on Rebecca Canfield, a member of UConn's Department of Dining Services who has been instrumental in introducing the University community to the importance of locally grown and sustainable agriculture.

The way the Museum manages the design, production, and distribution of its ongoing print pieces is quickly evolving. With increasingly serious University-wide budget restrictions the Museum has adopted alternative electronic production and distribution methods for several of its traditionally printed pieces, where appropriate. In a continued effort to reduce printing and mailing cost, this year our annual report and holiday card were distributed exclusively via the World Wide Web, and are available for viewing or download at any time.

We continue to provide our newsletters and program fliers as traditional print pieces, with supplemental versions available on our website. As an organization that depends on revenue generated through membership fees and program participation for our survival, it is clear that a significant portion of the audience we serve still prefers the option of access to a printed product. For the time being, the revenue generated by the print pieces continues to be greater than costs for printing and mailing these pieces to our members and friends. We are keeping an eye on this, for as our audience evolves and electronic media continues to become more ubiquitous, this balance may change.

Today almost every piece we traditionally print is paired with an electronic version available via the web. Each year more and more of our graphics communication strategy is focused on the ongoing development, updating and maintenance of the Museum's four websites. The internet has become one of the most direct and fluid ways we have to communicate with the general public, as well as the academic, governmental and professional constituents served by the Museum and Office of State Archaeology.

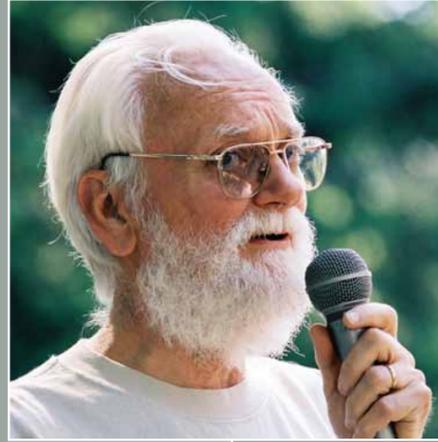


Photo by Robert Rattner

Overall, the internet has become an increasingly valuable way to archive the work we do, while encouraging a high degree of transparency in our organization.

Beyond the website, the Museum's use of technology to communicate with various audiences is ever expanding. E-mail addresses, collected over the past few years, have been organized and are used for targeted communications, including an e-mail list that provides information exclusively to members, and another that provides information and programming updates to over 500 people who provide the Museum with their e-mail addresses.

**Students, Interns, & Volunteers** This year, the Museum continued its participation in UConn's Writing Internship Program, part of the Department of English. The program, designed for students in English and other Humanities disciplines, allows participants to demonstrate the cognitive and communication skills developed as a student and demonstrate their value beyond a typical academic environment. Paige Classey served as a writing intern with the Museum and Archaeology Center during the Fall 2009 Semester. She primarily worked with the Public Information and Marketing Office, drafting and editing press releases, newsletter articles, and program descriptions. Additionally, she took on a couple of specialized projects, including expanding an information booklet on the Museum's permanent exhibit *Human's Nature*. Colin Neary served as a writing intern with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center during the Spring 2010 semester. He drafted an educational supplement to the Museum's Natural History of Health exhibit to be used by museum visitors, specifically school groups. This was a research-heavy assignment, designed to create a well-explored end product connecting ancient and modern Native American health practices to "modern" western medical practices.

The Museum began the fall semester with nine Freshman Match work/study students, and four returning work/study students. Six of the students were assigned to Dr. Bellantoni and the Office of State Archaeology to work on the entry of site file data into the database at the OSA lab and work on processing materials. The nine incoming freshman were: M.J. Jones, Ekaterina Morozova, Sara Griffiths, Alessandra Fiallos, Katelynn Henion, Lynn Kowsz, Jade Daniels, Joe Carrano and Alex Brittingham. The four returning students were Sam Tracy, Crystal Taylor, Justin Phillips and Geoffrey Battista. Crystal Taylor, Tiffany Schroeder, Lynn Kowz and Sam Tracy all worked during the summer months as part time student employees, providing vital support to staff and visitors.



# RESEARCH & ACADEMICS

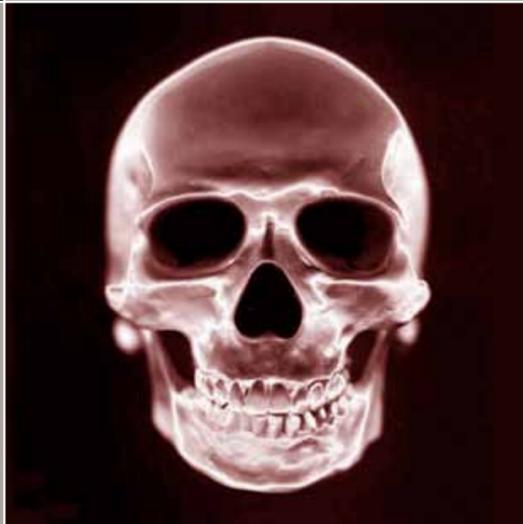
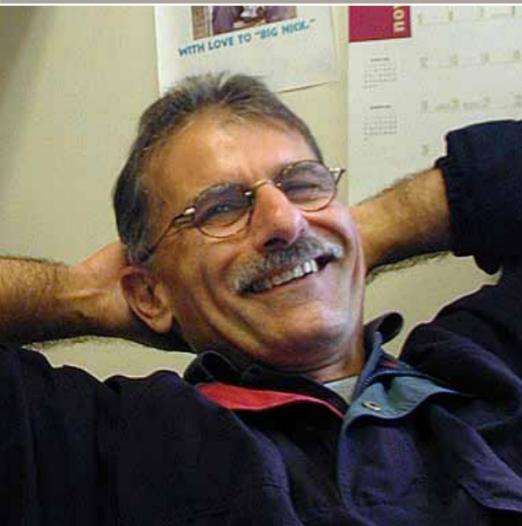
The Office of State Archaeology State legislation has established numerous areas of responsibility for the Office of Archaeology (OSA). Each year, the work associated with each of these duties brings the State Archaeologist to nearly every Connecticut municipality, and yields new information and insights about our state's material culture and cultural heritage.

These responsibilities 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 responding to 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

Activities within the OSA often arouse the curiosity of the general public as well as those within the professional anthropology community. These efforts provide new understandings of our collective history as well as build upon our contemporary archeological understandings. Particular highlights during the 2009-2010 academic year included the ongoing response to Dr. Bellantoni's

appearance in the History Channel *MonsterQuest* series in 2008, which led to his involvement in a new History Channel series, *MysteryQuest*, in 2009-2010. The internationally-distributed feature focused on Adolph Hitler and featured Dr. Bellantoni traveling



to locations in Germany and Russia to explore and discuss the final moments of Hitler's life.

Charged with reviewing all proposals for construction and modification of land where archaeological sites may be located in Connecticut, the State Archaeologist conducted over 75

field reviews and site meetings in communities this year. In addition, the OSA evaluated numerous project proposals for state municipalities during that period using site files and other reference materials. Over 20,000 miles were logged in OSA travel once again 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 who contributed over 2,000 hours of their time in support activities throughout the year.

The Museum and Archaeology Center's unique and highly successful week long Field School for adults was held again during the summer of 2009. Led by Dr. Bellantoni, seven registered participants spent the week in the lab, and the archaeological dig site during this intensive class. Participants came from varied backgrounds, from interested high school and college students to members of historical societies and teachers. The participants were unanimously enthusiastic about this class.

As the Connecticut State Archaeologist, Dr. Bellantoni receives numerous requests to provide special lectures about his experiences investigating many intriguing historical mysteries in Connecticut and beyond. Due to his many responsibilities and full schedule, lecture requests are now referred to the Public Information Office, which provides an application and list of frequently requested talks. Returned applications are then reviewed to ensure scheduling requests are compatible and the time of the State Archaeologist is being utilized appropriately. During the 2009-2010 year, 26 lecture applications/requests were processed, which indicates over 2000 people who attended a presentation by Dr. Bellantoni. Additionally, the talks brought in \$4,500 to the Museum via speaker fees.



## COLLECTIONS & LOANS

This year we continued to inventory and record collection materials in the Past Perfect database, tally all appraisal values, and determine the locations of misplaced specimens and collections. This project is ongoing and has been possible thanks to the time and expertise contributed by FOSA member Bruce Greene.

Specimens from the Museum and Archaeology Center are on exhibit in other locations within the university, such as the Biological Sciences and Physics Building, Torrey Life Sciences Building and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Office lobby, and are often featured in changing exhibits at the Babbidge Library and Dodd Research Center.

The Museum's Natural History collection materials are also exhibited at other organizations in Connecticut. The Mashantucket Museum and Research Center has 70 objects from the Anthropological Collections at UConn on permanent loan, and these 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 hundreds of thousands of visitors have had their learning experience enhanced as a result of this loan. Other items are on loan to and being exhibited by the Sherman Historical Society, the New Hartford Historical Society, and the Institute for American Indian Studies; the Peoples State Forest Nature Center borrows specimens for their summer season.

The Collections Office receives many questions from the public about natural history, artifacts, or specimens they have found, or about potential archaeology sites. If a question cannot be answered by Museum staff, we are often able to connect the public with other excellent resources to provide accurate information.



Photo by Robert Rattner



## ADMINISTRATION

**Membership** The Membership Office is responsible for maintaining relationships with our members and providing opportunities for the general public to learn more about the Museum and benefits of membership. To that end, the Membership Office conducts monthly membership renewal mailings, sends periodic reminders of lapsed membership, as well as special mailings throughout the year targeting patrons who may not be members. Among notable activities this year, an end-of-year mailing generated over \$5000 in donations, above normal renewal receipts. Given the economic hardships endured by many in our state, we are pleased and honored by the continuing support of our members and donors.

In addition to regular membership renewal and recruitment duties, the Membership Office worked closely with the Museum's Program Coordinator on several occasions to enhance member participation and the patron experience as a whole. These special programs included expanding our summer Fridays at the Museum drop-in programs to include preschool children, as well as a unique special event for the *Natural History of Food* series. This event at Hammonasset State Park featured the modern approximation of the traditional New England Clambake, drawing patrons new to the Museum as well as many long-time supporters. Working with the Public Information and Marketing Coordinator, our new social networking platform was used to enhance communication with our members and donors about these events and other special offers.

In addition to expanded electronic communication, to further decrease printing and distribution costs the Membership and Administration Services Coordinator worked with UConn Mail Services and the campus Document Production Center to increase our use of campus-based printing and mailing services. This change immediately resulted in a savings for the Museum of several hundred dollars and also utilized and benefitted another campus unit.

It is the Membership and Administrative Services Coordinator's responsibility to stay abreast

of relevant UConn Foundation and University procedures as changes are implemented. In March 2010, the Membership and Administrative Services Coordinator received training in the University's new cash operations workflow, which streamlined the process of deposits through a new web-based program. This new procedure allows for greater efficiency and transparency in both record keeping and reporting.

**Public Information & Marketing** The role of public information and marketing at the Museum and Archaeology Center is multifaceted, closely intertwined within the unique goals and objectives of each museum area. The fundamental purpose of public information and marketing is effectively communicating and supporting the Museum's mission. From promoting individual events through various media platforms, to scheduling public appearances of the State Archaeologist, to addressing the needs of constituents and the public, communication efforts support and enhance the Museum and Archaeology Center's administration, education, exhibits, membership, and research endeavors throughout the year.

Diverse media coverage of Museum and Archaeology Center activities remains an important component of the Museum's public information and marketing strategy. Over a dozen online calendars are utilized, sharing Museum programming with the public through diverse platforms maintained by news media, educational, cultural, and tourism outlets. Some of these include: the UConn Event calendar, H-Net History, Connecticut Cultural & Heritage calendars, Mystic Country, CT Home School Network, Local Harvest, the Last Green Valley, and CT Academy for Education. Prominent media calendars include Mystic Country, WNPR, WFSB, NBC30, CT Post, Parent Planner, and the Hartford Courant's iTown platform, which allowed for the posting of events and news articles, many of which were picked up for regular distribution in the paper's education or entertainment sections.



The success of Dr. Bellantoni's involvement in the *MonsterQuest* series led to his involvement in a new History Channel series, *MysteryQuest*. The History Channel approached Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni to be the lead researcher in a documentary investigating the death of Adolph

Hitler. Dr. Bellantoni agreed, joining the production team in Germany and Russia to examine and gather evidence. While in Europe he studied human bone fragments, reviewed once-secret documents, and gathered soil and other samples for forensic analysis. Dr. Linda Strausbaugh and her team from UConn's Center for Applied Genetics and Technology analyzed the biological

samples for DNA evidence. What they discovered deepened the mystery of Hitler's final moments and brought international attention to the multidisciplinary approach of forensic anthropology and forensic genetics at UConn.

The Museum also utilizes the University's listserv system, reaching over 43,000 students and 2,900 faculty and staff with program information. The Museum also utilized the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association (COEEA) listserv system, reaching 250 organizations throughout the state, sharing information with classroom educators, naturalists, environmental educators, youth leaders, administrators,

professors, and students interested in environmental education in Connecticut.

Media coverage included programs showcased in an array of entertainment sections, commentaries in the blogosphere, and full editorials or features in local and international media outlets—often initiated through the use of press releases or communication with our public information and marketing coordinator. The Museum's *Natural History of Food* and *Natural History of Health* series generated a great deal of interest this year. There were minimally 185 Museum and Archaeology Center stories reported by various media outlets during the 2009-2010 academic year. Additionally, numerous event calendars, both online and in printed publications, included information on Museum programs.

In an effort to track where participants learned about museum programs, registration materials now include a space for participants to share how they discovered the program. Providing information is voluntary and only includes programs that require pre-registrations. Data collected from Summer 2009 through Spring 2010 program registrations have begun to reveal how our program participants learn about museum offerings and this information will help guide planning for public information and marketing going forward.



# VOLUNTEERS

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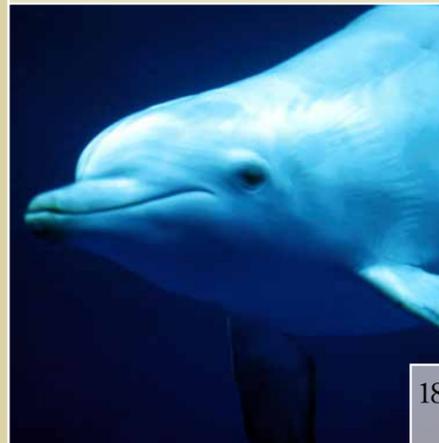
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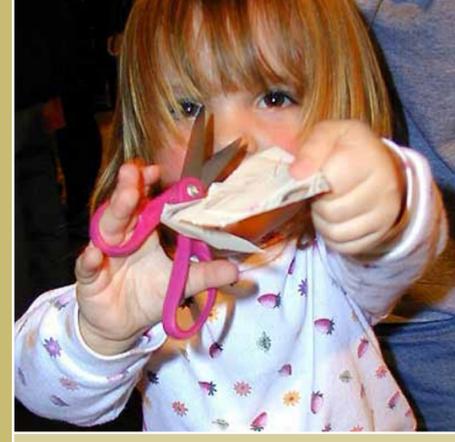
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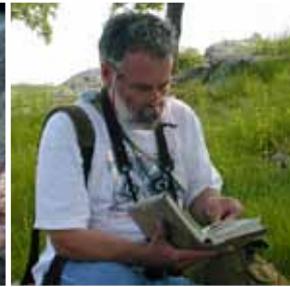
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