Institute Moves to Home at Arizona State University

In July, 1997, the Institute of Human Origins became part of Arizona State University (ASU). As announced in Newsletter #26, IHO has moved to new headquarters in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on the main ASU campus in Tempe, Arizona. The Institute’s offices and facilities are now located on the first floor of the Social Sciences Building, in the heart of campus and just across from the Anthropology Building.

The Institute’s move from Berkeley required two and a half tractor-trailer vans and a week of loading, traveling, and finally unloading by Horizon Moving Co. of Arizona. The total weight moved amounted to almost 100,000 pounds. Preliminary packing by IHO staff during June and July was greatly aided by the efforts of many volunteers (see page 4), who worked long weekend days to carefully box thousands of books, journals, and slides, and to wrap and pack hundreds of fossil casts (using 550 rolls of toilet paper in the process).

The Institute’s office furniture, computers, laboratory equipment, library, audiovisual collections, casts, cabinets, and so forth, nearly filled the newly-renovated campus space to capacity on the day of arrival in Tempe, July 18 (when the temperature was a seasonal 105°F). In the weeks which followed, after university carpenters installed bookcases and cabinets, the unpacking of many hundreds of boxes began, with the help of new local volunteers.

The move to Arizona, because it involved joining another, much larger, institution, has entailed changes in the structure and day-to-day workings of the Institute. However, the universally friendly reception on campus has made this period of adjustment much easier. University and college staff have been enthusiastic and helpful throughout the transition.

The affiliation with ASU allows Institute scientists to teach university courses

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IHO Summer Field School Offered

The Institute of Human Origins has joined with the University of the Witwatersrand to offer a field school in South Africa for graduate students, advanced undergraduates, and laypersons interested in paleoanthropology. The first session of this joint program will be held July 12-August 10, 1998.

The program will be centered in the Makapansgat Valley, the location of many paleontological and archeological sites. Students will have the opportunity to experience site survey and excavation, field and laboratory work on hominin evolution, and paleoecological and faunal analysis. Field school participants will also visit a variety of other South African fossil sites, national parks, and scientific institutions. The co-directors of the field school are Dr. Kevin Kuykendall of the University of the Witwatersrand and Dr. Kaye Reed of IHO at Arizona State University.

Enrollment will be limited to 20 students. The cost is $5,000 per person (not including airfare). Applications are due by April 10; those accepted will be notified by April 20. To request an application, or for more information, contact the Institute at Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874101, Tempe, AZ 85287-4101; telephone: (602) 727-6580; fax: (602) 727-6570; on the Internet at <www.asu.edu/clas/ih/o>; or e-mail: <human.origins.iho@asu.edu>.

Postdoctoral Research Associate Joins Institute for Two-Year Term

Charles A. Lockwood has begun a two-year term as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Institute of Human Origins. Dr. Lockwood received his Ph.D. in June, 1997, from the Department of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand ("Wits"), in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is IHO’s second postdoc, succeeding Dr. Kaye Reed, who is now an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University.

Dr. Lockwood’s Ph.D. research included study of fossil hominids from the well-known South African cave sites. His dissertation was entitled "Variation in the Face of Australopithecus africanus and other African Hominoids." He is currently describing hominin cranial material recovered from the Plio-Pleistocene site of Sterkfontein over the last 30 years in Wits excavations directed by Professor P. V. Tobias. Dozens of specimens preserving significant areas of the skull are included in this study, done in collaboration with colleagues in the Palaeo-Anthropology Research Group at Wits.

"My research has concentrated on the Continued on page 3
After eight months, all of us at IHO are happily settled here in the Arizona desert—strangely fitting that we work and live in a desert. Like any move it takes time to adjust, but Bill Kimbel, Eric Meikle, Kaye Reed, Ann Silvers, and I have really grown to like the tranquility (and sun, of course) of the high Arizona desert.

Everyone at Arizona State University has been extraordinarily welcoming, helping all of us feel at home and freely offering suggestions for the multitude of questions we have moving into a totally new community. ASU is a first-class university with a remarkable student body of some 40,000 students; no problem filling classes.

The Anthropology department here is one of the finest in the country, highly regarded on campus, and offers a wide array of opportunities in the field and in the lab for graduate and undergraduate students. Our fellow faculty have been especially supportive of our arrival here, and interacting with them is a real pleasure. It seems that every day we are hatching new research projects. The university, despite its large size, is wonderfully interactive, and we have regular contact with faculty from other disciplines such as geology, engineering, and humanities.

Bill, Kaye, and I have, of course, been teaching. I think I can speak for all of us when I say how rewarding this has been. Last fall I taught an undergraduate course, Human Origins, with roughly 90 students. I was amazed how much work I had to do to prepare for each lecture, but with some 65% of students receiving a B or better I was handsomely rewarded for all of my efforts. Fortunately, I had a terrific teaching assistant, Elizabeth Harmon, who was able to fill in the gaps I left and help guide me through the exams and grading process. I certainly don’t expect the entire class to become paleoanthropologists, but it was clear to me by the end of the course that they all left with a clearer understanding of our place in nature and the responsibilities which come with that knowledge. (I was stunned, however, when only one student correctly answered the question “Who wrote your textbook?”; especially since the text was From Lucy to Language.)

While it is unfortunate that IHO’s offices and labs are not located within the Anthropology Building, we’re only separated by a three-minute walk, and students and faculty flow easily between the two places. Every day more and more students are coming over to IHO to use our library, study our cast collection, or sit around the library table and munch on a sandwich. We have already met a number of very promising graduate students who want to become involved with some aspect of our research. Perhaps this is the most rewarding aspect of being part of a university again: we can help train the next generation of paleoanthropologists. I am certain that this will ensure the continuation of what we at IHO have done to further knowledge of our ancestry.

The IHO door is always open. Whenever you find yourself in Phoenix (golfers’ heaven), please give us a call and come by to see our new headquarters, share lunch with the staff, and catch up on all of the exciting things IHO is doing. We cherish your interest and support of IHO over so many years and look forward to a continued, and enlarged, IHO agenda. The winter months here are glorious, and Arizona is a terrific destination. Now, thanks to ASU, it also includes the Institute of Human Origins.
Recent Staff Changes at IHO

One member of the IHO staff who chose, for personal reasons, not to move to Arizona last year was Business Manager Michelle T. Nolan. Michelle began working in the Institute’s business office in 1992. For the last few years she has been responsible for overseeing all of IHO’s financial activities and records. When the offer to join ASU was made to the Institute, Michelle decided that family commitments required her to remain in the San Francisco Bay Area.

IHO Director Don Johanson comments:

"We’re all sorry that Michelle has decided not to accompany us to Arizona. She has been a most valuable and important staff member for the last five years. During that time her responsibilities increased greatly, and she ultimately took on all of our business functions. She will be missed, both professionally and personally."

In another change, Brandeis McBratney has joined IHO as a part-time office assistant. She is an Anthropology major at Arizona State University.

New IHO T-Shirts Now Available

A newly-designed T-Shirt is now available directly from the Institute. Featuring the skeleton of "Lucy" on the breast pocket and the IHO logo on the back, in blue on a natural background, shirts are available in medium, large, or extra-large sizes. Price per shirt is $15 for current IHO members, $20 for non-members, plus $3/shirt for shipping and handling. Return this form with payment or fax/telephone credit card orders. (A current IHO member is anyone who has made a donation since January, 1997.)

Please send me ___ IHO T-Shirt(s) (___ M ___ L ___ XL) Subtotal $__

I am a current IHO member: YES NO  Shipping/Handling $__

Make checks payable to ASU Foundation/IHO, or charge my ___________ Total $__

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express 

Authorized Signature ___________________________ Exp. Date ___________

Print Name and Address ____________________________

Mail to IHO, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874101, Tempe, AZ 85287-4101. Fax orders to (602) 727-6570. Telephone orders to (602) 727-6580.

Arizona Move

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and to formally train students who will make up part of the next generation of paleoanthropologists. Last semester a total of five undergraduate and graduate courses offered by the ASU Anthropology Department were taught by IHO personnel: "Human Origins and the Development of Culture" (taught by W. Kimbel and by K. Reed); "Human Origins" (taught by D. Johanson); "Pattern and Process in Evolution" (taught by W. Kimbel); "Faunal Analysis" (taught by K. Reed).

In addition, IHO has quickly become incorporated into other university programs and activities, providing tours and talks about human evolution. In the 1997 Fall Semester the Institute participated in such events as the exhibition preceding the Capital Campaign Gala (the dinner marking ASU's $300 million fund-raising campaign); Family Weekend; Sneaker Tours (for community leaders); and Discovery Tour (a class for new students), among others.

The IHO Web site has moved as well, to ASU's computer facilities. The new address is <www.asu.edu/clas/ihog>. Watch for further changes in coming months.

Postdoctoral Researcher

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face for two reasons," says Dr. Lockwood. "The first is systematics. This area is very useful for the identification of hominid species in the fossil record. The second reason is sexual dimorphism, the kinds of differences between males and females which are often prevalent in the faces of primates. Sexual dimorphism may have implications for the social behavior or other aspects of the paleobiology of fossil hominids."

The Institute's new postdoc also has broader interests in primate and mammalian evolution, particularly in methods of identifying macromolecular trends and parallel evolution through time. During his association with IHO, Dr. Lockwood will be spending some time at Arizona State University, some in South Africa continuing his research there, and some in eastern Africa participating in IHO fieldwork.
Archaeology Awareness Month

IHO's public education outreach programs have continued in a new setting following our recent move to Arizona. March, 1998, will be the 16th Arizona Archaeology Awareness Month. The highlights of events across the state will be an Archaeology Exposition at the Deer Valley Rock Art Center in Phoenix on March 14-15.

The Institute will be participating in the Archaeology Expo with an exhibit of fossil casts and photographs illustrating the human fossil record. More than 50 other booths will contain exhibits by many archaeological and anthropological organizations, museums, and Native American tribes.

Archaeology Awareness Month is coordinated by the State Historic Preservation Office within the Arizona State Parks department. The theme of the 1998 month is “Discover the Road to Ruins!” Public events and exhibits are scheduled around Arizona throughout the month.

Volunteers at the Institute

As for so many IHO activities, the efforts of hardworking volunteers were essential to our recent move to Arizona: packing and organizing in Berkeley, unpacking and set-up in Tempe. We are deeply grateful to all of the following for their invaluable assistance.

In Berkeley: Patricia Davis; Keith Fullington; Letizia Gasparetti; Victor Herbert; John Isaac Holson; Tessa Holson; Al Miller; Barbara Miller; Steve Nolan; Alisa Reynolds; Chris Robinson; Andrea Scott; Jon Silvers; Laurianna Smith; Deborah Stratmann; Jane Webber; Richard Weiss; Frank Zima; Sue Zima.

In Tempe: Sharon Briskman; Laura Caviness; Shad Geller; Maxine Goldsmith; Karen Gust; Jennifer Johnston; Gram Jones; Loren LeForce; Brandei McBratney; Gavin McCullough; Robert Muir; Bunny Oshinsky; Ed Richey; Melanie Schwandt; Kim Stout; Kris West; Debra Woodrum.

New Procedures

PLEASE NOTE: Because of our new status as a part of Arizona State University, there have been changes in our business procedures. All checks for IHO should now be made out to "ASU Foundation/IHO" to assure correct processing and credit to our account. All such funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation.