

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 2008 on Wenas Creek Mammoth Field School Central Washington University**

## **Eligibility**

The field school is open to anyone eligible to register for college credits (whether college students are not), and may be audited by those not wanting college credit. There are no pre-requisites, but some background in archaeology, geography and/or geology is strongly encouraged.

## **Schedule**

The field school will meet weekdays from June 16 through August 8, 2008. Our first meeting will be Monday June 16 at 8 AM sharp in Room 103 Lind Hall on the CWU campus in Ellensburg. We will meet 8 AM to 5 PM that first week (Monday to Friday). Thereafter we will meet at 7 AM Monday-Friday. We are starting this early in order to get most of our work done before it gets really hot at the study site. We will finish each day at about 3:30 PM. Please realize that the end of each day will vary, with some longer days and some shorter days. Transportation will be provided by CWU van every day out to the site from campus.

## **Registration**

Your first step is to submit a field school application to the instructor by May 1, 2008 (or later as space allows). Early application is recommended, and you will save \$100 on tuition if you apply by April 1 and pay your deposit within a month of acceptance. (This will make the total cost \$1880.)

Once you are accepted, you will be sent a Field School Registration form by the Office of Continuing Education. This form must be returned to Continuing Education by June 1 with either (1) full payment for the field school (\$1980), or (2) a \$100 non-refundable deposit, or (3) proof from your school's Financial Aid Office that you will receive financial aid to cover the costs of the field school. If you choose Option (2), the \$100 deposit will be applied to your final tuition and fees bill.

Full tuition and fees are due on or before June 16, 2008. When a student registers for classes a financial obligation to the University is incurred and adjustments will be made according to the current refund policy. Payment by VISA or MASTERCARD is accepted for all tuition and fee expenses for summer quarter.

You will earn credits in two courses: ANTH 493 "Anthropological Field Experience" (8 credits) and GEOG 493 "Field Experience in Geography" (4 credits).

The field school cost of \$1980 will be used to pay for tuition, student fees, transportation, instructor salaries, hydrating beverages (e.g., Gatorade), and some excavation supplies.

## **Scholarship**

Through the generosity of donor, we are able to offer \$1000 worth of scholarship funding for 2008 field school students. Two scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to apply towards

the \$1980 tuition cost. Scholarship applicants must first (or concurrently) apply for admission to the field school. Evaluation of applications will take into account four criteria: a) academic record (10 points), b) application statement (10 points), c) letter of recommendation (10 points), and d) financial need (10 points). Detailed descriptions of these criteria are found on the application form available through the mammoth web page at

<http://www.cwu.edu/~masters/mammoth.html>.

To apply, submit the application form and requested additional materials (application statement, letter of recommendation) to Dr. Lubinski by the deadline May 1 at 5:00 PM.

### **Housing**

For out-of-town students, campus housing and dining facilities are available through the CWU Conference Program. You can contact Dr. Lubinski for suggestions, but you must make your own housing reservations. Please call the Conference Program for more information at 1-800-752-4379. We will provide transportation from campus housing to the mammoth site.

Alternately, we are working with a local motel for monthly rentals which will be much cheaper. These rooms will be single or double occupancy with a dorm fridge and microwave, and located within easy walking distance of campus and downtown. The total cost for the 8-week field school would be about \$1,100 (single occupancy) or \$850 (double occupancy). This rental is open to any field school student interested in summer housing. Please contact Jake Shapley for details at 509-929-1799 or [shapleyj@cwu.edu](mailto:shapleyj@cwu.edu). We will provide transportation from this housing to the mammoth site.

### **Field Setting**

The study area lies in the Wenas Creek Valley between Ellensburg and Yakima in central Washington. The nearest community is the town of Selah. The site is on the steep valley wall above Wenas Creek, at about 1400 feet elevation. Vegetation is dominated by plants of the sagebrush/bunchgrass community, primarily big sagebrush and wheatgrass. Below the site is the agricultural Wenas Creek floodplain.

In the summer, this area is typically hot and dry. The temperatures during the field season may range from about 70 to 100 degrees (F), with most days hot and sunny. A few days may be cloudy, with widely scattered showers. Some days could be breezy, blowing around a lot of dust, but most are likely to be nearly still. It is sometimes going to be very hot out there, with no trees (but we will have tent shades over most excavations). ***It will be important to wear sunscreen and a hat, and drink lots of water. The ability to handle these conditions is important; people who are highly sensitive to heat or sunshine may not be good candidates for the project.***

Because of the dry conditions, insect pests like mosquitoes are quite rare, but there could be scorpions, paper wasps, and Black Widow spiders. There also could be several other pesky creatures in the area (e.g., rattlesnakes, and/or ticks), but we have not seen any on site. While we have not had problems with any of these creatures in the past, you should be aware of these possible dangers.

## **Field School Activities**

For the first week (June 16-20), we will be training with lecture, lab studies, field trips, and perhaps hikes. You will get some background in archaeological field methods, sediments, mammoths, maps, and the regional environment. The first day will be entirely on campus, but we may be in the field or on campus thereafter. You may need to arrive prepared for a day in the field as early as the second day of class.

Our primary field tasks this summer are recovery of mammoth bones and any artifacts, and collection of stratigraphic and geomorphic information to put the finds into context. To do this, we expect to excavate a number of 2 x 2 m units, mapping all encountered bone and artifacts with a total station theodolite. We may use shovels, wheelbarrows, trowels, brushes, and/or fine bamboo skewers for excavation, and shake all of this through 1/8" screens. We know there are more mammoth bones on the site, especially since we left numerous large bones in the walls of excavation units at the end of last field season. As we recover bone, we will make use of Butvar consolidant to stabilize the fragments and prevent them from disintegrating. As we excavate the 2 x 2 m units, we will also carefully record the stratigraphy of each, and link this to the already-described stratigraphy of the backhoe trench excavated in 2005. We will also map the geomorphology of the site through field, air photo, topographic map, and GIS methods. Ultimately, we will link the recovered bones to the stratigraphy and associated geomorphology of the site.

Students may also gain experience with pedestrian archaeological survey such as is typically performed in CRM archaeology. As part of an exchange program, you may spend up to a week on a survey crew working throughout central Washington. This exchange is with a parallel CWU archaeology summer field school under the direction of Dr. Pat McCutcheon. Transportation is provided. You may choose your level of participation in this exchange, from none to five days.

We will also take several field trips elsewhere, such as the Yakima Valley Museum in Yakima and the Qwu?gwes "wetsite" archaeological excavation in Olympia.

## **Public Visibility**

This project is of considerable local interest, and we can expect to have visitors from local TV stations, newspapers, and the general public. The project is featured in the History Channel documentary *Journey to 10,000 BC* which first aired March 9, 2008. In 2007, we had over 1,300 visitors, as well as TV and newspaper reporters.

The project will be open to the public in 2008 from July 8 - July 31, Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This includes closed Mondays and three open Saturdays. Site tours will be provided, with the last tour starting at 1:30 PM daily during the visitor period. Students are welcome to have family and friends visit the site during that period. In 2008, we hope to have an on-site museum tent and a staff to lead site tours. This means that field school students should not be required to lead tours, although it is possible that you will have some role in this area, depending on staffing contingencies.

Since we are in the public eye, it is important that students act and dress in a responsible and professional manner. No alcohol or controlled substances are permitted. Attire should be modest, meaning students will not be topless or wearing highly revealing clothing.

### **Field Clothing & Equipment**

Except for a few days the first week, you should bring a pack lunch, drinking water, and field clothes every day. Although we will provide all of the larger and more expensive equipment, you will need to provide your own personal gear. The following items are required:

Shoes: rugged, durable shoes or work boots. While we will not be hiking, we will be using shovels and wheelbarrows everyday, so sturdy shoes are a must. Flip-flops are not acceptable. Some people are fine with athletic shoes, but I prefer work boots in order to jump on shovels, etc. Hiking boots may be used, but are not preferred because of their lugged soles. Flat soles are better for excavation because they do not leave marks on the excavation surfaces. If you get new footwear for this project, be sure to wear it well before you start the field school or else you will get sore, blistered feet.

Clothing: adequate clothes for hot and sunny weather, plus extra clothes for wet and/or cold days. I normally wear light long pants (to protect from sun and vegetation), a T-shirt, and a light long-sleeved shirt (to protect from sun or cool weather). In my pack, I bring along a windbreaker/rainshell (even a large plastic bag may do) and a few bandanas. For summer field clothes, I have used cotton or cotton/polyester work shirts, work pants, painter's pants, and even worn-out dress shirts and slacks like those at the Goodwill store.

Hat: a hat with a brim to protect you from the sun is an absolute must, and I strongly recommend sunglasses as well.

Other Personal Gear: sunscreen and water bottles (at least 2 liters worth-- I find that used 1-1.5 liter plastic pop bottles work well) If you are allergic to pollen, bee stings, etc, you should make sure to have your necessary medicines.

Lunchbox (optional): you may wish to bring a small personal-size cooler for your lunch. We will be able to return to the van for lunch every day, so most students take advantage of this possibility. Do NOT bring a large cooler—we have to fit all of this stuff in the van.

Field Gear: You are required to bring pencils/erasers (I like mechanical pencils with large built-in erasers), and a clipboard. You will be provided with everything else you need, but you could consider this additional optional equipment if you would like your own personal equipment:

- \*a trowel (concrete finishing trowel; Marshalltown 5" pointing trowel or equivalent -- NOT a garden trowel)
- \*a knee cushion or knee pads
- \*a hand lens (some sort of folding pocket magnifier such as is typically used by geologists to examine dirt or rocks. We use them for this purpose and to distinguish small rocks from bone. I like model 61493 from Forestry Suppliers, but others prefer higher magnification.)
- \*a small plumb-bob (less than 3" long is preferable)

- \*a small ruler (4-8" ruler for use as a straight edge when drawing on your clipboard, and to use with graph paper, preferably marked in English and metric)
- \*buckets, 3-5 gallon capacity (we have some for the project, but we can always use more; besides using them to transport dirt, they make great seats!)

### **Suggested Readings**

If you wish, you may do some reading in preparation of the summer field school. The following sources provide some background about this specific excavation, other mammoth investigations, sediments, regional geology, and excavation methods.

- Alt, D., Hyndman, D.W., 1984. *Roadside Geology of Washington*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana.
- Barton, B.R., 1999. Some notable finds of Columbian mammoths from Washington State. *Washington Geology* 27, 23-27.
- Lillquist, K., Lundblad, S., Barton, B.R., 2005. The Moxee City (Washington) mammoth: Morphostratigraphic, taphonomic, and taxonomic considerations. *Western North American Naturalist* 65 (4), 417-428.
- Lubinski, P.M., Barton, B.R., Lillquist, K., Uebelacker, M., Shapley, J.T., 2007. The Late Glacial Wenas Creek mammoth site (45YA1083) in central Washington. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 24, 178-180.
- Stewart, R.M., 2002. *Archaeology Basic Field Methods*. Kendall/Hunt Publishing, Dubuque, Iowa.
- Waters, M.R., 1992. *Principles of Geoarchaeology: A North American Perspective*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

### **Further Information**

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