

FROM THE  
DIRECTOR

and state and municipal police departments in modern criminal investigation. When the general public thinks of "archaeology," they correctly think of our work as a way to understand the human past. Though our research interest is in the cultural past, the same techniques and methods of excavation and identification of human skeletal remains we are trained to uncover and examine are applicable to law enforcement cases. Over the years, we have been pleased to provide our assistance in the recovery of buried victims, the identification of human skeletal remains that have been affected by construction and other earth-moving activities, and from the result of criminal behavior. We are not trained in law enforcement and we rely on the professional police investigators to control the scene and gather the evidence they need to prosecute their cases. We can, however, provide the technical archaeological and anthropological expertise to assist their important and difficult work.

While OSA staff has not grown with all these initiatives, we have received great support from the staff and resources at our State Museum

Dear Friends,

In 2004, assisted by the UConn Geography Department and an Anthropology graduate student, the Museum and Archaeology Center began a new project to better organize and preserve the Office of State Archaeology site files using GIS. At that time, the site files documented over 5,000 known archaeological sites in Connecticut.

A responsibility of the State Archaeologist is to work with municipalities and developers across the state to help ensure that new construction and development occur without destroying archaeological sites—but he often has only 30 days to assess construction projects and conduct related field reviews. We knew that the use of GIS would help the State Archaeologist add, access, and sort site data quickly, streamlining OSA's work to complete hundreds of technical assessments in Connecticut towns and cities each year.

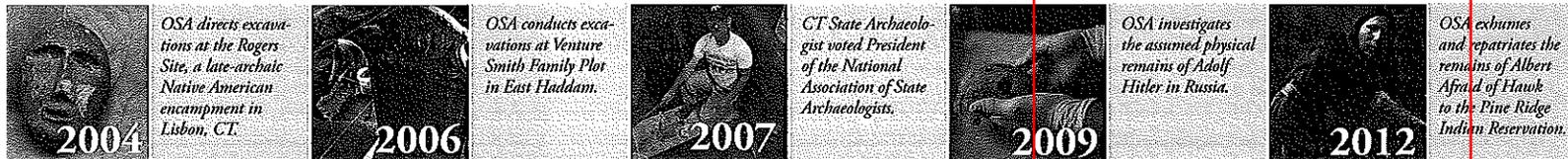
Jaime Grant, a graduate research assistant in Anthropology, helped us set up the new system in 2004 with training and support from Geography Department staff. Scanning and software



At the Hillside location, students and museum staff can also provide initial assistance and access to users during the week, helping to increase availability and convenience when the State Archaeologist is in the field.

Throughout the process, Bob Cless, a career archaeologist in the CT Department of Transportation, provided fundamental oversight and assistance, working with students, volunteers and staff, as well as the State Archaeologist. From the very first planning meetings, Bob was instrumental in development and design—getting things underway and keeping the effort going for 10 years.

Bob Cless passed away at the end of this summer, but his contribution continues. In 2011, Bob helped train and support former UConn Anthropology student Mandy Ranslow, an archaeologist who was working with the site files as an assistant in the OSA. Mandy now works full time at the CT DOT, as Bob did. Mandy is completing a GIS certificate program here at UConn and providing training and assistance to others working in the site files office. The site



of Natural History, the archaeological community, and the non-profit Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA), which has been an invaluable volunteer and financial support network for OSA. People have often referred to our office as a "one man band," but this is far from the truth. Without FOSA, the State Museum of Natural History and Archaeology Center, and the people of the state of Connecticut, we could never have accomplished any of the initiatives we have. It is truly humbling to think about the dedication and support that has been given to our office. It is an important and significant gift.

technology was also provided by the Geography Department, and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology donated funds to purchase a new computer for the project. Without this assistance, the project could not have been undertaken.

The site files project initially operated out of the Horsebarn Hill Office, before moving to the main Museum building on Hillside Road. With existing funds and assistance from the Academic Renovations team in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, we were able to create a small new room inside the building. These 52 square feet became the OSA's dedicated site files office. Qualified researchers, students, and archaeological consultants arrange appointments to use the site files hundreds of times each year.

files now number closer to 8,000, and the project continues. Bob's co-workers at the CT DOT and colleagues in the archaeological community are donating funds in his memory for the continuation of the site file work.

As Nick Bellantoni's words reflect, "The development of an electronic version of the state's archaeological site files and maps was one of Bob's inspirations. His dedication and hard work toward the project will always be remembered, and the continuation of what he started will be an ongoing part of his legacy."

With thanks and remembrance,

Leanne Harty, Director