The ICAZ 2006 International Conference was held this past August in México City at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia’s (INAH) Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía (ENCRyM). The meeting, organized by Oscar J. Polaco and Joaquín Arroyo-Cabrales, hosted 339 participants from 34 countries. This meeting was a landmark for ICAZ because it was the first International Conference to be held in a Latin American country, and Latin American archaeozoologists showed their support by attending in impressive numbers. One third of the conference participants came from Latin American countries.1 Compare these figures to the ICAZ 2002 conference, held in Durham, UK, where fewer than three percent of attendees were from Latin America.

Two of the main goals of ICAZ 2006 were to promote archaeozoology in the Third World and to open new avenues of communication between Latin American archaeozoologists and archaeozoologists from other countries. We believe the conference succeeded in both areas. The conference boasted 25 thematic symposia, including one poster session, along with six general symposia and two general poster sessions. Participants gave 272 oral presentations and 86 posters were displayed during the conference. Four of these posters were awarded monetary prizes for winning the ICAZ Poster Competition (see pg. 2 for details). Speakers in the Plenary Session, held Friday morning, discussed the current state of archaeozoology in Latin America, which gave conference participants some excellent insights into the research of their Latin American colleagues.

ICAZ 2006 was sponsored largely by INAH, who contributed more than US$20,000 for logistical expenses and travel support grants. In addition, through a grant from the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), INAH was able to provide another US$10,000 to support speakers in the Plenary Session. ICAZ contributed US$10,000 for travel support grants and US$1,500 to award the winners of the poster competition. Travel support grants were given to 37 individuals from 12 countries, most of whom were students or colleagues from developing countries, and ten individuals who participated in the Plenary Session (nine from Latin American countries and one from France). ICAZ also funded the development of the conference website and BoneCommons and kindly gave a small cash gift to all of the hard-working students, from both México and abroad, who volunteered at the conference. English Heritage also partially supported a symposium on landscape zooarchaeology.

ICAZ 2006 began Wednesday evening with a wonderful opening ceremony where conference participants enjoyed a concert of lively Mexican folk music and a wine reception. On Saturday, following two days of paper presentations, conference participants got to spend the day sightseeing. They had the option to choose from one of eight organized tours or explore beautiful México City on their own. The conference ended Monday evening with a lovely banquet held in Chapultepec Castle. Located high on a hill, 2,325 meters above sea level, Chapultepec Castle boasts an incredible view of the city and an elegant reception hall that once served as imperial and presidential residences. Attendees were served a truly wonderful meal, the main dish consisted of a local, seasonal favorite called Chiles en Nogata and a selection of fine tequila drinks (just as one might expect in México). It was truly a night to remember.

We would like to acknowledge all of the people who helped us organize this successful conference, including the author-
FISH REMAINS WORKING GROUP

Members of the Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG), along with some newcomers, convened briefly for an informal meeting during the ICAZ 2006 International Conference. Newcomers to our meeting included several fish experts from the North Atlantic Bioarchaeological Organization (NABO), who had no previous personal contact with the ICAZ FRWG. Sandrine Grouard provided logistic information about the next conference which will be held at the Palais des Congrès, in Antibes, France, October 18–20, 2007. Contributions are invited on the following topics: osteometry, fishing methods and strategies, fish processing and trade, human impacts on fish paleobiodiversity and communities structure and dynamics, and fish as paleoecological/paleoclimatological indicators. According to the latest information from Philippe Béarez, the list of potential conference participants includes about 50 individuals. It is no longer a secret that the meeting (and its proceedings) will be entitled, “Archéologie du Poisson 30 ans d’Archéo-Ichtyologie au CNRS: Hommage aux Travaux de Jean et Nathalie Desse” to acknowledge, on the occasion of Jean’s birthday, the tremendous contribution these two widely respected scholars have made to archaeoichthyology. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming conference, please contact one of the organizers for more information: Sandrine Grouard (grouard@mnhn.fr), Philippe Béarez (bearez@mnhn.fr), and Benoit Clavel (benoit.clavel@inrap.fr).

On another note, the proceedings from the 2005 FRWG meeting in Basel, Switzerland, are moving along nicely towards publication. Seventeen chapters have been edited, with four still pending. These chapters must reach editor Heide Hüster-Plogmann by the end of November to be included in the volume. The proceedings already have a publisher (Verlag Marie Leidorf GmbH), an ISSN number (1434-6427), and a title (The Role of Fish in Ancient Time).

Recently, Karen Greig has not been able to tend the FishNet mailing list and website due to her maternal duties. We are currently seeking a replacement for her, although we hope that the FRWG mailing list may be able to find a home on BoneCommons, an online service provided by the Alexandria Archive Institute.

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GRUPO DE ZOOARQUEOLOGÍA DE CAMÉLIDOS

The Camelid Working Group, or Grupo de Zooarqueología de Camélidos (GZC), will hold its next international workshop in May 2008 at the Centro de Convenciones y Exposiciones Thesaurus, Malargüe, Mendoza. The convention center, located in west-central Argentina, has all the necessary facilities to make this meeting both agreeable and comfortable. As in previous occasions, we stuck to the idea of having the meeting close to where camelids live. Not far from Malargüe there is a natural reserve called La Payunia where guanaco herds and choique (or lesser rhea) groups can easily be seen. It is also the place where a lot of research has been done on this specific wild camelid. We hope this new workshop will bring together individuals who are interested in camelids. The subject of the workshop will be current advances in methods and techniques for studying camelid archaeological bones and other organic remains. As soon as the organization progresses, more information will be distributed through the ICAZ Newsletter, the ICAZ Website, and BoneCommons. If you are interested in participating in the workshop, please e-mail the Guillermo L. Mengoni at wmmengoni@yahoo.com.ar.

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NABO ZOOARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

NABO (North Atlantic Biocultural Organization) held its 2006 meeting in lovely and historic Quebec, very ably hosted by Université Laval, Jim Woollett, Alison Bain, Reginald Auger, and a very active and promising crew of Laval graduate students. As usual papers ranged widely in time (extending from Mesolithic Shetland and Maritime Archaic Newfoundland to Basque sites, New France, 18th century Icelandic bishops, contact period Inuit, and Dutch whalers in Spitzbergen) and extended from North Cape to the Gulf of St. Lawrence in geographic scope. The meeting included many papers that either focused on zooarchaeology or made major use of zooarchaeological data in multidisciplinary syntheses, which underlined the important role zooarchaeology has come to play in this region. Major themes included changing maritime adaptations through time, the origins and spread of early medieval to early modern commercial fishing, the impact of both Viking age and early modern European settlements on landscapes, soil, and vegetation, and the use of climate and agro-climatological modeling to integrate data sets. Special efforts to connect the zooarchaeology of the early European colonization of Atlantic Canada and New France with contemporary archaeofauna in Iceland and the northern and western isles were a notable success. There were many excellent student presentations and the poster sessions (aided by generous servings of excellent local Quebecois beer) showcased high-quality student projects from both sides of the Atlantic. The meeting saw the proposal of a new NABO working group in Geoarchaeology, being taken forward by Ian Simpson and Tim Horsley. It also generated interest in a possible new Journal of the North Atlantic, now under intense discussion as an outlet for the many new research programs and growing interest in the region. The next meeting will be hosted by the Department of Archaeological Science at the University of Bradford, England, in 2008. Copies of the proceedings from the 2004 NABO meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark (Dynamics of Northern Societies edited by Jette Arneborg and Bjarne Grønnøom, 2006, National Museum of Denmark Studies in Archaeology and History Vol. 10, Copenhagen) are still available, as is the latest edition of the NABONE / FISHBONE CD distributed at the last ICAZ International Conference.

Contributed by NABO ZWG Liaison Thomas McGovern, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, USA, E-mail: nabo@voice.net.com.

WORKED BONE RESEARCH GROUP

The 2006 ICAZ International Conference held in México City this past August offered people interested in worked bone studies a chance to see what our Central and South American colleagues have been working on. Much of the material presented and especially the technical aspects of its production were new, to me at least. An entire session, organized around the theme “Bone Raw Material Exploitation in South America,” was devoted to the presentation of these varied assemblages. The session was organized

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by Vivian Scheinsohn from Argentina. Some of the papers dealt with bone tools from hunting and gathering societies while other material came from large permanent settlements. I was particularly impressed (and envious) to see that these scholars receive material from carefully excavated sites where proper care has been taken to minimize taphonomic loss related to lack of sieving.

At the business meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group (WBRG) the perennial problem of the separation of worked artifacts in the field and other bone objects that are pulled from the general faunal assemblage remains acute on both continents. We also discussed the need to carry out focused ethnographic research on how living people actually choose to use bone as a raw material and how they use and discard bone tools and ornaments. People who still regularly use bone implements are rapidly disappearing. In many cases, only the older generation has any memory of the role bone tools played in various kinds of social interaction. These are critical imponderables which are very difficult to get at from the archaeological material alone. There was also discussion about what kind of variables individual scholars ought to look at when examining their materials. The younger generation is definitely learning to make use of new methodologies provided by high magnification manufacture and use wear studies developed by French colleagues. We also discussed the necessity of consciously trying to insure that after this meeting, scholars from North and South America stay in touch with their European counterparts. In fact, the goal is really to enable scholars from around the world to share information. I have great hopes that even if traveling remains difficult we can still communicate through the medium of the internet, such as the new possibilities offered by BoneCommons (see pg. 3 for details or go to http://www.bonecommons.org).

Still, there is no substitute for personal meetings. The next official WBRG meeting will be held in Nanterre on the outskirts of Paris at the end of August 2007. The meeting is being organized by Dr. Isabelle Sidera (isabelle.sidera@mae.u-paris10.fr) and a group of young scholars from Nanterre and other places in France. More detailed information about the WBRG meeting is available on the internet at http://www.wbrgparis.com/prehistory.htm. Isabelle is working hard to find money to help make this a truly international meeting. If anyone has good suggestions for alternative sources of funding they should contact her as soon as possible. This meeting represents a wonderful chance to see first hand the French school in action. These are scholars with a quarter of a century of experience using microscopic traceology to understand manufacturing and use wear processes on bone, antler and tooth tools and ornaments. Their work and the work of their students represents a real intellectual resource for others.

The WBRG group runs a closed mailing list at bonetools@listserv.ihf.h. Enquiries or announcements may be placed there. A WBRG Website, which is currently being developed by the University of Basel, is still under construction, although Hans Christian Kuchelmann (info@knochenarbeiten.de) has developed his own bone tool website which can be found online at http://www.knochenarbeit.de/. There are also plans to put relevant worked bone articles on BoneCommons to ensure that scholars around the world have better access to worked bone research.

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