University historian digs punk archaeology

“This is a funny question,” Bill Caraher remarks when asked to describe the term he coined, punk archaeology. Caraher, a proto-punk enthusiast has spent the last 17 years doing the classic archaeologist thing, digging; but as he describes, it goes deeper than that.

Caraher further explains punk archaeology as:

- A convenient term used to describe attitudes toward archaeological work
- A way to question traditional practices and assumptions about archaeology
- A method that celebrates a do-it-yourself attitude among a new generation of archaeologists
- A mindset that defamiliarizes everyday objects to allow questioning and new ways of thinking

Caraher’s work is best explained through a project he worked on this summer in New Mexico. The project was known as the Atari dig and involved excavating thousands of Atari game cartridges from a landfill. According to techopedia.com, Atari, founded in 1972, was a major player in the video and arcade game industry. Popular games included “Pong,” “Space Invaders,” “Frogger” and “Asteroids.”

A game called “E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial” was rumored to have had thousands of copies destroyed; however, many were uncovered in the dig. The project received worldwide media attention and gave a firsthand example of modern archaeology.

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Director’s Corner
North Dakota celebrates 125 years!

The State of North Dakota celebrated its 125th year of statehood in early November. I am proud to be a North Dakotan. Our state offers many different cultures, national and state parks, lots of outdoor activities, and OLLI! OLLI will be highlighting North Dakota history in the Winter session with multiple lectures for both Bismarck and Grand Forks members. Let’s continue to celebrate North Dakota and our 125 years of statehood.

One initiative that the University of North Dakota is leading this year is an effort to create an online atlas. The project will “analyze data from the state and create maps designed to show changes over the last 125 years of North Dakota history. Unlike a traditional road atlas, the online atlas will be thematic, showing demographic, economic and social changes to North Dakota over time” (ULetter, 11/6/2014). The initiative is led by the Department of Geography in collaboration with American Indian studies, anthropology, computer science, history, integrated studies, religious studies and visual arts. The atlas will provide a unique information tool for policy makers, community members, educators and more. The North Dakota Online Atlas should be launched summer of 2015. I look forward to this online tool that will tell us about changes over time.

Enjoy the Winter OLLI semester. I am excited about all of the wonderful courses, lectures, and all that is happening for you as OLLI members. Take part in the lifelong learning opportunities of OLLI.

- Lynette Krenelka, Director, Office of Extended Learning

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Upcoming OLLI Showcases

**Grand Forks Showcase**
- Monday, January 5, 2015, from 4:30 - 6:00 pm: Parkwood Senior Living, 749 S. 30th St., Grand Forks, ND 58201
  Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Kelley, President of the University of North Dakota

**Bismarck Showcase**
- Thursday, January 8, 2015, from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Room 431, NECE Building, 1200 Schafer St., on the BSC campus
  Guest Speaker: Randy Kreil, retired chief of the Wildlife Division with the North Dakota Game & Fish Department

*Showcases are free and open to the public! Please invite those who may be interested in OLLI!*
Punk archaeology: continued from page 1...

“The Atari dig speaks to a very immediate way of how we live today,” Caraher explained. “It worked at the fringes of traditional disciplinary definitions of archaeology, which tends to privilege the ancient or at least really old artifacts. We were there, fascinated by the number of media, as we opened a modern landfill to discover how objects from our everyday lives continue in an archaeological context.”

Caraher has presented to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members before. In the 2013 winter semester, he lectured on The North Dakota Man Camp Project. Next semester, Caraher is presenting Punk Archaeology. The one-time lecture is 4:30-6:45 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, in Grand Forks.

“It’s always fun to present my work to an appreciative and interested audience,” Caraher said. “I enjoy the great group of folks who come to hear our talks and how genuinely interested they are in our work.”

In addition to his modern digs, Caraher spent the summer working on a project in Greece. The project was based in a valley that once connected prominent regions of the ancient world for thousands of years. Today, it’s home to one of Greece’s most modern highways. By incorporating archaeological data from the valley, Caraher hopes to determine the parts of the valley that have gone unchanged and compare it to the changes it’s seen through multiple economic, political, social and religious eras.

“By saying that the ancient is so similar to the modern, we’re observing not that the rural world of modern Greece is somehow static,” Caraher said. “Rather, we have every reason to assume that rural Greece in antiquity was every bit as dynamic as our modern age. The ceramics scattered across the surface of the ground are antiquity’s Atari cartridges and can tell us about how people lived and worked in the Classical, Hellenistic, Roman or Medieval periods.”

To learn more about Caraher and read updates on his work, visit his blog at: http://mediterraneanworld.typepad.com/the_archaeology_of_the_me/punk-archaeology/

Q&A with one of UND’s 3D printing professionals

How important is it, that UND is researching 3D printing opportunities?

“The work that is going on at UND has the potential to provide significant regional and national benefits. We’re innovating in several areas related to 3D printing and scanning. Particularly, the work we’re doing related to specific areas such as sports, aerospace and medical applications. Each application has the possibility of creating a vibrant new local or regional industry, in collaboration with the university.”

What do you think the future of 3D printing will be?

“Three-dimensional printing has the potential to be a transformative technology. It could allow the production of bespoke items near their point of consumption. It also has the potential to allow low-run manufacturing to build specific quantity requirements for in-store or in local warehouses, reducing shipment costs, as well as maximizing the number of products that are in stock. There are, however, a lot of technical improvements that need to occur before this can become a reality.”

Jeremy Straub, Ph.D. candidate for the Department of Computer Science
University of North Dakota
Winter 2015 OLLI Courses

Complete course details will be provided in the Winter 2015 Course Catalog

Grand Forks (partial listing)
- NBC’s Grimm: Fairy Tales, Foreign Language and Culture, Oh My!
- Introduction to Machining
- All That Glitters is Not Gold: The Gilded Age in American History
- Capture the Beauty of Winter (Photography)
- The Civil Rights Movement
- Jesus in the Bible According to Mark
- Multicultural Dance for Wellness
- The History of the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences
- 3D Scanning and Printing
- What to Say After “No”
- An Epigenetic View of Our Musical Minds
- Squeakings, Scratchings, Scurryings...sometimes in the night!
- Punk Archaeology

Lectures to be held at Parkwood Senior Living
- The Titanic, 10:00 - Noon, Tuesday, April 14
- The Bismarck, 10:00 - Noon, Tuesday, May 26

Bismarck (partial listing)
- Author’s Notes: Cattitudes
- When Mother Nature Rages
- Take Command of your Camera (photography)
- Experience the Spanish Language and Culture
- The Great Decisions:
  - Russia and the Near Abroad
  - Privacy in the Digital Age
  - Sectarianism in the Middle East
  - India Changes Course
- What’s in a Street Name
- The Effects of Terrorism on Families
- So, You Want to Make an Exhibit?
- Quilt Stories
- History of North Dakota Parks and Recreation
- Ethnic Textile Tour
- History of the ND State Patrol
- Bringing ND History to Life
- American Indian Culture
- Relaxation: Care for the Care Giver
- Book Discussion: Landscapes of the Sacred
Featured Instructor: Charlene Nemec
74 countries and counting...

Growing up in a small town, Charlene Nemec never imagined she’d see the world, let alone teach others about its countries and cultures. Seventy countries and several OLLI lectures later, Charlene is still traveling and making plans for her next lecture.

A Spanish teacher for 30 years, Charlene currently works for the Bismarck School system. She realized early on that in order to appropriately teach a language, she had to understand the language and culture behind it. With that mindset, Charlene set out to visit Spanish-speaking countries like Spain, Mexico and Peru. Several trips later, Charlene recognized her love for travel.

When asked to name her favorite trip, Charlene responded, “I can’t narrow it down, but Russia and China are high on my list, Kenya and Tanzania because of the animals, and Vietnam was also very enjoyable.”

A few years back, after exploring ways to share her journeys and knowledge, she discovered the OLLI program. “They’re (OLLI members) so interested in everything and they’re appreciative of everything. I teach an adult Sunday school class as well, and when I’m willing to do the research and present to them, they’re very willing to make an attempt to learn,” Charlene explained.

Her upcoming six-week course, Experience the Spanish Language and Culture, takes place in Bismarck on Tuesdays from March 24 – April 28. As far as teaching style, Charlene uses a similar approach to her high school language courses, interweaving culture into the lessons.

Some of Charlene’s past OLLI courses include, Russia: From Tsars & Tsarinas to Communism and More Spanish for Fun. While she hasn’t committed to future OLLI courses, the wheels are always turning. The history of Cuba, the Sicilian mafia in Italy, and a combined Spanish art and history course are all topics of interest for Charlene.

Charlene already has plans to add to her list of 74 countries. With a visit to Mongolia next summer and several other countries on her bucket list, she’ll continue to travel, learn and share her adventures!
Leadership Council Spotlight

Jenette Leblang
Birthplace: Arkansas City, KS

Background:
I skated with Holiday On Ice between high school and college. I attended the University of Colorado for one year and graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York City. After graduation, I worked as a designer in the city’s garment center, eventually running a small department for a large company. My job included designing, sales and entertaining buyers. I always enjoyed weekends on a New England farm with my husband and we both traveled extensively for business and pleasure in Europe.

Interesting Information:
- I enjoy keeping up with current events: domestic and international through online newspapers (as well as keeping up with friends here and across the country)
- International opera and ballet LIVE in HD at our 2 local theatres
- Reading: especially gossipy history!
- I’m at the gym in an attempt to keep distance between me and an assisted living facility! 4x week (gym, yoga and Pilates)

Grand Forks Showcase: Jan 5
Bismarck Showcase: Jan 8

View all the details at: UND.edu/ollii

Did you know?
The UND Alumni Association & Foundation has partnered with Go Next, a leading travel agency, to offer unique and luxurious travel opportunities. With about 10 destinations each year, you’re bound to find something on your bucket list. We’d love you to cross off that item in the company of fellow UND Alumni.

View upcoming destinations online: www.bit.ly/1GJ6E0d