Center for Advanced Archaeologic and Paleontologic Imaging and Modeling

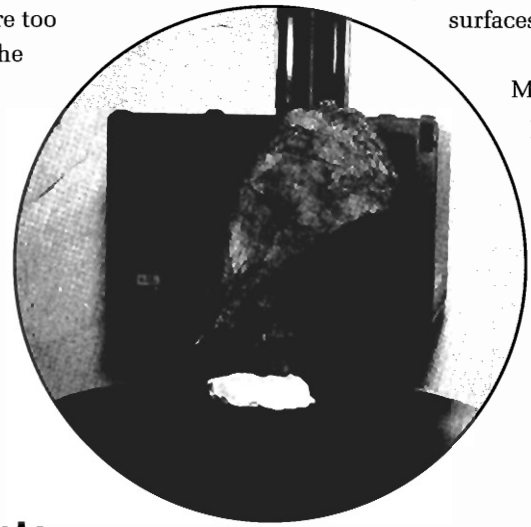
Mission

The establishment of the Center for Advanced Archaeologic and Paleontologic Imaging and Modeling (CAAPIM) provides an opportunity to utilize leading edge technology to implement a revolutionary approach to the creation of museum reproductions, models and miniatures. The overall objective is to integrate CAD-CAM technologies in the areas of archaeology and paleontology. This will result in enormous reduction of reproduction time and costs as well as greatly reduce the possibility of damage to extremely valuable and rare original specimens.

The Center

The College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum has been involved in molding and casting dinosaur bones for thirty years. Recently the Museum was given casting responsibilities for the Huntington Canyon Mammoth and has furnished casts of the mammoth to museums across the United States and some foreign countries. There is a great demand for exhibit reproductions, but often the original specimens are too fragile to withstand the traditional molding process. Stereolithography, a process used to produce models or miniaturizations and supply missing elements, will allow the museum to preserve the specimen's scientific integrity.

Don Burge, Director of College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum holding the Nodosaurus scapula. The monitor screen has the same bone shown. The next step is to make the bone using the SLA.



Nodosaurus dinosaur scapula. This is part of the College of Eastern Utah's Prehistoric Museum "bone" collection from the Gaston Quarry north of Moab.

Center Projects

- Remolding of the Huntington Canyon Mammoth. As the original molds wear out, this non-intrusive technology will make the mammoth specimen available to more museums.
- Two new, recently discovered dinosaur species, one of which was made famous by the movie Jurassic Park, will be molded by the CAAPIM.
- Through the application of CAAPIM technology, archaeologic specimens such as the rare and fragile one thousand year old unbaked clay Fremont figurines will finally be available to other museums as exhibit and study specimens and to private citizens as art. The CAAPIM will be able to produce molds of the figurines without touching the fragile surfaces.
- The College of Eastern Utah Museum has actively provided programs to public school students both as a part of the state core curriculum and as supplementary programs.

For more information, please contact:

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