The last several months have been a time of transition for the Penn Museum. Richard Hodges, Williams Director since the fall of 2007, departed in June to assume the presidency of the American University of Rome. In July, Julian Siggers became the 11th Director of the Museum. Dr. Siggers is an archaeologist with extensive museum experience, having most recently served as Vice President for Programs, Education, and Content Communication at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. We welcome him to Philadelphia and to the Penn Museum.

This has also been a time of sadness for the Museum community, as we have recently lost two great men. Over their many years at the Museum and in Penn’s Department of Anthropology, Bernard Wailes and Greg Possehl sent scores of Ph.D.s out into the world, all students who trained on archaeological excavations in Ireland and South Asia. Former students have written remembrances of Bernard and Greg, which appear in these pages.

The Summer issue of Expedition includes four feature articles that will take you from Alaska to Central America to the Amazon and then back to Philadelphia. We open with a story by John Cloud about a 19th century map of southeast Alaska created by Tlingit Indians. Lucy Fowler Williams adds to Cloud’s story with background on Louis Shotridge, a Tlingit native and the Museum’s only indigenous curator, and the story of a special Tlingit war knife. This is followed by an article by Peter Harrison on a great feat of Maya engineering—a water management system at Tikal. Then John Walker, a Penn graduate, writes about his current project on earthworks in the Llanos de Mojos region of Bolivia. Our last feature by Larry Rosen looks back at the 1950s–1960s television show What in the World?, created by Froelich Rainey, then Director of the Penn Museum.

In “Research Notes,” Jean Turfa writes about two most unusual objects in our Collection—an ancient lock of hair and a fragment of a textile—which she discovered in a Museum storeroom. Sometimes the most fascinating finds are the unexpected ones. This issue also includes book reviews by Penn students Peter Cobb and Paul Mitchell; “Museum Mosaic,” which will catch you up on recent news at the Museum; and a current Penn Museum Staff List.