The Amish have a saying: “Use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without.” The Anthropology Department has operated under this slogan for many years. In particular, the anthropology teaching labs (Cramer Hall 40, 41, and 93) have long required structural and equipment upgrades to support science-oriented archaeology and biological anthropology courses taught by Portland State University faculty.

In the past, the lack of up-to-date equipment and facilities limited our ability to teach laboratory-based courses, particularly the junior-level core courses required for our majors (Anth 350 and Anth 370/370L) and the 400-500 level methodology courses in archaeology and biological anthropology.

Our infrastructural deficiencies adversely affected student learning opportunities and reduced the possibility that students – particularly undergraduates – would be able to participate in research while at PSU. These deficiencies also meant that students were less prepared for careers in archaeology and biological anthropology when they graduated from PSU, because all biological anthropology and archaeological practice (in research, government agencies, and the private sector) requires field and laboratory skills.

In order to strengthen and expand the anthropology curriculum, the Anthropology Department requested one-time support from CLAS to update our laboratory spaces and purchase field and lab equipment.

This year, with generous funding from the Dean’s Office, the Department has significantly upgraded our teaching spaces. To date, we have received and spent $60,000 for renovations and $20,000 for equipment. At the end of May, we requested and received an additional $25,000 for equipment; we are in the process of spending that money now. This report details how we have used the funds.

Laboratory Renovations: Cramer 41
Cramer 41 is the primary teaching lab in the Anthropology Department, and the bulk of our renovations took place here.

The renovations include:
- Addition of a laboratory bench/countertop with drop down internet plugs and under-counter lighting
- Addition of four retractable cords in the center of the room
- New tables with locking wheels
- Ergonomic office chairs for student use
- Replacement of old storage cabinets with new, museum-quality cabinets that have roll-out drawers for specimens. (Cabinets will be installed in June, after the end of Spring Quarter.)

![New tables and chairs. Also note the drop-down plugs in the middle of the room.](image)

We lack space in our existing cabinets to store all of our teaching equipment and collections. Currently, these materials are primarily housed in Cramer 41 in cabinets, on desks that are not in use, and on the floor under tables. Teaching materials overflow into Cramer 40 and 93 where they are stored on the floor and mixed in with non-teaching collections and samples. Other department storage space (including a room in the sub-basement) is full. These materials should instead be stored in cabinets separately from non-teaching collections and samples, both for protection and also to free up teaching space.

![A new lab bench replaced these old tables.](image)

![New lab bench with internet and electrical outlets. Note the two new computers at the end of the bench.](image)

![Old cabinets. Note overflow materials stored above. These cabinets will be removed and replaced after the end of Spring Quarter.](image)
Renovation funds from CLAS have supported the purchase of museum-style storage cabinets that will triple the usable storage space in CH 41. In addition, with CLAS funds we have updated the facilities in our sub-basement storage area.

Faculty and student volunteers worked nights and weekends to organize a sub-basement storage room, transforming it into a functional, usable space. Hundreds of pounds of trash, outdated equipment, and other items were hauled away to make room for incoming materials.

Lab Renovations: Cramer 40 and 93
In our secondary teaching laboratories, Cramer 40 and 93, graduate and undergraduate students work on projects with faculty for credit and/or engage in thesis research. These lab spaces are also in need of structural upgrades. We could not fully renovate these spaces with the funds we received, but we have made some minimal upgrades, including:

- Sink repair, addition of sediment traps
- Drop-down electrical plugs
- Added shelving in existing cabinets

Teaching Equipment
The Anthropology Department needed extensive improvements to our teaching equipment. Although we can purchase expendable items such as beakers, weighing boats, and tweezers with course fees, more substantial, long-term investments in lab and field equipment required support from the University. With our one-time funds from CLAS, we have already purchased a number of items, including:

- Digital calipers (some with USB links)
- 2 computers with monitors
- Dissecting and polarizing microscopes
- Microscope w/camera for teaching demonstrations
- Top-loading digital scales
- Carts for moving teaching samples and materials from room to room
- Digital camera
- Handheld GPS units
- Nesting screens – standard mesh sizes for archaeological work
- Other supplies for field methods course

Graduate students make use of new microscopes

Students use new materials, tables, and chairs in CH 41.
Before the end of June, we anticipate the delivery of additional teaching equipment, including:

- Total station (instrument for surveying and mapping)
- Fossil casts for teaching about primate and human evolution

New purchases will soon augment our existing collection of fossil casts.

**Future curricular improvements possible due to improvement in our lab space and equipment**

Three biological anthropology and three archaeology courses are regularly taught in Cramer 41, including:

- Anth 370/370L: Paleoanthropology
- Anth 452/552: Lab Methods in Archaeology
- Anth 453/553: Archaeological Field Methods
- Anth 455/555: Analysis of Faunal Remains
- Anth 471: Advanced Topics in Paleoanthropology
- Anth 478/578: Human Osteology

In addition to the courses mentioned above, many of the other courses in biological anthropology and archaeology taught at PSU use teaching equipment currently housed in Cramer 41. Students in all of these courses will benefit from the recent renovations and equipment purchases.

With these renovations in place, we plan to expand and strengthen our core archaeology requirement for majors (Anth 350: Archaeological Method and Theory) to include laboratory sections, similar to what has long been done in the core biological anthropology course (Anth 370/370L). Currently, hands-on activities are incorporated as much as possible into this lecture-style class of 50+ students, but there are no credit hours set aside for lab work because we lacked the facilities and equipment. If we receive additional TA support, we will be able to transition to lab sections. This curricular shift is an essential element in providing an excellent learning experience for our undergraduate majors and a good foundation for those who wish to become professional archaeologists. It will also provide a unique teaching experience for the graduate students who serve as teaching assistants for the lab sections.

Undergraduates examine archaeological materials.