

## **Center for Archaeological Materials/Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology**

The mission of the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology (CMRAE), a consortium of eight Boston-area educational and cultural institutions, is to advance our understanding of prehistoric and nonindustrial societies through analysis of the structure and properties of materials associated with human activity. Plant and animal food remains, human skeletal material, and metal, ceramic, stone, bone, and fiber artifacts are the objects of study, along with the environments within which these materials were produced and used. At the Center for Archaeological Materials (CAM) at MIT, investigators concentrate on the materials processing technologies that transform natural materials into cultural objects.

At MIT, CAM is administered by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (DMSE). In 1998–1999 DMSE established a new undergraduate major in archaeology and materials, Course 3-C, as well as an interdisciplinary doctoral degree program in archaeological materials. These are the only academic degree programs of their kind in the United States. During AY2006 two graduate students were enrolled in the PhD program and three majored in Course 3-C.

By June 2006, six students had graduated from the 3-C program. All six students received the Department of Materials Science and Engineering award for Outstanding Senior Thesis.

Archaeological science, the CMRAE/CAM undergraduate subject introduced during AY1995–1996 and offered jointly by DMSE, the Chemistry Department, and the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, continues to enjoy high popularity among students from CMRAE institutions. Thirty-eight students enrolled: 31 from MIT, 3 from Harvard, 1 from University of Massachusetts–Boston, and 3 from Wellesley College; 14 faculty members from 5 CMRAE institutions lectured in the subject.

**Heather Lechtman**

**Director**

**Professor of Archaeology and Ancient Technology**

*More information about the Center for Archaeological Materials/Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology can be found at [http://web.mit.edu/cmrae/cmrae\\_home.htm](http://web.mit.edu/cmrae/cmrae_home.htm).*