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# the anthrObserver

University of Iowa Department of Anthropology Newsletter  
2005-2006

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## Department News

*Contributed by Michael Chibnik, DEO*

This has been another busy year in our department. You can read in this newsletter about Russ Ciochon's adventures on a television show on the History Channel, my guest curating a large exhibit of Oaxacan wood carvings, the atlatl team, and diverse other activities by faculty and graduate students. The *American Ethnologist*, edited by Virginia Dominguez, continues to be housed in our Department. Many of our undergraduate and graduate students and faculty have had the invaluable opportunity to participate in the production of this flagship journal in sociocultural anthropology. Laura Graham and Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld have Fubrights; Laurie in Venezuela, Rudi in Ecuador. We once again have had a lively colloquium series. One highlight was a series of talk *American Ethnologist*-related talks by present editor Virginia Dominguez and past editors Norman Whitten (University of Illinois) and Michael Herzfeld (Harvard University).

As always, there are some changes in the composition of the



*Michael Chibnik,  
Department Chair*

faculty. Nanette Barkey, a medical anthropologist who conducts most of her fieldwork in Africa, joined our department this fall. Doug Midgett, who has been in our department since 1972, is retiring at the end of this year. Doug is a Caribbeanist with a wide range of knowledge about anthropology and other topics including fishing, college wrestling, and yoga. We will miss his wry sense of humor and balanced perspective about university and academic politics. Next year Sonia Ryang will join the department as an Associate Professor and Stanley Foundation and Korean Foundation Korea Scholar. Sonia, who is already written several books, comes to our department from Johns Hopkins University. She has a

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1995 Ph.D. from Cambridge University; her areal and topical specialties include ideology, identities, anthropology of love and romance, gender and feminism, critical ethnography, Japan, and Korea. We had hoped to add another hire this year in genetic anthropology (joint appointment in anthropology and biology), but that search unfortunately was unsuccessful. We will try again next year.

I am finishing up a three-year term as department chair and am looking forward to concentrating more on teaching and research next year. Our next chair will be **Russell Ciochon**, whose energy and enthusiasm will doubtless keep the place interesting.

We would very much like to hear about the activity of alumni. Please send news about yourself either by regular mail to: **Michael Chibnik**, *Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242* or by email to *michael-chibnik@uiowa.edu*.



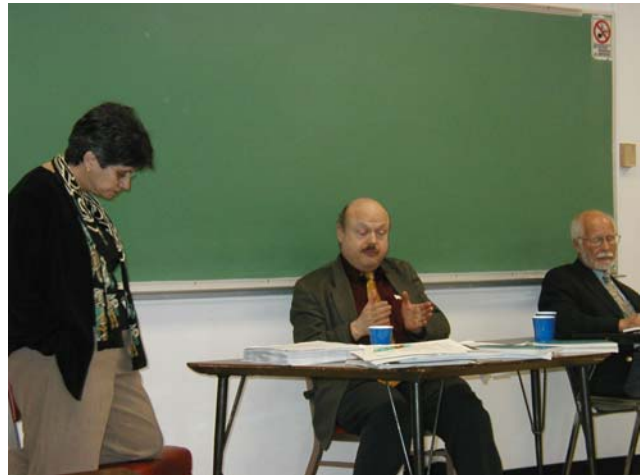
**The AnthObserver** is published annually by the University of Iowa Department of Anthropology. Its goal is to create awareness of the intellectual diversity and achievement of UI anthropology students, faculty, alumni, and staff.

**2005-2006 Editor:**  
K. Lindsay Eaves-Johnson

**Faculty Advisor & Department  
Chair:** Michael Chibnik

## *American Ethnologist* 2-day Workshop

In mid-March, UI anthropology students were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact with the editors of the *American Ethnologist* (AE).



(Left to Right) Virginia Dominguez, Michael Herzfeld and Norman Whitten.



UI graduate students listen to the AE editors.

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# Barkey joins Department

*Contributed by Anna Waterman*

The University of Iowa's Department of Anthropology is happy to welcome newest faculty member Nanette Barkey. Nanette, who received her MS in Public Health from The University of South Florida and her PhD in Anthropology from The University of Florida,



*Hilton, Nanette and Natal the black lab.*

joined the department in the fall of 2005. With a joint appointment in the Departments of Anthropology and Community and Behavioral Health, Nanette divides her time between the two sides of the river, and has enjoyed working with students from both disciplines. Nanette found that serving on the search committee for the genetic anthropologist this year provided the perfect opportunity to get to know her fellow faculty in the anthropology department, as well as the local restaurant scene.

As an Ohio native with Iowa ties – her mother is from Des Moines – Nanette is enjoying being back in the Midwest, and she and her husband Hilton Vasconcelos – an airline pilot who she

met and married while doing field work in Mozambique – are in the process of buying a house in town. In her free time, she swims with the Master's team at Mercer community center. She also enjoys cooking and spending time with her 3 ½ year-old black lab named Natal. Nanette – who considers herself an Africanist – is looking forward to continuing her research into the relationship between psycho-social stress and health this summer in Angola.

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## Anthropology Undergrads

### Bachelors Degrees Conferred:

Spring, 2005: 24

Fall, 2005: 14

### Honors Graduates

#### Spring, 2005

Jeremy T. Decker

Georgia Grunewald Millward

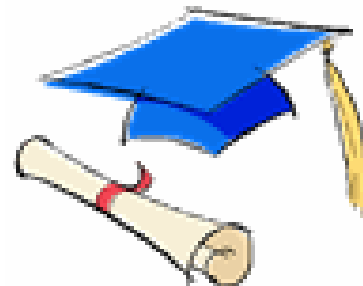
Melissa Ann Murphy

Kavita Kandala Narayan

Michael James Thompson

#### Fall, 2005

Gretchen A. Boston-Kemple



# The Beauty of Oaxacan Wood Carvings

Contributed by Michael Chibnik

I have been conducting research since 1994 on the international trade in brightly-colored, whimsical wood carvings (*alebrijes*) from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. My publications on this topic include numerous articles and a book (*Crafting Tradition: The Making and Marketing of Oaxacan Wood Carvings*, University of Texas Press 2003). Last fall and winter I had a wonderful opportunity to present my work in a different venue to a new audience. From November 2005 through March 2006, I was the guest curator of the exhibit *Oaxacan Wood Carvings* at the University of Iowa Museum of Art. The exhibit consisted of exceptionally high-quality carvings commissioned by the Museum and pieces borrowed from collectors and from the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In December, Oaxacan wood carvers Epifanio Fuentes and Laurencia Santiago came to Iowa for a week, where they gave demonstrations at the Museum, in nearby schools, and in university art classes. The exhibit and the visiting wood carvers were featured in the *Daily Iowan*, the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, the *Des Moines Register*, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, the *Iowa Alumni Magazine*, and local television and radio programs. The artisans and their pieces were the principal attractions of two major museum events (Members' Night and Family Day) in December.

Over the past three decades, many artisan families in Oaxaca have prospered through the sale of their pieces to tourists, wholesalers, and owners of stores specializing in "ethnic arts." The wood carvings invented in the past fifty years, are made mostly by monolingual Spanish speakers who do not describe themselves as "Indians." Almost every family of artisans includes



members who have migrated temporarily or permanently to the United States. Nonetheless, merchants dealing in ethnic arts promote the wood carvings in tourist brochures and websites as a symbol of Zapotec identity, describe the pieces as having been made for hundreds of years, and depict the artisans as unsophisticated farmers with little knowledge of the outside world. Sellers know that crafts sell well when they fit into a romantic narrative that places the maximum cultural distance between artisans and customers.

Alebrijes have been increasingly valued as fine art by collectors, gallery owners, and museum curators. When the carvings first began being sold in significant numbers in the 1980s, they were charming, but crude. As artisans competed with one another to gain customers, some wood carvers began making innovative, technically proficient pieces that have been featured in international exhibitions and sold in high-end galleries. The exhibit at the University of Iowa Museum allowed me to be a participant-observer of the interaction between rural Mexican artisans, intermediaries, and the international art world.

I learned a lot about the complications of mounting an art show as I consulted with staff at the museum about writing labels and brochures, getting carvings from Oaxaca to Iowa in one piece, borrowing from collectors, paying artisans and intermediaries in Oaxaca, designing the layout of the exhibit, and arranging for carvings to be sold at museum events and in the gift shop. The exhibit gave me the proverbial “fifteen minutes of fame” around campus as people I had never met or knew only slightly saw the exhibit. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the exhibit was showing the visiting carvers around Iowa. Although Epifanio and Laurencia had been to the U.S. numerous times before, they nonetheless marveled at the snow, had a great time demonstrating their craft, and enjoyed shopping at local stores. The Museum still has a few excellent carvings made by Epifanio and Laurencia. If you are interested in buying one, please stop by.

My next project is attempting to have the exhibit displayed at other museums. We have sent out descriptions of the exhibit to various places and hope

to be able to show these extraordinary carvings in other parts of the U.S.



Can't get enough? For more information on anthropology graduate students and faculty, visit the Department Website at:

<http://uiowa.edu/~anthro>

# Russell Ciochon and the “Real” King Kong!

*Contributed by Lindsay Eaves-Johnson*

Anyone who has passed the giant lifesized ape bust on the first floor of Macbride knows why this ancient ape was nicknamed “Giganto”, but few know the real story. Our own Russell Ciochon is the man to go to satisfy your curiosity about the biggest ape that ever lived. That’s why when the History Channel decided to do a documentary on *Gigantopithecus* to coincide with the premiere of the feature film, *Kong*, they came straight to the source in Iowa. *Giganto, the Real King Kong* (premiered Thursday, Nov. 15, 2005), documents the thrilling story of *Gigantopithecus* from its discovery in a Chinese apothecary shop to its range across China and Vietnam. Filmed on location in Iowa City (Iowa), Nanning and Wuming, Guangxi (China), and Frankfurt and Leipzig (Germany), this documentary presents the evolutionary history, paleobiology, and historical context of *Gigantopithecus*. Counter-poised against this scientific study are cryptozoologists from across the world seeking to link the existence of Giganto to legends of Apemen such as Bigfoot and the Yeti. While it is true that Giganto did coexist temporally with *Homo erectus* in Asia, there is no evidence that this huge ape lived past the Pleistocene (the Ice Age). Additionally, it is unlikely that *erectus* could have conveyed any knowledge of this giant beast to immigrant *Homo sapiens* of the region, as their use of symbolic language was probably poorly developed, if present at all. **This myth is busted!**

The University of Iowa News Services Office has made available an interview with Dr. Ciochon, as well as a short audio feature about his research into the real-life giant apes that once roamed Earth (mp3 format). Go to [www.uiowa.edu/~ournews/2005/audio/giganto/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~ournews/2005/audio/giganto/) for more on this fascinating creature!



*Above: Russ Ciochon with a cast of a Giganto jaw.*

*Below: An artist’s rendition of what Giganto may have looked like.*



# UI Atlatl Team Enters Third Year

*Contributed by Alexander Woods*

What fun is college if you don't learn to throw spears? For the past three years enterprising students at the University of Iowa have honed their skills at constructing and using their very own atlatls. An atlatl (or spear thrower) is an ancient hunting technology. It basically works just like a lever, allowing a small flick of a hunter's wrist to generate a great deal of extra thrust on a thrown spear (or dart). Iowa is the only state to be called "home" by three college atlatl teams. This provides students with plenty of opportunities to both learn about pre-history and share their experiences with others. Students from the University of Iowa regularly compete at events hosted by Luther College, Grinnell College and the Missouri Atlatl Association. In spring 2005, the University of Iowa Atlatl Team emerged victorious from Grinnell College's annual "Raging Cow Atlatl Meet", earning the right to proudly display the coveted "Raging Cow" trophy in the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History for the past year. The team then finished off the 2005 season at the Missouri Atlatl Association's annual competition at the ancient city of Cahokia near St. Louis. University students had the opportunity to



(Left to Right) Marie Richards, Kimberly Townsend, Alex Woods, Todd Morgan, Grant McCall with their 2005 Raging Cow Atlatl trophy.

throw competitively in the central plaza amidst the ancient burial and platform mounds and then take in the sites from the top of the largest prehistoric earthen structure north of the Rio Grande. The Team is now preparing to defend its unofficial title as national collegiate atlatl champions at the 2006 "Raging Cow" competition. The team will be lead by Team Captain's Marie Richards and Troy Fadiga, and Coach Alexander Woods.



The Anthropology Department continues to be run under the capable supervision of Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight.



Beverly and Shari both received special recognition from the CLAS Human Resources Thank You Program 2005-2006. This program is to recognize a staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to be of assistance to a faculty, staff member or student. Recognition is acknowledged with a thank you note sent on behalf of the nominator, the Dean and the Staff Recognition Committee.



*Jess White and Matt Bonnan enter their baby shower in spring 2005.*

## Full-time Faculty Updates

### **Nanette Barkey:**

Nanette is the newest faculty member in the department. As a medical anthropologist, she has a joint appointment in Anthropology (75%) and Community and Behavioral Health (25%) in the College of Public Health. Nanette has been busy this year getting to know her colleagues and students in the two departments and learning her way around the University of Iowa. Her Ph.D. (Florida) and BA (Case Western Reserve) were in Anthropology, while her Master's degree (South Florida) was in Public Health. She is an Africanist by training but has worked in Haiti, Laos, and the U.S. as well.

For the past ten years Nanette has researched the health of communities in transition, particularly the post-war settings of Angola and Mozambique. Her dissertation research examined the relationship between psychosocial stress and blood pressure and how social support served to buffer urban Mozambicans from a variety of stressors. Nanette's current research spans two sites in Angola—a city in the central highlands where she is investigating strategies for coping with war-time experiences, and along the Angola-Congo border where she is studying health issues affecting refugees returning from Congo to Angola. She has received funding to return to Angola in the summer of 2006 to continue this work.

### **Thomas H. Charlton:**

During the spring semester of 2005 Dr. Charlton was on a 2005 University of Iowa Career Development Award which allowed him to continue on-going research projects in Mexico and initial studies on prehistoric resource use of a rich lacustrine zone with obsidian deposits in the central plateau.

After returning to Iowa in late May, 2005

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## Announcements

Jess White and husband, Matt Bonnan, welcomed their first child, Quinn Elinor, on May 11, 2005.

Kate Dernbach and husband, Dan, are expecting a sibling for their three-year-old son, Gus, around May 5, 2006.

Brandy Case Haub and husband, Mike, are expecting their first child in September, 2006.





to teach the Field School in Archaeology, Dr. Charlton travelled to Spain to initiate background research into the ceramic making traditions which influenced the types of ceramics found in Mesoamerica after A.D. 1521. Dr. Charlton plans to return to Spain during July of 2006 to co-chair a symposium at the 52nd Meeting of the International Congress of Americanists in Seville and to continue investigating such ceramic traditions as well as to initiate some documentary studies in the archives located there. He returned to Mexico after going to Spain



*Tom Charlton in Mexico.*

to continue some analyses of materials gathered in two projects investigating rural Teotihuacan period sites and residential structures. He was invited to present five lectures at the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia during the summer. These presentations formed an overview of the research Dr. Charlton has carried out in Mexico since 1963.

Dr. Charlton and Mtra. María Eugenia Guevara of the Escuela Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museografía in Mexico City have developed a project revolving around different technical procedures to determine probable place of origin of ceramics. At the moment Mtra. Maria Eugenia Guevara is a Visiting Scholar in Anthropology at the University of Iowa and is in Dr. Charlton's lab, 17B MH, sectioning Teotihuacan period ceramics prior to carrying out petrographic analyses. She has received excellent cooperation from personnel in Geoscience especially Prof. **Art Bettis**, and in Anthropology from Prof. **Billy Graves** who loaned a sectioning machine. Her results will be compared with those

from the INAA studies of the same sherds at Missouri-Columbia.

A number of publications dealing with aspects of Dr. Charlton's research were published in 2005 (a complete list of these is available upon request). In addition to the symposium at the 52nd ICA, Dr. Charlton participated in the Puerto Rico Meetings of the Society for American Archaeology and will be returning to Mexico to continue analyses as well as additional field reconnaissance.

### **Michael Chibnik:**

Mike is finishing up as department chair at end of spring semester, and says he is "looking forward to more teaching and research, and less administration." His exhibit at the UI Museum of Art, *Crafting Tradition: Oaxacan Wood Carvings*, ran from November 2005 to March 2006 [more on exhibit elsewhere in the Newsletter]. He has also worked as associate book review editor for the *American Ethnologist*, published two co-authored book chapters on the economics and ecology of the wood used in Oaxacan wood carvings, and has a forthcoming article in *Agriculture and Human Values* (with Mexican ecologist Silvia Purata): "Conserving Copalillo: The Creation of Sustainable Oaxacan Wood Carvings". His other activities include positions on the University Research Council, on the Advisory Board of the University of Iowa Press, and on the Steering Committee of the Latin American Studies Program.

### **Russ Ciochon:**

In 2005, Russ was inducted as a Fellow into the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science. He participated in a number of invited lectures, including the *40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Yuanmou Man Discovery and the International Symposium on Paleoanthropological Studies*, in Kunming, Yunnan, China, *Elwyn Simons: A Conference Honoring Him in the Year of His Seventy-Fifth Birthday*, at Duke University, Durham, NC, and *Out of Africa I: Who, Where, and When*, at The Stony Brook Human Evolution Workshop,

Stony Brook, NY. When not lecturing, he participated in the paleoanthropological survey of the *Gigantopithecus*-bearing Mohui Cave and of *Homo* archaeological sites in Bose Basin and surveyed the *Gigantopithecus* karst cave sites of Wuming and Liucheng, in southern China in conjunction with the National Museum of Natural History (Nanning, Guangxi). Russ's popular work of non-fiction, *Dragon Bone Hill: An Ice Age Saga of Homo erectus*, co-written by Noel Boaz, and *The Human Evolution Source Book*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Compiled and written by Ciochon and J.G. Fleagle), hit local bookshelves in 2005, in addition to a multitude of journal articles. He also joined Robert Jurmain as co-editor of the popular *Introduction to Physical Anthropology* textbook. His exciting documentary on *Gigantopithecus* is spotlighted elsewhere in the Newsletter.

**Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld:**

Rudi is spending the Spring Semester 2006 in Ecuador on a Fulbright award where he is continuing his comparison study of two provincial centers of clothing manufacture, one indigenous the other ethnically "white". The research explores how manufacturers in each town exploit, or distance themselves from, a shared cultural identity and tradition of design. In addition he has recently published on the topic of politics and currencies, "Money of Moderate Size" (*Common-place: The Interactive Journal of Early American Life*) and has prepared an article on Ecuador's indigenous movement titled "The Power of Ecuador's Indigenous Communities in an Era of Cultural Pluralism" for a special issue of the journal *Social Analysis*.

**Virginia Dominguez:**

Virginia has been invited by MASCIPO (Mondes Américains : Sociétés, Circulations, Pouvoirs) and the Israel Anthropological Association to be their keynote speakers. She was also invited by EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) in Paris to spend a month there in 2006 as Directeur d'Etudes in the Center for North American Studies. A number of additional invitations have led to speaking engagements and short-term residencies, as well. Highlights include: invitations to give the first Colloquium of the 2005-06 academic year at both the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago and at New York University, and a chance to be one of the 4 special speakers brought to Grinnell College this past November for their annual fall Grinnell Humanities Symposium. Virginia was one of six colleagues (from 3 continents) flown to Northwestern University in mid-May as highlighted speakers for a multi-disciplinary event entitled "Globalizing American Studies." She was also a guest of the Graduate School of American Studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan where she presented two papers and participated in a 2-day conference. Virginia has also taught and sponsored a new course, "America in the World: Contextualizing the Lure and Rejection of the U.S." In addition to her regular teaching duties, she has also been engaged in extracurricular teaching, mentoring and training that took her to such disparate places as Durban, South Africa, and Mumbai, India to work on caste and social justice issues. She has worked closely with colleagues to envision, fund, design, run a week-long Symposium/Workshop in Rio de Janeiro entitled, "Looking North: Latin American Scholarship on the U.S. and Comparative Perspectives". In addition, Virginia continues to be consumed by the *American Ethnologist*. In early September 2005, Craig Calhoun, President of the Social Science Research Council, solicited Virginia's participation in a post-Katrina e-forum, and has more recently invited her to join the founding Advisory board of a special Task Force set up by the SSRC to envision, prioritize, and direct social science research on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the question of recovery (officially, the "SSRC Task Force on Hurricane Katrina and Rebuilding the Gulf Coast").

**James Enloe:**

Jim's research on Verberie, site of the University of Iowa advanced archaeological field school from 1991-2002, continues. Some results of analysis of the faunal remains appeared in the article "Equifinality, assemblage integrity and behavioral inferences at Verberie" in *Journal of Taphonomy* and in an article co-authored with

Elaine Turner, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, “Methodological problems and biases in age determinations: a view from the Magdalenian” in *Recent Advances in Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones*, Oxbow Press, Oxford. Other results were presented in a poster “Maxillary dentition and hunting strategies: reindeer teeth from the Magdalenian” co-authored with **Matthew Kilberger**, now a graduate student at the University of Texas, at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Paleoanthropology Society, Milwaukee. His colleagues, Ezra Zubrow, University of Buffalo and Françoise Audouze, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and himself, organized a NSF and CNRS sponsored International Colloquium: “The Origins of Domesticity,” at the Chateau de Goutelas (Loire), France, May 9-13, 2005 to interact with French colleagues working in the region and with American colleagues working on Paleolithic and hunter/gatherer issues, to further progress toward our final monograph on Verberie. Part of this research has resulted in the article “Geological Processes and site structure: Assessing integrity at a Late Paleolithic open-air site in France” accepted for publication in *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal* 21(6) in 2006.

In 2005, Jim continued field work on faunal remains at Pincevent, France, working on material from a terminal Upper Paleolithic level which documents the transition of hunted prey from over 95% reindeer to 50% horse. This occurs in association with a major change in the sedimentary depositional regime, undoubtedly climate change at the end of the Pleistocene and a major adaptive change by Magdalenians of the same archaeological culture as the older levels at the site. Preliminary results of that research were presented at the 70<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City. A co-authored article “Etude archéozoologique de l’unité T 125: originalité de la chasse de rennes et des chevaux” has been accepted for publication in *Gallia Préhistoire* in 2006.

In addition, Jim continued his collaboration with Francine David, CNRS, in the excavation of Middle Paleolithic levels of the Grotte du Bison at Arcy-sur-Cure. This important site documents the transition from Neanderthals of the Middle Paleolithic to anatomically modern humans of the Upper Paleolithic. He will return to Arcy-sur-Cure this summer.

### **Robert Franciscus:**

Bob has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Human Evolution* as an associate editor for a three year term beginning January 2006. This past fall, while on leave, he conducted collaborative work on Late Middle Pleistocene African craniofacial remains from the Thomas Quarry 3 site (Morocco) at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany where the fossil is curated. The specimen has been directly dated, and efforts are now underway to produce a 3-D virtual reconstruction of the cranium in collaboration with Jean-Jacques Hublin, one of the directors of the Institute. Bob was also a co-author on four in press papers including: 1) Edwards, CB, Marshall, SD, Qian, F, Southard, KA, Franciscus, RG & Southard, TE. Longitudinal study of facial skeletal growth completion in three dimensions. *American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics*, 2) Hesby, RM, Marshall, S, Dawson, D, Southard, KA, Casco, JS, Franciscus, RG & Southard, TE. Transverse skeletal and dentoalveolar changes during growth. *American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics*, 3) Southard, TE, Franciscus, RG, Fridrich, KL, Nieves, MA, Keller, JC, **Holton, NE**, Krizan, KE, Reimer, SB & Marshall, SD. Restriction of facial bone growth using skeletal fixation: A preliminary study. *American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics*, and 4) **Polanski, JM** & Franciscus, RG. Patterns of Craniofacial Integration in extant *Homo*, *Pan*, and *Gorilla*. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Bob was also a co-author on five presented papers last year with his students and other collaborators at meetings of the *Paleoanthropology Society* and the *American Association of Physical Anthropologists* (Milwaukee, WI), and the *American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association* (Myrtle Beach, SC). Bob also continues to work as the principal investigator on a study funded by a UI Biological Sciences Funding Program grant awarded last year using pigs (*Sus scrofa*) as a model for

changes in human facial growth with his main collaborator, Tom Southard (Head of Orthodontics, UI Dental School).

### **Laura Graham:**

After the AAA meetings, Laurie graduated from being Chair of AAA's Committee for Human Rights to Past Chair. She is still on the committee, but "not as overloaded". Laurie has been having a fantastic time on Research-Lecture Fulbright Fellowship in Venezuela. In December, she traveled for 5 days with a delegation of Canadian Inuit and Brazilian indigenous peoples to visit indigenous peoples in Venezuela. This was part of a Venezuelan Ministry of Culture program that brought indigenous peoples from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego to Venezuela for cultural exchange. As a result of this trip she made connections with representatives of the Wayuu indigenous group and has subsequently carried out research with them. Laurie also attended the VI World Social Forum in Caracas and carried out participant observation with Wayuu there. Later this month Laurie will accompany Wayuu and an independent film crew to document a Wayuu funeral.

Her graduate seminar on the ethnography of communication at the Universidad de los Andes has just ended, though she adds, "I thought the term would never end". In November and December, classes were suspended for several weeks because of student demonstrations. These were always events to avoid and provided excitement that disrupted not only the University but the entire city: students disrupted traffic by burning tractor tires on major arterials and throwing rocks at passing vehicles.



*The Xavante.*

In May 2005, Laurie accompanied Xavante leader, Hiparidi Topti'ro, to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples and then took him to Boston to meet with Cultural Survival to discuss potential collaborations and to meet with Anthropologist David Maybury-Lewis (CS founder) and pioneering anthropologist among the Xavante. Laurie wrote about this "studying up" experience in the September 2005 *Anthropology Newsletter*.

Laurie also translated a piece from Portuguese that appeared in October 2005 AN: Symbol of Brazilian Indigenism Assassinated AND Leading Resistance against Miners in Brazil: The Legal Exploitation of Cinta Larga Diamonds, Leonel, Mauro and Betty Mindlin, *Anthropology News*, October, pp. 21-22 and published in "Image and Instrumentality in a Xavante Politics of Existential Recognition: The Public Outreach Work of Eténhiritipa Pimentel Barbosa". *American Ethnologist* 32(4):622-641.

### **William Graves:**

Billy presented papers at the SAA meetings in Salt Lake City last spring, the AAA meetings in DC last Dec, and the 10th Biennial Southwest Symposium in Las Cruces, this past January. He also had an article published in the journal, *Kiva*, and has submitted three manuscripts to other journals.

### **Adi Hastings:**

Over the past year, Adi has presented papers on a number of topics ranging from materialities of devotion in Indian film-going practice to translating modern spoken Sanskrit to discourses of ethnic difference in Fiji in Vancouver, Paris, Marseilles, London, and Washington, DC. In July and August, 2005, he traveled to Fiji to conduct preliminary fieldwork and interviews for a project concerning language and ethnic identity among

Indo- Fijians, and Fijian ethnic politics more generally. He is also currently working on turning his doctoral dissertation into a book on the disciplining of Sanskrit in colonial and postcolonial India.

### **Meena Khandelwal:**

Meena's new co-edited book on women's renunciation in South Asia is now in production at Palgrave Macmillan. Palgrave Macmillan allowed the editors to retain the South Asia rights, making it easy to publish an edition that will be available and affordable to a South Asian audience. Meena presented a paper "Foreign Swamis at Home in India" at the South Asian Studies Program colloquium at UI on February 9, 2006 and presented the same paper at a symposium on Religious Transnationalism in South Asia at Syracuse University in April. This work is based on her ethnographic research in Rishikesh, India in Spring 2006. Meena co-organized a double-session for the AAA meetings in Washington D.C. entitled "Arranged Love" on the ways in which marriages are categorized.

### **Ellen Lewin:**

Blackwell Publishers has just brought out Ellen's edited volume, *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, a collection of classic readings in the field. She currently has two major projects in process. One is a collection of original articles being co-edited with William Leap (American University), *Out in Public: Lesbian/Gay Anthropology in the World*. This will be the third (and last) book in a series, the others being *Out in the Field* and *Out in Theory*. She is also working on a book based on her research with gay fathers. The working title is *Dreaming the Family*. Lastly, Florence Babb and Ellen are co-organizing a session for the 2006 AAA meetings, "The Traffic in Feminist Anthropology."

### **Katina Lillios:**

Katina received tenure in spring 2006. Over the past year, she has been involved in a number of projects, some ongoing and others new. Her article, "Lives of Stone, Lives of People: Re-viewing the Engraved



*Katina Lillios at the Copper Age site of Zambujal (Torres Vedras, Portugal).*

Plaques of Copper Age Iberia", was published in the *European Journal of Archaeology* [7(2):125-158]. She explored the archaeological evidence for ancient mnemonic practices in an invited piece entitled, "Engaging Memories of European Prehistory" for the forthcoming book *European Prehistory* (Jones, ed., Blackwell), and continued work on her book, *Heraldry for the Dead: Memory, Identity, and the Engraved Stone Plaques of Prehistoric Iberia*. In the fall of 2005, Katina traveled to the Museo Arqueológico Provincial de Badajoz (Spain) to study and photograph the nearly 100 plaques found in burials of that province for her on-line database, *ESPRIT*. **Erica**

**Begun**, her RA over spring 2005 and 2006, has been working hard to create a coding system for the plaques and enter the plaques in this system so that they can analyze their formal features and spatial distribution.

Graduate student **Angela Collins** edited the thousands of images on this database to speed up on-line searches. Graduate student **Alex Woods** and Katina revised their co-authored paper, “Wearing Stone: Experimental Use-wear Analysis of the Iberian Engraved Slate Plaques”, for the *Proceedings of the IV Iberian Archaeological Congress* (Faro 2004). In the spring of 2005, **Billy Graves** and Katina learned that their proposed seminar, “Comparative Archaeologies: The American Southwest (AD 900-1600) and the Iberian Peninsula (3000-1500 BC)”, was selected to be the 2006 Obermann Summer Seminar. In the fall of 2005, Katina also traveled to Valladolid, Spain to meet with Dr. Germán Delibes de Castro to begin work on a collaborative study of the polished stone tools from the Copper Age site of El Pedroso, a site that appears to have been an important manufacturing center for polished stone tools. Last but not least, she has initiated plans for a new field project, beginning in the summer of 2007 and in collaboration with her German colleague, Michael Kunst, from the German Archaeological Institute of Madrid, in order to better understand the relationship between the classic Copper Age site of Zambujal (Torres Vedras, Portugal) and the populations that lived and were buried in the site’s environs.

**Erica Prussing:**

In summer 2005, Erica completed additional fieldwork on the cultural politics of health services in a Native American reservation community on the northern Plains. With a special focus on gender and identity, this project integrates insights from psychological, medical, and political anthropology to consider the needs and possibilities for overcoming colonial legacies in alcohol services on the reservation. It serves as the foundation for her first book, currently under construction. She is planning future projects with indigenous communities that examine the politics of health knowledge from the perspective of science studies, including case studies in community-controlled epidemiological research.

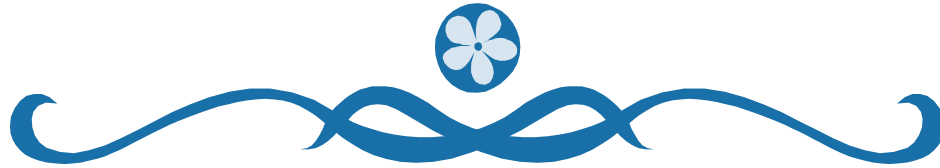
**Scott Schnell:**

Scott made two trips to Japan last summer and spent mid-May through the end of June conducting fieldwork on mountain-oriented folk religious practice, then returned at the end of August to participate in a Buddhist pilgrimage to the summit of Mt. Yari in the Japanese Alps. The latter is part of a new project looking at Buddhist priest-mountaineers and their participation in environmentalist movements. His chapter entitled “The Rural Imaginary: Landscape, Village, Tradition” appeared in Blackwell’s *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, edited by Jennifer Robertson. Scott also wrote a chapter, “Conducting Fieldwork on Japanese Religions,” for inclusion in the *Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*, published by University of Hawai’i Press. At the AAA meeting in Washington he presented a paper entitled “Spirits Generous and Vengeful: Mixed Metaphors of the Forested Mountains in Central Japan.” This became the basis for a longer article, “Are Mountain Gods Vindictive?: Competing Images of the Japanese Alpine Landscape,” which is currently under review. This summer he will attempt to complete a book manuscript—one that he has been working on for several years and which has been through several tentative titles. The current (working) title is *The Mountain Folk: Forgotten Voices of Japanese Modernity*.

**Glenn Storey:**

Glenn’s edited volume, *Urbanism in the Preindustrial World: Cross-Cultural Approaches*, has just been published by the University of Alabama Press. He recently gave an invited colloquium at Stanford’s Anthropological Sciences Department, “Contemplating the Nucleation Option: The Urban Population Estimation Numbers Game.” Glenn will read AP Latin exams again this summer before returning to Sicily to excavate at Gangivecchio and expose more of the enigmatic Late Roman necropolis he discovered last summer, and further test the results of the ground penetrating radar survey he carried out there in 2004; he and Professor **Jim Enloe** have recently received a university grant to use the ground penetrating radar in France this summer,

with graduate student, **Jason Thompson**. Storey is currently working on a paper comparing competing economic models of the Roman empire, and has been invited to give a paper on Rome at the upcoming Project of Investigation on Urbanization in Mesoamerica seminar at Penn State in August 2006.



### **MA Degree Conferrals:**

#### **Spring 2005:**

No MA graduates



#### **Summer 2005:**

Tomi Castle, *“How to Live Well”*: *Citizenship as Inclusion in Urban Brazil* (Dominguez)

#### **Fall 2005:**

Michele Hanks, *Depicting the Legacy of Franz Boas: Exploring the Transformation from Fact-Maker to Object of Study, 1942-2005* (Dominguez)

Natasha Sandraya Wilson, *A Queer SITUATION: Poverty, prisons, and Performances of Infidelity and Instability in the Lesbian Anthem* (Lewin)

Alexander Woods, *Sorting It All Out: Consistent Spatial Patterning in Faunal Exploitation at Pincevent Level IV-20* (Enloe)

### **PhD Degree Conferrals:**

#### **Spring 2005:**

Catherine M. Douillet, *A Contradictory Callaloo: Ethnic Divisions and Mixing in Trinidad* (Midgett)

Katherine Boris Dernbach, *Popular Religion: A Cultural and Historical Study of Catholicism and Spirit Possession in Chuuk, Micronesia* (Marshall)

#### **Fall 2005:**

Samantha Leigh Solimeo, *Living with Parkinson’s Disease: Narratives and the Practice of Embodiment among Elder Iowans* (Marshall)

# Adjunct Faculty Updates

## **Kate Dernbach:**

Kate taught Ethnology of Oceania during fall semester and then moved to San Diego with her husband Dan and 3 year old son Gus in January so Dan could take a new job as general manager of a biotech facility there. Kate had an article entitled “Spirits of the Hereafter: Funerary Possession and Mortuary Ritual in Chuuk, Micronesia” published in the spring 2005 volume of *Ethnology*. She also participated in sessions on mortuary rituals and gender violence at the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO) meeting which was held in San Diego in February.

## **John Doershuk:**

John taught *Indians of North America* through the S&E Program during Fall Semester 2005 (25 students) and *Introduction to Midwestern Prehistory* during the current spring semester. During the fall semester he supervised Anthropology student, John Hall’s Independent Study credit hours in archaeological lab methods; John assisted him with his research on the Gillett Grove Oneota Culture site in northwest Iowa. John also continues to be a member of Julie Plummer’s M.A. committee. He is scheduled to teach *Indians of North America* during the upcoming 8-week summer session. John attended the Iowa Academy of Science annual meeting this spring as a co-presenter (with colleagues from Cornell College) on archaeological and geological research they have been conducting at Palisades-Dow State Preserve in Linn County, Iowa. He continues through 2006 to serve on the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) Field School Certification Committee and the RPA Standards Board; for the latter, he was chair in 2005.

## **Alfrieta Monagan:**

Alfrieta is serving as Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department and also the Ethnic Studies Program at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA. Last year she published a review of *Reclaiming African Religions in Trinidad: The Socio-Political Legitimation of the Orisha and Spiritual Baptist Faiths* by Frances Henry in *NWIG: New West Indian Guide* 79(2005):303-305. Other activities included attending meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Santa Fe last April and observing Toronto’s 27th Annual Caribana Festival in August. She continues her research on the cultural adaptations of West Indian immigrants living in North America.

## **Beth Pauls:**

Beth has had an eventful year. She and co-editor Donna Roper published *Plains Earthlodges* (2005, University of Alabama Press), the first book-length work on this topic since the 1930s. She also garnered a University of Iowa SSFI grant to study Iowa’s historic-period Native American sites; Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) staff John Hedden, Cindy Peterson, and Cindy Nagel presented the results of the project at the SAAs in San Juan. Junior high students from the UI’s Belin-Blank Center for Gifted and Talented Education kept Beth and Anthro alum **Sarah Horgen** busy during 2005’s archaeology summer camp. The kids were great, and it was terrific to see them practice their atlatl techniques on the Pentacrest! Beth also presented information on OSA’s cost savings and regulatory streamlining efforts to members of the Iowa Legislature last fall. This year, Beth published a chapter on archaeological landscapes in the new Blackwell volume *Historical Archaeology* (2006, Silliman and Hall, eds). She traveled to San Juan as an invited panelist in the SAA’s COSWA-sponsored session on non-academic careers for archaeologists, and is chairing an AAA session this fall on the uses of ethnographic and historic data in archaeology. Beth is also serving as a member of the Nominations Committee of the Register of Professional Archaeologists this year. As 2005 closed, after nearly a year’s discussion with University administration regarding OSA’s roles in the University, in Iowa, and *vis-a-*



vis Iowa's historically resident tribes, Beth resigned as State Archaeologist. She continues to be an adjunct faculty member in the department, and is enjoying an OVPR-sponsored sabbatical through the summer of 2006.

**Riki Saltzman:**

The past year has been a busy one with funding for a year-long study of Iowa Place-based Foods, a new series of Iowa Roots <http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/programs/folk-and-traditional-arts/iowa-roots/index.shtml> along with an updated website, and the launching of Cultural Express <http://www.iowaartscouncil.org/funding/cultural-express/index.shtml>, a series of 9 table-top exhibits and 2-hour live programs. Riki has also been working closely with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) to put the Iowa folklife curriculum, *Iowa Folklife: Our People, Communities, and Traditions* on line, complete with downloadable audio, video, links to "Iowa Roots," and the Folkways CD, "Iowa State Fare." That site (hotlinked to the Iowa Arts Council website from the UNI server) will be launched in late spring and will be updated with a second set of lessons in the following year. She has also worked with Nikki Saylor of the Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures at UW-Madison to begin the long overdue process of archiving over 20 years go folklife materials. Finally, and at long last, by late spring 2006, there will be an on line Iowa Folk and Traditional Artists Roster, which will be hotlinked to the on line curriculum.



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## Recent and Forthcoming Graduate Publications

**Kate Dernbach**

2005. "Spirits of the Hereafter: Funerary Possession and Mortuary Ritual in Chuuk, Micronesia." *Ethnology*.

**Nathan Holton** and Robert Franciscus

2006 "Mandibular Inversion and Gracility in Neandertals." *Journal of Human Evolution*.

**Josh Polanski** and Robert Franciscus

2006 "Patterns of craniofacial integration in extant *Homo*, *Pan*, and *Gorilla*." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.



# Adventures in Graduate Studies

## **Erica Begun:**

Erica is a Mesoamerican ceramicist currently specializing on figurines and Early/Middle Classic pottery from the Lake Patzcuaro region of West Mexico. Following her interest in trade relations between West Mexico and Teotihuacán, she is working with Tom Charlton. She has also been working closely with Katina Lillios on getting her plaques entered into a database that will allow for statistical analysis of the data set.

## **Margaret Burchianti:**

Margaret is currently conducting her dissertation fieldwork in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on social memories of the Vietnam War. She has also kept busy this year as Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate and President of the Graduate Student Anthropological Association.

## **Brandy Case Haub:**

Brandy returned in July from a year of doctoral fieldwork in both San Juan, Puerto Rico and New York City. The subject of her doctoral work is the Puerto Rican independence movement. She spent the fall semester of 2005 teaching at both UI and Drake University in Des Moines. She is now working on her dissertation.

## **Tomi Castle:**

Tomi is a second-year, post-MA graduate student in sociocultural anthropology. A version of her MA paper, entitled, "Sexualizing Citizenship: Identity Politics and Notions of the Ideal Citizen in a Brazilian Lesbian Rights Organization," was awarded the Kenneth Payne Prize by the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists at the 2005 meetings of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). She presented English language versions of this paper at the AAA meetings in December, as well as at the recent Latin American Studies Association (LASA) meetings in Puerto Rico. She presented a Portuguese language version at anthropology meetings in Montevideo, Uruguay in

November. She will be taking her comprehensive exams over the summer and plans to research "poverty tourism" in shantytowns in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for her dissertation.

## **Angela Raye Collins:**

Angela is a second year archaeology student. In the last year, she has been analyzing stylistic and technological aspects of a previously unstudied type of ceramics found near Nijmegen, the Netherlands. She recently finished her MA thesis summarizing her interpretations: *Transcultured Pots: an Analysis of Batavian Grey Ware from Roman Period Netherlands*.

## **Mandy G. Dickerson:**

Mandy is in her second year as a post-MA graduate student and is working on comprehensive exams this semester. She continues to be interested in Jamaican attitudes toward and experiences with the production, circulation, and use of plant-based medicines. She received a RISM-Landes Award for Supervised Fieldwork for the summer months of 2005, which allowed her to mentor in the field (Jamaica) with Melanie Dreher while conducting follow-up research with Dreher on the long-term effects of prenatal exposure to cannabis.

## **Lindsay Eaves-Johnson:**

Lindsay is going into her third year post-MA and recently completed her comprehensive exams. Her PhD research will examine the evolution of the hominid thorax, for which she completed 9 weeks of research in Israel and South Africa last summer. In March 2006, she presented a paper in an invited symposium on the Bioarchaeology of Point Hope, Alaska at the meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA) in Anchorage. She was spotlighted by UI's Year of Public Engagement initiative for her outreach activities at UI and in the broader Iowa City/Coralville Community. This includes participation in the Iowa Citizens for Science,

IL Birddog Rescue, and Agudas Achim Congregation (where she is a Sunday School teacher and co-President of Sisterhood). This summer she will participate in the ISU/NSF Geometric Morphometrics Workshop and work on writing her first journal article. She is vice-president of the Graduate Student Anthropological Association.

**Michele Hanks:**

Michele enjoyed her second year at the University of Iowa. She spent last summer exploring the treatment of Franz Boas after his death and eventually wrote her M.A. paper about it. She also presented some of her work on 19th century women anthropologists and their struggles for inclusion in the anthropological community at the AAAs. Her interest in the history of anthropology has expanded to include the history and anthropology of science in general. Michele is now beginning to explore scientific engagements with the paranormal both in the 19th century and today and hopes to spend her summer working with parapsychologists.

**Nathan Holton:**

Nathan Holton is a PhD candidate studying paleoanthropology. This semester Nathan received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant to conduct his research examining the relationship between bite force production and facial anatomy. In addition, Nathan also authored a recently accepted article in *Journal of Human Evolution* detailing jaw muscle scarring patterns.

**Rachel Horner:**

Rachel Horner passed her comprehensive exams and is currently working on her dissertation prospectus. Her PhD research will examine the Slow Food Movement in Italy, and she is brushing up her Italian language skills and hopes to begin work this summer. In addition to her anthropological endeavors, Rachel completed her master's degree in Public Health this December. Working with the Iowa Center for Evaluation Research, her master's project examined the involvement of Des Moines residents in the Making Connections community health initiative. This winter

Rachel also had an article on diet and colorectal cancer published in the International Journal of Global Health and Health Disparities.

**Bryan Kendall:**

Bryan Kendall graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2004 with a B.A. in anthropology and a B.A. in Geology. His graduate work in archaeology has a considerable geologic dimension, focusing on the interaction between humans and their physical surroundings. Current areas of interest include settlement patterns and geomorphology, prehistoric mining activities, and the specific role of geology in shaping the understanding of the past.

**Scott Maddux:**

Scott Maddux is in his second year studying paleoanthropology at the University of Iowa. He returned to Iowa this summer with data collected at the Natural History Museum in Vienna, Austria, where he worked with the museum's 30,000 plus human crania to gain insights on geographic and sexual variation in the *Homo sapiens* infraorbital region. The results of this research will constitute the majority of his Masters Paper as well as a podium presentation for the meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA) entitled "Qualitative and quantitative assessment of infraorbital surface topography in recent and fossil *Homo*". Additionally, Scott has begun research on facial versus cranial variation in *Homo sapiens*, and is looking forwards to the possibility of getting involved with on-going research using *Sus scrofa* as a model for exploring evolutionary changes in facial morphology in human evolution.

**Hannah Marsh:**

Hannah is working with Russell Ciochon, investigating the paleo-ecology and morphology of *Homo erectus*, and will be receiving her Masters this May for her work on Javan *H. erectus*. She will also be joining Dr. Ciochon's team this summer, visiting fossil find sites in Sangiran Dome, Java.

**Alexis Matza:**

Alexis Matza moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts recently, and loves living close enough to mountains that she can fall down all year long. Lexi now realizes how odd she was during the spring of 2005 when she actually enjoyed writing her comprehensive exams.

**Steve Miller:**

Steve's research interests center on the evolution of craniofacial form in genus *Homo*, with particular interest in modern human variation and the origin of *Homo sapiens*. Currently, he is involved with his PhD work examining the evolution of craniofacial robusticity in *Homo*, which is designed to test the co-variation of craniofacial robusticity traits in modern *Homo sapiens* in order to determine whether or not these features form a "robusticity complex". He has several other projects going on concurrently with his PhD work, one involving the reconstruction of Neandertal vocal tract anatomy with implications for modern language evolution, another dealing with the evolution and variation of mandibular form in Miocene fossil apes, and most recently a project pertaining to the reconstruction of 3D coordinate landmarks based off of published linear measurements for the *Homo erectus* fossil record.

**Lavanya Murali:**

Lavanya is from New Delhi, India and came to Iowa with an MA and MPhil in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. Her MPhil dissertation was on Hindutva. Her MA paper here at Iowa is an analysis of "Indian English" in e-mail. When she's not working, she likes to walk around and take photographs or read - mostly fantasy novels. She also likes to game - Sims, Diablo II and AOE III are old favorites.

**Tomomi Naka:**

Tomomi finished her fieldwork at Lancaster, Pennsylvania and is happy to be back to Iowa. She reports that it has been a constant struggle to write for the dissertation, but she is gradually making progress. She made a poster presentation at the conference by the society for Economic Anthropology

in April 2006. She also will present her paper at the Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology Association in June 2006.

**Sarah Ono:**

Sarah recently returned to Los Angeles after spending March at UCSD Thorton Medical Center where she underwent Pulmonary Thromboendarterectomy (PTE) surgery to remove multiple pulmonary embolisms. She reports that, "the recovery is slow, but going well so far. Needless to say, my dissertation writing is on hold, but I am giving some serious thought to medical anthropology!" We all send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery!

**Cristina (Nina) Ortiz:**

Nina is looking forward to a summer working with Latinas in the Midwest and learning from her advisor, Virginia Dominguez. She says, "It's been an exciting first year and I can't wait to see what the future holds."

**Josh Polanski:**

Josh is currently working on projects involving morphological integration of the cranium during growth of living humans and chimpanzees. Additionally, he is also researching morphological integration during growth of the human mandible, both by itself, and its relationships with the rest of the skull. He is also collaborating on a project investigating the evolution of knuckle-walking, and the possibility that it represents the locomotor pattern of our lineage just prior to the advent of bipedalism, and a separate project which involves the initial description and analysis of a fossil maxilla from Java.

**Daniel Proctor:**

Dan is from Washington State, where he completed bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and English, with a focus in Technical Writing, at Eastern Washington University. Then he decided a change was in order and moved to Florida where he completed his master's degree in anthropology at Florida Atlantic University. Despite watching two hurricanes pass by his office window, he completed his master's degree. His thesis was titled,

“Morphometrics and Multi-landmark Depth Analysis of the Proximal Hallucal Metatarsal Articular Surface in Hominoid.” Now, say that three times fast! He intends to pursue further evolutionary studies of the pedal skeleton, while exploring the intricacies of sourdough baking and indulging his (near) fetish for zombie movies.

**Cerisa Reynolds:**

Cerisa’s undergraduate studies were conducted at Fort Lewis College (FLC) in Durango, Colorado where she received her BA in Anthropology in December of 2004, with a focus in archaeology. While she has been employed through various field and laboratory opportunities over the last four years, her main focus has been on the Darkmold Site. The Darkmold Site, just miles north of Durango, is primarily a Basketmaker II site located in the most northeastern limits of the Basketmaker region. The site has been excavated since 1998 under the direction of Mona Charles as a part of FLC’s archaeological field school. She took the field school as a student during the summers of 2002 and 2003 and was a teacher’s assistant at the site during the summers of 2004 and 2005, and has become more interested in the Basketmaker peoples with each passing year. In 2002, Cerisa began conducting zooarchaeological investigations with the site’s faunal assemblage and found that she was attracted to the wide possibility of information that can be learned from the data of such research. She plans on continuing this examination focusing on the Darkmold Site for her MA, possibly expanding this to a comparative study between Basketmaker sites for her Dissertation research.

**Judy Siebert:**

Judy is teaching regularly at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa (the equivalent of about a 1/2-2/3 of a full time position. She also occasionally teaches at Coe which she says, “can definitely put me at a virtually full-time commitment even though I’m classified as part time at both schools.” She continues to work on the final touches of her dissertation and hope to finish soon. She also continues to travel regularly to Chile, the focus of her master’s and dissertation research.

**Jennifer Skrmetti:**

Jennifer Skrmetti came to Iowa City from the University of Georgia. She is a socio-cultural anthropology student whose interests currently include East European identity, post-disaster and post-war recovery, and the intersections of morality, history, politics, and economics. She plans on doing fieldwork in Biloxi, Mississippi this summer, looking at the role of casinos in the area.

**Jonathan Tanner Thomas:**

Jon is an archaeologist interested in nascent social complexity. In particular, he focuses on how the appropriation and recontextualization of symbols might signal emergent inequality. How are innovations in visual representation linked to social transformations in the archaeological record? In his research he explores the immensely long and nuanced lives of symbols: how they are created, applied, borrowed, reinterpreted and later reused in contexts often unrelated to their original meaning. His work has been centered on Predynastic Egypt and the Classic Period Hohokam of the American Southwest, but more recently has focused on visual culture in the Southwestern Iberian Peninsula during the late Neolithic/Chalcolithic, a region which provides an excellent opportunity to monitor incipient complexity in Europe at this time and more broadly in terms of prehistory.

**Andria Timmer:**

Andi passed her comprehensive exams in December and is preparing to embark on dissertation field research in Budapest, Hungary concerning efforts of civil sector organizations to address what is known as the Roma (or Gypsy) “problem.” She is also in the process of completing her master’s in public health. Andi is currently working on her practicum which is on health disparities and sense of community. She recently completed her fourth publication - a book chapter written with N. Andrew Peterson called “Health Disparities and Community-Based Participatory Research: Issues and Illustrations” in Maxcy-Rosenau-Last Public Health and Preventive Medicine (15th Edition). Finally, she continues to develop Health BRIDGE, a non-profit organization

designed to bridge impoverished communities with needed health resources.

**Chad Uran:**

Chad is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. He is a Ford Predoctoral Fellow and a UI Iowa/Presidential Fellow. His research is on the aesthetics of curricula development and language promotion efforts for Ojibwe as a second language. His current work is on how Ojibwe language activists, speakers, and learners of the Ojibwe language must cooperate to foster language spread while negotiating the complex ideological terrain arising within and around institutionalized education. A version of his Master's paper, *From Internalized Oppression to Internalized Sovereignty: Ojibwemowin Performance and Political Consciousness*, was published in *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 17.1 in 2005. Last fall he was an invited presenter at the Michigan State University American Indian Studies symposium on "Indigenous Language Revitalization and the Role of the Research University." He was also selected to attend the 2005 CIC Fall Graduate Workshop, "(Re) Situating Indigenous Genders and Sexualities" at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Now ABD, he lives in northwestern Wisconsin with his wife and three children.

**Anna Waterman:**

Anna has spent the last eight months analyzing 1577 teeth from Feteira — a late Neolithic Burial cave in Portugal. This work will form the basis of her MA research which she will complete this spring. She hopes to build upon this work next summer and is planning on traveling to Portugal in order to study additional skeletal collections. Anna is especially interested in childhood health in prehistory, and this summer will be documenting what affect the social and economic changes occurring in Late Neolithic Portugal had on the children of this region. Any personal time is spent with her husband Gary and their two children — Sophie and Atticus (who will be turning 5 and 2 this summer).

**Jerry Wever:**

Jerry is finishing his dissertation which is entitled: *Postcolonial Creolizations: Expressive culture and power in St. Lucia and the Seychelles*. It is an analysis of the problems associated with decolonizing cultural forms in two small island creole-speaking nation-states in the African Diaspora. Both societies became independent in the latter 1970s and collaborated extensively in their efforts to reclaim their sovereignty, becoming leaders in their respective regions in terms of proactive creole identity. In this, he analyzes the way people use expressive culture to these ends and how the specific context of these societies help shape the cultural forms that result.

**Jess White:**

Jess is now finishing up the final corrections to her dissertation on the ecology and dietary behavior of the Miocene sivaladapid primates of south Asia. In 2005, Jess presented her dissertation data at the annual meeting for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Phoenix, AZ.

**Juli Williams:**

After finishing her B.A. in anthropology (and English) at Indiana University, Juli spent a year in Detroit working at an urban farm project before coming to Iowa. Her primary research interest is the articulation and enactment of people's relationship to land, particularly in relation to concerns with sustainable agriculture and conservation. She will spend the summer doing fieldwork in Oaxaca, Mexico. In her spare time (because we all know that grad school gives you so much of that), she enjoys hiking, cooking vegetarian food, and reading science fiction-fantasy novels.

**Alexander Woods:**

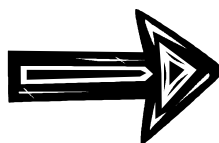
Alex continues to teach flintknapping in the Museum of Natural History and to coach the unofficial University of Iowa Atlatl Team. He will be presented the results of his Masters research at the SAAs in San Juan this spring and is beginning his PhD research on Lithic Blade Technology.

# June Helm Award 2005

When Professor June Helm was nearing retirement, a group of graduate students approached her with the idea of creating a graduate student award in her honor. Those who had served on hiring committees in the past had noticed that several of the candidates successful in receiving job talks had been recipients of “named awards.” An award named after June Helm would provide the Department with its own named award, and even more importantly, would honor June Helm’s many years of service to the department and the to the discipline of anthropology. June’s record of service, and her reputation for standing up to “absurd bureaucratic practices and departmental policies,” had earned her the tremendous respect of many. June enthusiastically gave her support and her name to the award upon one condition: that the award remain in the hands of graduate students and not in the hands of the faculty.

After several years, graduate students approached the UI Alumni Association and Foundation about setting up a special fund where donations could be made in June Helm’s name to the award. Now, the June Helm award’s \$50 stipend comes from this fund, which is generously supported by current and former anthropology graduate students. Now that June Helm is no longer with us, the award is presented with honorable admiration and remembrance of all she did for our department and the discipline as a whole.

The June Helm Award is unique because it is completely independent of the faculty, and represents a moment when we can recognize one of our own colleagues and peers for their commitment and service to our organization, our department, and to the discipline. We as graduate students elect the nominees, handle the voting, and distribute the award each year based on the following criteria which honor the spirit of June Helm.



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**Message from the  
2005-2006  
AnthObserver  
Editor:**

**I’d like to thank all of the newsletter contributors. It is your endeavors and adventures that make the AnthObserver such an exciting read!**



*The editor receiving some well-meaning advice from a friend.*

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**Congratulations to 2005 June Helm  
Award recipient, Margaret  
Burchianti!**



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# The anthrObserver

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