



# The AnthObserver

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

2014-2015

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## News from the Chair

There have been notable accomplishments and honors in our community during the past year. Most notably, Katina Lillios was promoted to Full Professor. We also welcomed Ted Powers as a new Assistant Professor. Ted has done yeoman service for the Global Health program and has been the focal point for the development of a new major in the coming years. Ted developed and taught a new course on African Peoples and Cultures in the fall and Urban Anthropology and the Global Health Seminar in the spring. He has also developed a new course, Making a Living: Economic Anthropology for next fall semester. Elana Buch received Honorable Mention for the Collegiate Teaching Award. We are also very excited to be in the process of hiring Cynthia Chou as the Stanley Chair of Asian Studies. She will be arriving in January 2016, and will substantially strengthen our scholarship and teaching on Asia. We are currently advertising for a Lecturer in Museum Studies to increase the breadth and stability of course offerings, particularly for distance education. The Museum Studies Program, which offers an undergraduate certificate, is administratively housed in Anthropology, with Russ Ciochon as Coordinator.



Dr. James G. Enloe

From a total of 153 Anthropology majors and 33 minors, a total of 47 undergraduate degrees in Anthropology were awarded this year, of which 38 are BA degrees and 9 are BS degrees. We are particularly proud of the accomplishments and recognition of our undergraduate students. Carissa Dewaele and Luke Stroth were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, a signal honor for their nascent careers. Chloe Daniel was one of only four undergraduates in the University awarded an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award. Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) scholars Catherine Babikian, Chloe Daniel, Madeleine Hoofnagle, Claire Rosen, Tylor Buck and Nathaniel Otjen presented their research in posters at the Fall Undergraduate Research Festival.

# News from the Chair

*Congratulations to  
Meredith  
Anderson and  
Miranda Karban  
for being awarded  
Ballard-Seashore  
Fellowships*

*Congratulations to  
Shelby Putt for  
being awarded  
grants by the  
Leakey Foundation,  
Wenner-Gren  
Foundation, and  
the American  
Association of  
University Women*

Brianna Hoffman, Christina Moscatel, Nathaniel Otjen, Jordan Bennett, Chloe Daniel, Ashley Horne and Nailah Roberts presented their research in posters at the Spring Undergraduate Research Fair. Deidre Funk also presented a poster of her senior honors research in the Spring Festival.

Our 32 graduate students have been very active and productive this year. It has been an exceptionally good year for internal and external grants. Meredith Anderson and Miranda Karban were awarded Ballard-Seashore Fellowships for dissertation writing for next year. Shelby Putt used her funding from the Leakey Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation to continue her research on the relationship between brain function and lithic technology, and has been awarded a dissertation writing grant from the American Association of University Women. Shelby was also named as an Outstanding Teaching Assistant by the UI Council on Teaching. Toby Avalos used his T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship for 2014-2015 for his research on fossil and living ape teeth at museums in France, Belgium and Germany, and has been awarded a Graduate College Summer Fellowship to continue his research in China this summer.

Several graduate students have achieved significant milestones in

their academic careers. Dominique Alhambra and Amanda Bernemann presented their MA papers at the end of the spring 2015 semester. Five graduate students were awarded their PhDs. Keelin Baine defended her dissertations in fall 2014; Susanna Donaldson, Christina Nicholas, Tony Pomales, and Sarah Trabert defended their dissertations in spring 2015. Susie has taken a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of West Virginia; Christina has a post-doc at the Dows Institute, associated with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry; Sarah has accepted a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma. Misha Quill expects to graduate this summer, and has been offered a teaching position at Cornell College. Recent graduates have also made progress in their academic careers; Hannah Marsh was hired as tenure-track Assistant Professor at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. We will miss them all and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

The faculty was also productive this year, particularly in major publications and in successful research grant proposals. Russ Ciochon received grants from the National Geographic Society and an internal grant from the Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research. Laurie Graham co-edited a volume with Glenn Penny, *Performing Indigeneity: Emergent*

# News from the Chair

*Identity, Self-determination and Sovereignty.* Our members of faculty, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, were very active in presenting in local, regional, national and international conferences and congresses. There were, of course, substantial numbers of publications in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and chapters in edited volumes. Our faculty has received considerable recognition at the national and international scale. Mike Chibnik continues as editor-in-chief for *American Anthropologist*, the flagship journal of the largest

anthropological association in the world. Ellen Lewin serves as President of the Association for Feminist Anthropology.

We are expecting a bumper crop of new graduate students next fall. Nine have indicated that they have accepted our invitations. We should have three students in each subfield for sociocultural, biological and archaeological anthropology. I look forward to citing their names and accomplishments in what will be my last DEO missive next spring.

*Congratulations to  
Russ Ciochon for  
being awarded  
grants from the  
National  
Geographic Society  
and the Center for  
Global and  
Regional  
Environmental  
Research*

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

### Ph.D., Fall 2014

KEELIN BAINE—dissertation titled “Mortuary Ritual and Social Change in Neolithic and Bronze Age Ireland”

### Ph.D., Spring 2015

SUSANNA DONALDSON—dissertation titled “Farmers and Farmworkers: Negotiating Labor and Identity in Rural Northeast Tennessee”

CHRISTINA NICHOLAS—dissertation titled “The Ontogeny of Nasal Floor Shape Variation in Homo and the Influence of Facial Size, the Anterior Dentition, and Patterns of Midfacial Integration”

TONY POMALES—dissertation titled “ESTAMOS DE PIE Y EN LUCHA”/“WE ARE STANDING AND FIGHTING”: Aging, Inequality and Activism among Sex Workers in Neoliberal Costa Rica”

SARAH TRABERT—dissertation titled “Plural Communities on the Plains: Dismal River People and the Puebloan Diaspora”

### MA, Summer 2015

DOMINIQUE ALHAMBRA—master’s paper titled “Projectile Point Use and Discard at Fort Union Trading Post (31W117), North Dakota”

AMANDA BERNEMANN—master’s paper titled “Oneota Subsistence Practices at the Christenson Site (13PK407)”



Our 2014 crew hiking in Battle Canyon near Lake Scott State Park. From top to bottom: Amanda Bernemann, Maja Stina Sunleaf, and Delaney Cooley.

# Focus on Fieldwork

For Faculty and Students Alike:

## The Scott County Archaeological Research Project

Contributed by: Sarah Trabert, Matthew Hill, and Margaret Beck

Since 2007, students and faculty from the University of Iowa, University of Kansas, and University of Tulsa have been working at a series of archaeological sites in western Kansas. Our research explores issues of migration, identity, and the human-environment relationship among indigenous people on the Great Plains from approximately AD 1550 through AD 1750. Our fieldwork has included survey, mapping, excavation, and geophysical investigations at three sites in the Lake Scott State Park in Scott County, Kansas. These are residential sites, including one where the occupants built and lived in a seven room masonry pueblo (The Scott County Pueblo or 14SCI). At this site,

a group of Puebloan migrants from the Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico took up residence alongside a group of local Plains residents (known archaeologically as the Dismal River people) who had likely lived in this area for some time.

Our work builds off the data and insights of archaeologists who have been working in our study area for more than 125 years. Most of the prior research has focused on the Scott County Pueblo, due to the fact that it is such an unusual find for this part of the country. Our work has tried to expand the focus of research to look at the larger community of people in the region and to examine the social,

technological and environmental changes that arose when people from very different cultural and linguistic backgrounds came together in this small part of the High Plains. Our recent research focuses on this dynamic landscape and we have tried to make sense of the identity and motivations of the different people who were moving into an area that archaeologists had



Partial reconstruction of the Scott County Pueblo.



previously believed to be very culturally-uniform. The sites around Lake Scott in Scott County tell the story of interesting social encounters and the long term changes that occurred thereafter.

We have always envisioned the Scott County Archaeological Research Project (SCARP) to be more than a faculty-driven research venture; we see this project as an open opportunity for interested students to use these sites and associated museum collection as a platform for independent and collaborative research. As such, our goal has been to decentralize control over the primary research goals, create opportunities for new questions, and allow students to take leadership roles in designing and supervising the field and laboratory research. In fact, with Sarah joining the University of Oklahoma Department of

Anthropology this fall, SCARP will now be headquartered at two universities, offering even more students the opportunity for gaining invaluable field and laboratory experience. Thanks to the wonderful group of undergraduate and graduate students, SCARP has been a success. This project has supported numerous undergraduate honors theses, ICRU scholars, student presentations at professional conferences, and a wonderful dissertation related to the Lake Scott sites.

Because of the work and support of many people we now have a much better understanding of the community that developed around Lake Scott, as Dismal River people accepted the Puebloan migrants, who traveled to western Kansas after AD, into their territory. These Puebloan migrants

*“Our broader focus on this dynamic landscape has allowed us to move beyond the pueblo, to consider the larger social processes at work in the region.”*

brought their culturally significant beliefs, foodways practices, and technology with them and influenced the Dismal River community they joined. Through our investigation of two sites, 14SC304 and 14SC409, both less than a mile from the Scott County Pueblo, we have learned that a new plural community formed in the area and some of these Puebloan practices likely persisted for several generations.

Our broader focus on this dynamic landscape has allowed us to move beyond the pueblo, to consider the larger social processes at work in the region. As a result, the work of UI students and faculty are changing our understanding of the impacts of the Puebloan diaspora, the identity of people living in western Kansas, and the nature of Native American interactions and communities during the Protohistoric period. We plan to

continue our work in western Kansas for several more years using SCARP as a platform for encouraging students to pursue their own research projects.



Our 2013 crew excavating at 14SC409, a site occupied just after the pueblo at 14SCI was abandoned. From left to right: Amanda Bernemann, Kyle Harvey, Sarah Anderson, Deborah Waddick, and Delaney Cooley.



Dr. Elana Buch

# Focus on Research

## Learning to Care in Chicago

Contributed by: Elana Buch

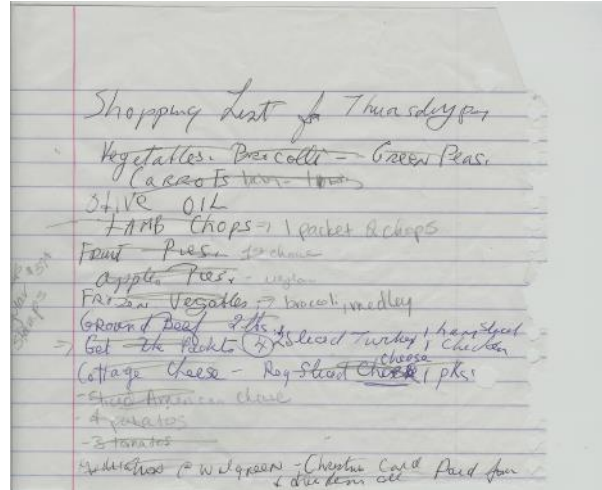
It had already been a long day by the time Maria pulled into the supermarket parking lot. Mrs. Silverman was trying to hide her fatigue. Just an hour earlier, she told Maria, her home care worker, that she would have the energy for the shopping even after stopping for lunch at McDonald's. We had already been to the bank, the tailors and the library earlier that morning. Maria parked as close as possible to the door, but it was still a bit of a walk for Mrs. Silverman who was in her early eighties. The older woman loved to walk—she had once walked many miles each day—but sometimes she forgot how much arthritis and scoliosis had diminished her endurance. As Maria helped Mrs. Silverman out of the car I—the visiting ethnographer—walked ahead, pulling a grocery cart out from a tangle near the door. I assumed I would push the cart, until Maria told me “Give it to her!” A minute later, whispering under her breath, Maria explained that Mrs. Silverman could use the cart to support her, resting on it when needed. Mrs. Silverman refused any of the obvious assistive devices—canes, walkers, etc.—commonly sported by older adults.

But the cart didn't make her look old, it made her look useful— independent.

A few weeks later, I went shopping at the same store with Mrs. Silverman and her daughter Louise, a kind but busy woman in her fifties. Again trying to be helpful, I grabbed a cart near the entryway and brought it over to Mrs. Silverman. When I went to pass the cart to Mrs. Silverman as I would when we shopped with Maria, Louise looked at me, scandalized. “Mom does not push!” I apologized, and pushed the cart myself. While Maria was focused on finding creative ways to help Mrs. Silverman appear independent despite her increasing frailty, Louise was concerned with showing respect and minimizing her mom's discomfort. Both of them were caring for Mrs. Silverman, but in very different ways. Mrs. Silverman, however, preferred Maria's care—not because she didn't love Louise, but precisely because she did. Having Maria help her with the mundane parts of life she could no longer manage on her own helped her preserve her relationships with her children—still a mother who cared

for them rather than a burden. Maria's everyday approach to care enabled Mrs. Silverman to preserve familiar roles in relationships with others, helping Mrs. Silverman feel independent, like the same person she had always been.

During my two years of fieldwork in Chicago, Maria was one of the many home care workers who became my mentors, teaching and showing me how they cared for vulnerable older adults in the city. Like Maria, they modeled a deeply embodied form of care that was attuned to their elderly client's former and current ways of life, as well as their bodily frailties. Their job descriptions focus on helping older adults stay in their homes by assisting with what the medical community calls "Activities of Daily Living"—things like toileting, bathing, dressing, grocery shopping, cooking,



A grocery list co-constructed by Maureen Murphy (a homebound recipient of home care) and Dr. Buch—Maureen's writing is in pen and Dr. Buch's notes are in pencil.

*“My work situates intimate scenes of care, which are full of humor and frustration, empathy and misunderstanding, within the longer histories of racial, gendered and class inequality that shape home care work.”*

cleaning and laundry. However, this list of tasks tells us very little about what really matters in care to both workers and older adults. It tells us little about why Maria wanted Mrs. Silverman to push, or why Louise did not. Instead, as I argue in my book-in-progress *Staying Alive in America: Aging and Inequality in Paid Home Care*, home care workers and older adults strove to create relationships that supported older adults' personhood by making them feel like themselves and helping them appear independent.

Home care and home health care are two of the three fastest growing occupations in the United States. Currently, approximately two million home care workers play a crucial role in the lives of over eleven million older adults and their families. By 2022, the nation is expected to need another million home care workers. Growing the

home care work force to meet this demand is a significant challenge—currently the industry faces ongoing worker shortages and astronomically high rates of turnover. Home care workers are overwhelmingly women, and are disproportionately women of color and immigrants. Workers earn an average of less than \$10 an hour, do not receive benefits or paid leave and are rarely able to secure full-time employment. A majority of home care workers live in poverty, and more than half receive public benefits. Home care workers are currently not protected by federal minimum wage and overtime rules. Workers rarely receive significant training, leaving them unprepared for the complexity of caring for vulnerable elders.

My research, the first ethnographic look into the daily lives of home care workers, older adults,

their families and the agencies that organize care, offers a new perspective on the challenges of home care by focusing on how home care is practiced and what it means to those most intimately involved in it. I show how home care centers on deeply embodied practices that sustain meaningful life for older adults. My work situates intimate scenes of care, which are full of humor and frustration, empathy and misunderstanding, within the longer histories of racial, gendered and class inequality that shape home care work.

In addition to the aforementioned book in progress, I have published several articles on this research. The first, "Senses of Care", published in the *American Ethnologist* examines the ways that the moralities developed through embodied care practices legitimize and intensify social inequality. The second, "Troubling Gifts of Care", which appeared in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, explores the prevalence of illicit gift exchanges in paid home care and the role they play in creating value for home care agencies. Another article, published in *Ethos*, "Postponing Passages", focuses on the ways older adults work to remain independent by making material alterations to the

doorways of their homes. I was also honored to be invited to write a review essay on Aging and Care for the *Annual Review of Anthropology*, which will appear in October 2015. In exploring what matters in home care in this deeply contextualized way, my work offers new ways to think about home care are not only focused on the coming crisis in care, but also on the creativity, vitality and distress experienced by those involved.

I continue to teach on topics closely related to my research, such as the Anthropology of Aging, Anthropology of the Beginnings and Ends of Life, and Anthropology of Care and Health. I also teach graduate and undergraduate methods classes, and the large Contemporary World Problems lecture. Each of these classes emphasize understanding everyday social life within broader cultural, social and political economic contexts. Many of my classes are taken by anthropology majors and future health professionals alike, and I am thrilled to pass along the important insights shared with me by home care workers and older adults to new generations of professionals, health providers and leaders.



One Chicago area home care company's quarterly in-service training for workers.



## UI Department Brown Bag Speaker Series

DREW KITCHEN "Evolutionary History of the Afroasiatic Language Family."

OCTOBER 10, 2014

LAUREN PASS "Rethinking humanism in medicine: objectification and medical ontologies."

OCTOBER 31, 2014

MIRANDA KARBAN "Ontogeny of the Occipital Squama in Anatomically Modern Homo sapiens and Neandertals"

NOVEMBER 7, 2014

JAMES MCGRATH "Testing the effects of possible forgeries on interpretations of the archaeological record: A case study from the Mimbres"

NOVEMBER 7, 2014

EMMA DELLOPOULOS "Performativity and Pedagogy: the Effect of Verbal and Nonverbal Instruction on Experimental Acheulian Handaxe Symmetry."

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

JAMES MCGRATH "The Pinnacle Point Shell Midden Complex: A High Resolution Mid- to Late Holocene Record of Later Stone Age Coastal Foraging along the Southern Cape Coast of South Africa."

APRIL 3, 2015

TAWNY TIBBITS "Ray-Guns and the Maya: Using Cutting Edge Technology to Reconstruct the Past."

APRIL 3, 2015

AMANDA BERNEMANN "Oneota Subsistence Patterns at the Christensen Site (13PK407)."

APRIL 10, 2015

SHELBY PUTT "Pre-Oldowan Possibilities? A Reconsideration of the Percussive Behaviors of Pliocene Hominins."

APRIL 10, 2015



## UI Anthropology Department 2014-2015 Colloquium Series

JEFF FERGUSON (University of Missouri Research Reactor, Columbia) "The Ins and Outs of Canada Alamosa Archaeology: Compositional Analysis of Obsidian, Ceramics, and Clays from the Canada Alamosa, Socorro County, New Mexico."

SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

JESSICA ROBBINS-RUSZKOWSKI (Department of Anthropology, Institute of Gerontology Wayne State University) "'Old Age is No Joy'? Moral Personhood among Older People in Poland"

JANUARY 30, 2015

DOUGLAS MIDGETT (University of Iowa) "The precarious history of African American studies at the University of Iowa: An examination of institutional indifference"

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

JENNA LOYD (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) "Health Rights Are Civil Rights: Peace and Justice Activism in Los Angeles, 1963–1978"

FEBRUARY 27, 2015

## Co-Sponsored Public Lectures with American Indian & Native Studies

FLOR PALMAR (Venezuelan Indigenous Educator) "Creating Bilingual, Intercultural Indigenous Education in Venezuela's Multicultural State: The life and work of FLOR ANGEL PALMAR"

OCTOBER 15, 2014

DARREN RANCO (University of Maine) "Wabanaki Diplomacy to Protect the Ash Tree: Sustainability Science and Environmental Justice in Maine"

NOVEMBER 12, 2014



Pioneering Venezuelan Indigenous Educator, Flor Angela Palmar, and Laura Graham in front of Macbride Hall, October 2014 .  
Photo: David Hernández Palmar.

# Focus on Faculty

## New to the Faculty: First Year Reflections

Contributed By: Theodore Powers



Dr. Theodore Powers

As my first year at the University of Iowa comes to a close, I feel quite fortunate to be based at an institution where I have encountered friendly colleagues, critically minded students and an active research environment. From the moment that my move to Iowa City was confirmed, I have been warmly welcomed and actively supported by faculty and staff in the Department of Anthropology. My sincere thanks go to all those who have eased the transition to life in Iowa City in ways both big and small.

From my first week in the department, I have been energized by the active discussion of anthropological theory and methodology with both colleagues and students. Coming from an academic background with a strong culture of debate, the critical ideas and productive input of faculty members have led me to feel right at home at the University of Iowa. Meetings with graduate students have led to thought-provoking debates on theory and research design, which I look forward to continuing. Much the same can be said for undergraduate students in the department, who have exhibited excellent analytical abilities whilst engaging in critical analysis of leading scholarship. As I continue to develop new courses, I look forward to supporting both graduate and undergraduate students as they begin to follow the various life pathways that an education from the University of Iowa can assist in developing.

As I have settled into my new role in the department, I have continued with my research on the political economy of health and access to care in South Africa. Currently, my work is focusing on the conceptualization of social movements across time, the conceptual and methodological tools utilized in multi-sited research and the significance of the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic for understanding the social dynamics of post-colonial Africa. In the upcoming years, I will expand my work on the South African public health sector and the everyday challenges encountered in the post-apartheid township. I look forward to more intellectual exchange and productive debate as I continue to learn and grow as a colleague, mentor and student of South African society.

# Recognizing Mike Chibnik



**Dr. Brandi Janssen**

*"Mike's approach embodies the anthropology that I found so interesting as an undergraduate: solid, boots-on-the-ground ethnography that takes the perspectives and experiences of everyday people seriously."*

The myths of graduate school often include a heavy dose of advisor lore. The advisor as absent (or absent-minded), self-absorbed, or downright mean play a lead role in the collective storytelling of many graduate students. It's a portion of our shared history that I really can't relate to at all. As a student of Mike Chibnik's, I instead received timely and useful feedback on my work, sensible advice, and, when necessary, thoughtful challenges to my ideas and methods. Mike's approach was always student-centered; he wanted his advisees to find their own path and answer the questions of most interest to them. Most importantly, he was inclined to become equally enthusiastic about those very questions and his fundamental curiosity about how and why people do what they do was infectious.

Mike's approach to anthropology is both thoughtful and pragmatic. Though he occasionally expresses impatience with the postmodern inability to articulate a clear position, he remains sensitive to the historic shortcomings of our discipline. As an advisor, teacher, and editor, he pushes for well-reasoned arguments and jargon-free writing that is, in keeping with a holistic four-field anthropology, understandable to those outside our immediate specialties. Mike's approach embodies the anthropology that I found so interesting as an undergraduate: solid, boots-on-the-ground ethnography that takes the perspectives and experiences of everyday people seriously. I'll end with a sentence that I know he will appreciate: Thanks, Mike, for all you've done for your students. Due to your unique perspective, we have all been positively impacted.

**-Dr. Brandi Janssen (PhD 2014)**



Right: Mike Chibnik with Victor Vásquez (owner of a store in Oaxaca that sells wood carvings) in 2002.

Above: Oaxacan woodcarving by Lauro Ramirez.





# Focus on Faculty

## Reflections on a Career at the University of Iowa

Contributed By: Mike Chibnik



Dr. Mike Chibnik attending a conference in Montreal, 2011.

One day in the spring of 1978 I saw an advertisement for a visiting position in the anthropology department at the University of Iowa. I was enthusiastic about this possibility. My ideal job was at a large state university. Although I knew nothing about the anthropology department at Iowa, I had heard that the university was good and thought that I would like Iowa City. I had liked the college town where I was an undergraduate (Ithaca, New York) much more than the metropolis (New York City) where I lived during graduate school.

I headed off to Iowa City for an interview that June. My first impressions were not good. The roof of the airport had been blown away in a storm; the downtown was torn up in an urban renewal that looked a long way from being done. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the interview, which was relaxed compared to what job candidates nowadays endure. I talked to only five faculty members; the remaining three were out of town. There were eleven people (all friendly) at the talk I gave. I was pleased to accept the job offer I received later and looked forward to a busy year. I had

no idea, of course, that I would eventually get a tenure-track position in the department and still be in Iowa City in 2015.

The department and university during my first decade at Iowa were very different from what they are today. There was a core group of faculty (Florence Babb [who came in 1982], Tom Charlton, Paul Durrenberger, Nora England, June Helm, Mac Marshall, Doug Midgett, and myself) who stayed in our small department for decades. The



Halloween party at the house of Nora England, 1979. Front row from left – Beth Conklin, Jan McHargue, Frank O'Connor. Back row from left — Mike Chibnik (looking a bit glum even though he was enjoying the party), Cyndi Charlton, Russell Rogers, Mark Slater, Tom Charlton, and Lisa Tatum.

university's bureaucracy was minimal; the administrative staff of the College of Liberal Arts (as it was then called), for example, consisted of the Dean and a secretary. Only a few graduate students went on for the Ph.D.; most left the program after receiving the M.A. and either continued doctoral work elsewhere or left anthropology. All M.A. students were required to take seven courses (two each in sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology plus data analysis) and to write a lengthy M.A. thesis. There were many social events at people's houses attended by both faculty and graduate students.

The character of the department and the university started to change around the time I chaired the department (as an Associate Professor) from 1988 to 1991. In the 1990s we were able to hire more faculty and place more emphasis on our doctoral program. Sociocultural



A community in the Peruvian Amazon, near the city of Iquitos, 1986.

*“The character of the department and the university started to change around the time I chaired the department (as an Associate Professor) from 1988 to 1991.”*

anthropology became quite strong, with new faculty such as Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, Virginia Dominguez, Ellen Lewin, Scott Schnell, and Margery Wolf. The university became increasingly bureaucratic. By the time I was chair the second time (2003-2006) there seemed to be rules and regulations about just about everything. Faculty and students socialized much less with one another (both a good thing and a bad thing); the department in general had become a more-or-less ordinary academic workplace.

With the hiring of more archaeologists and biological anthropologists, the department lost much of its sense of unity. Conflicts between mostly humanities-oriented sociocultural anthropologists and mostly science-oriented

biological anthropologists and archaeologists became a regular feature of faculty decision-making. As a sociocultural anthropologist (and undergraduate mathematics major) with a theoretical approach drawing from both the sciences and the humanities, I found these conflicts especially irksome. I am pleased that they have abated in recent years.

The university's generous internal funding and leave policies during most of my career (these have been cut back a lot in the past decade) enabled me to carry out diverse, intriguing research. Although my research has always focused on economic anthropology, my topical foci and fieldwork areas have changed over the years. During the first part of my career, I specialized in



In the community of La Unión Tejalápan (Oaxaca) with wood carver Gabino Reyes, ca. 2000.

agricultural decision-making and ecological anthropology in research in Belize, Iowa, and the Peruvian Amazon. Since the mid 1990s, my fieldwork has focused on wood carvers in the state of Oaxaca in Mexico. A number of our graduate students have carried out their own projects in Oaxaca with occasional advice from me. I also have been able to bring Oaxacan wood carvers to the U.S. for classes and demonstrations and have curated several museum exhibits featuring their craft.

I have spent most of my work-time teaching in one way or another. Like most of our faculty, I have taught large introductory classes, upper level courses, graduate seminars, and independent studies and served on various M.A. and Ph.D. committees. I did not have doctoral advisees until the department became more Ph.D. oriented in the 1990s. My first three doctoral students did

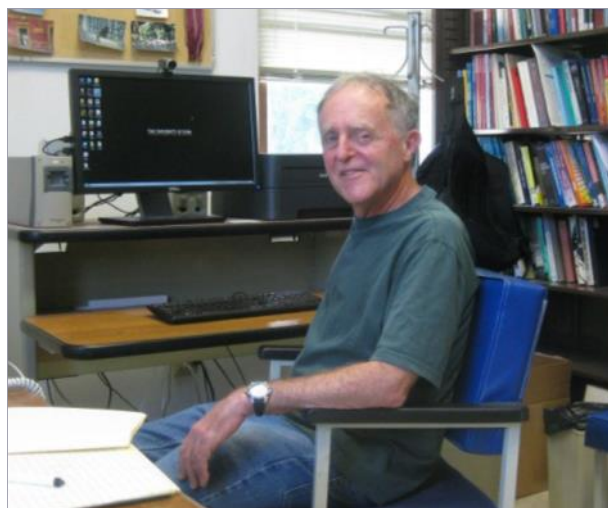
fieldwork in Latin America (in chronological order, Marcela Mendoza - Argentina, Doug Hertzler - Bolivia, and Steve Tulley- Mexico); in more recent years, with one exception (Alejandro Muzzio in Honduras) they have carried out research in the U.S. (again in chronological order, Tomomi Naka, Brandi Janssen, Susie Donaldson, Jennifer Trivedi, and Farai Marazi [co-advised with Erica Prussing]). I also co-advised with Virginia Dominguez two doctoral students who did fieldwork outside of the continental U.S. (Brandy Case Haub – Puerto Rico, Kenda Stewart – Israel).

For the most part the department seems to be doing well these days. We have hired some excellent faculty since 2005 and department meetings (though sometimes lengthy) are much less contentious. Many of our graduate students are getting external grants for their research and finding good jobs after they finish. We are suffering, however, from the university's financial woes that limit the support given to both faculty and students.

For the past few years, I have been editor-in-chief of *American Anthropologist* (AA), the flagship publication of the American Anthropological Association. The university and the department have given me good support for this work, which I enjoy greatly. I will continue to edit AA during my first year of retirement, keeping my office. After that, I am less sure about my plans. I know, however, that I will continue to stay in Iowa City - where I have a nice house and many friends - and write.



Left: Mike Chibnik with Beverly Poduska.  
Right: Mike in his office, summer 2012.







Students complete an interactive mapping assignment in *Issues in Anthropology: Anthropological Forensics*, Fall 2014.

# Focus on Teaching

## Forensic Anthropology and the “CSI Effect”

Contributed by: Miranda Karban

Crime scene dramas, such as *CSI* and *Bones*, expose the American public to a glamorous world of irrefutable physical evidence, futuristic technology, and tidy confessions of guilt. Unfortunately, these television shows provide the only forensic education that most people (including potential jurors) receive. This has caused a dangerous phenomenon, known as the “CSI Effect,” to arise, in which juries have increasingly unrealistic expectations regarding forensic evidence. This trend has important social and legal implications, potentially leading to an increase in acquittal rates due to a fundamental misunderstanding of forensic methodology.

While teaching *Issues in Anthropology: Anthropological Forensics* over the last year, one of my primary goals has been to provide University of Iowa students with a realistic and fact-based view of forensic science. By engaging in interactive laboratory sessions, hands-on activities, and a simulated crime scene analysis, my students gain an introduction to the methods through which forensic anthropologists (and other forensic scientists) reach their conclusions. My students learn that real crime scene analysis cannot be wrapped up in an hour, and that DNA and fingerprints do not magically answer every question. Media portrayals of crime scene investigation, though exaggerated, do have at least one positive outcome in that they have stimulated student interest in forensic science. By providing students with a better understanding of the possibilities, and even more importantly, the limitations of forensic techniques, our department can contribute positively to the future of our legal system.



Student projects on facial reconstruction, *Issues in Anthropology: Anthropological Forensics*, 2014-2015.



## New Accelerated UNDERGRAD TO GRAD BA/BS + MPH program

Approved for 2015

Contributed by: Erica Prussing

Medical anthropology remains one of the fastest-growing topical areas in the discipline today, and continues to attract both graduate and undergraduate students to UI's Department of Anthropology. Our undergraduate major now includes a track in Medical Anthropology for either Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science students, as well as an Anthropology for the Health Professions track specifically designed for Bachelor of Science students. Faculty including Ellen Lewin, Bob Franciscus, Erica Prussing, Emily Wentzell, Elana Buch, Drew Kitchen, and Ted Powers all currently teach courses in these tracks. These optional specializations provide students with focused training in the social, cultural and biological dimensions of health and healing, and can be completed alongside pre-professional training in a variety of health fields.

The Department of Anthropology was therefore an early and strong supporter of a new initiative by UI's College of Public Health that enables students, with careful planning and good advising, to graduate from UI with both an undergraduate major and a Master's in Public Health in a total of 5 years (versus the usual 6). The program will launch in fall 2015, and will be open to all majors.

The primary goal of public health is to prevent disease through safe water,

nutritious food, effective sanitation, vaccination, accessible health care, and healthful housing conditions, neighborhoods and communities. Master's in Public Health programs provide students with basic training in the core areas of epidemiology, biostatistics, community health education, health policy, and environmental health. Many also support specialization in one or more of these areas—and/or, in topical areas such as global health, maternal & child health, or public health nutrition. In recent years, UI anthropology majors have been especially attracted to the topics and methods that are represented in the College of Public Health's Department of Community & Behavioral Health and Department of Epidemiology. Across specializations, MPH degrees enable students to find employment in a wide variety of local, state, national governmental agencies, as well as international agencies and other non-governmental organizations, that work to monitor and/or improve population health.

The Department of Anthropology will be posting more detailed information about course plans for this new "Undergrad to Grad" program on our website this summer. Meanwhile, more information about existing undergraduate tracks in the major is available at: <http://clas.uiowa.edu/anthropology/undergraduate-program/optional-undergraduate-tracks>

***Congratulations to  
Shelby Putt for  
being named the  
recipient of an  
Outstanding  
Teaching Assistant  
Award by the UI  
Council on  
Teaching***

# Faculty Updates



Dr. Margaret Beck on a geological field trip near Dover, England, as part of the Ceramic Petrography class she attended at the University College London this spring, 2015.



Dr. Michael Chibnik in the Peruvian Amazon, 1986. Complete with water buffalo and the Amazon River in the background.

## Margaret Beck

We are expanding our use of ceramic petrographic analysis in the North American Archaeology Lab, with a new-to-us polarizing microscope and some more training for me in methods through a University College London short course this year. Other activities this year include revising and resubmitting (with Matt Hill) a National Science Foundation grant on Hopewell collections (200 BC – AD 400) from the Kansas City area, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Kansas, and contributing to ongoing work on the Scott County Pueblo study area. One focus of the latter has been the seventeenth-century red-slipped pottery made in Kansas with local materials but using techniques from the Pueblos of the northern Rio Grande area of New Mexico. This pottery is one line of evidence for the arrival of Puebloan refugees in this part of the Great Plains. In 2014 my work appeared in *American Antiquity* (with Sarah Trabert), and *Field Archaeology around the World: Ideas and Approaches*, and *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*.

## Elana Buch

Elana is hard at work on her book manuscript, based on her research in Chicago's paid home care industry. The book examines the experiences of home care workers and older adults, analyzing their relationships in both broad historical and social context and within the more specific contexts of the policies and practices that shape the home care industry. She recently published an article in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* examining the troubling questions that arise when home care workers and older adults engage in gift exchanges, and another in the journal *Ethos* examining how older adults use the material boundaries of their homes to sustaining their social personhood. In addition, Dr. Buch is in the process of developing two new projects, one focused on long-term care of veterans and a second on the experiences of couples in late life marriages and committed romantic relationships and their families. Elana serves on the advisory board for the Aging Studies program, and taught three courses this year cross-listed with that program. By increasing our understanding of the experiences of older Americans and teaching future professionals in aging, Elana work aims to improve the lives of older Iowans.

## Michael Chibnik

Please refer to the feature on page 13 for updates.

## Russell L. Ciochon

Russ has been expanding his academic research into Southeast Asian *Homo erectus*, *Gigantopithecus*, and other Asian fossil primates. Russ will be conducting fieldwork this summer in Timor and Sumba (Indonesia). His international research team will be examining the timing of Southern Wallacea outer arc early hominin occupation in relation to global and regional climate events. They are conducting this research under a Seed Grant from the University of Iowa Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER) as well as private funding from the Gordon Getty Foundation. He continues his invited research with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology & Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IVPP, CAS) on the scientific issues related to *Gigantopithecus* faunas and "the mystery ape of

# Faculty Updates

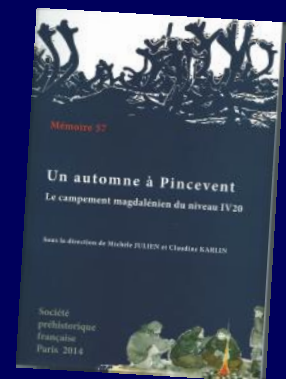
Pleistocene China” with Professor Jin Chang-zhu. Russ presented a paper titled “Early Hominin Biogeography in Island Southeast Asia” at the International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in Commemoration of the 85th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Skull of Peking Man last October in Beijing, China. Russ was published this past year in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, and *Journal of Human Evolution*. Russ balances his research with teaching and administrative duties. He continues to serve as Director of CLAS’ Museum Studies Certificate Program and is advisor to all registered undergraduate participants. He also continues to serve as Coordinator of Distance Education for the Department.



Dr. Russell Ciochon

## Jim Enloe

Jim Enloe is still chair of the department of Anthropology, but looking forward to his last term next year. While this is an extraordinarily time consuming task, he was able to continue his various research programs. In 2014 the long-awaited volume on the excavation of level IV-20 at Pincevent, *Un Automne à Pincevent: le campement magdalénien du niveau IV20*, edited by Michèle Julien & Claudine Karlin, Mémoire LVII de la Société préhistorique française, was published, 639 pages with abundant color illustrations. Jim co-authored ten of 33 chapters by a large multidisciplinary research team. This was his dissertation site, an Upper Paleolithic reindeer hunters’ campsite at the end of the Pleistocene. Jim also continued research on Verberie, another late Magdalenian site in the Paris Basin, focusing on isotopic analyses of the reindeer fauna, yielding one technical report, Drucker, D.G., Audouze, F., Weber, M.-J. & Enloe, J. G., (2014) Résultats des analyses isotopiques ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{34}\text{S}$ ) du collagène des rennes de Verberie. Report of Projet Commun de Recherche, Unité Mixte de Recherche 7041, Centre National de la Recherche, Paris, and one poster, Waterman, A.J., J.T. Thomas, J.G. Enloe, and D.W. Peate, (2015) The influence of prey availability on ice age hunting strategies: Tracing Magdalenian reindeer migratory patterns using strontium isotope ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) analysis of reindeer teeth from Verberie (Oise, France), presented at the 80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Francisco, CA. April 15 -19, 2015. Jim is also continuing his Namibian research program in collaboration with Grant McCall of Tulane University and U of Iowa grad student, Teddy Marks. They were able to establish a program of cooperation between the University of Iowa and the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre in Namibia, which may serve as a base of operations if their proposals for field work to the Leakey Foundation and the National Science Foundation are successful. Jim continued his work at the field school site of Woodpecker Cave at the Coralville Reservoir for the third year, working with ICRU and other undergraduate students on analyses through the winter. They submitted an annual preliminary report, Excavations at Woodpecker Cave (12JH202): Report No. 3 – University of Iowa Archaeological Field School 2014 to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with contributions by Tyler Buck, Carissa Dewaele, Deidre Funk, Robin Lillie, James McGrath, Jeremy Skeens, Jacob Stoecken, Luke Stroth and Alyson Wilkins. Jim presented a public lecture on Woodpecker Cave 2014, a transition year: bioturbation and slope formation processes, at the OSA Brown Bag Series, Office of



Students excavate at the Woodpecker Site (12JH202) field school.



# Faculty Updates



Professor Robert Franciscus is presented with a rosette from Gerald Fink, the Chair of the AAAS Board during the induction ceremony for elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held on Feb. 14, 2015 in San Jose, CA for Fellows elected in 2014. Photo courtesy AAAS



Celebrating Flor Angela Palmar's contribution to the book, *Indian Subjects: New Directions in the History of Indigenous Education*, with co-author Laura Graham and editors Brian Klopotek and Brenda Child at the National Museum of the American Indian, October 2014. Photo: David Hernández Palmar.

the State Archaeologist, in February. Jim also presented a paper entitled "Rockshelters and Farming Villages: Complementary seasonal occupations at Woodpecker Cave" in the George C. Frison Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the SAA Geoarchaeology Interest Group Symposium: Archaeology and Geoarchaeology of Rockshelters and Caves at the SAA meetings in April. Finally, Jim co-authored an article in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* with grad school colleagues Pei-Lin Yu and Matt Schmader, "I'm the Oldest New Archaeologist in Town": The Intellectual Evolution of Lewis R. Binford, as part of a festschrift to their advisor, who launched many significant archaeological careers.

## Robert Franciscus

This past October, Bob was elected a Fellow of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* for his contributions to paleoanthropology. The AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society, and the publisher of the journal *Science*. That same month, Bob also traveled to San Diego, CA as a featured speaker for a CARTA sponsored symposium on *Domestication and Human Evolution*. The symposium was held at the UC San Diego Salk Institute for Biological Studies, where he presented a talk on craniofacial feminization in canine and human evolution. Bob's talk, along with those of the other invited speakers were subsequently shown on the University of California Television channel, were written up in the November 24<sup>th</sup> edition of *Science*, and are widely available on iTunes and YouTube. Bob was also a co-author on four peer-reviewed journal articles published in 2014: two in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, one in *Lithic Technology*, and one in *Current Anthropology*. The *Current Anthropology* article: *Craniofacial feminization, social tolerance, and the origins of behavioral modernity* received wide coverage in over 140 national and international online news articles including: Time, CBS News, ABC News, UPI, Science, and Nature World News. Bob also continued a pattern of local community science outreach this past year. He was an invited speaker for the 2014 Iowa City Darwin Day program, and also made two appearances in 2014 on Iowa Public Radio's *River to River* program discussing Neanderthal genes in living humans, and the significance of the oldest modern human genome yet recovered from a 45,000 year old leg bone discovered in Siberia.

## Laura Graham

University of Nebraska Press published *Performing Indigeneity: Global Histories and Contemporary Experiences*, that Laura Graham edited with Glenn Penny (Ulowa History). Graham and Penny co-authored the book's introduction, "Performing Indigeneity: Emergent Identity, Self-determination, and Sovereignty." Graham's chapter, "Genders of Xavante ethnographic spectacle: Cultural politics of inclusion and exclusion in Brazil," explores the intersections of indigenous self-representation, global environmentalism and gender politics. Graham also published chapters in three other edited volumes. "Yaletüsü Saaschin Woumain (Glory to the Brave People)": Flor Ángela Palmar's Creative Strategies to Indigenize Education in Venezuela," co-authored with Flor Palmar, appeared in *Indian Subjects: New Directions in the History of Indigenous Education*, edited by Brian Klopotek and Brenda Child (School of Advanced Research Press). "Fluid Subjectivity: Reflections on self and



# Faculty Updates

alternative futures in the autobiographical narrative of Hiparidi Top'tiro, a Xavante transcultural leader," came out in *Fluent Selves: Autobiographical narratives in lowland South America*, edited by Suzanne Oakdale and Magnus Course (University of Nebraska Press). "Discourse Centered Methods" is an updated and significantly revised chapter in Russell Bernard and Lance Gravely's, 2014 *Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology*. Graham's 2005 *American Ethnologist* article, "Image and instrumentality in a Xavante politics of existential recognition: The public outreach work of Eténhiritipa Pimentel Barbosa appeared in "Ontology in American Ethnologist, 1980-2014," guest edited and introduced by Lucas Bessire and David Bond, in *American Ethnologist Online* 2014. *Cultural Survival Quarterly* featured a piece by Graham titled, "A Xavante Healer's Dream Brought to Life."

The film, *OWNERS OF THE WATER: Conflict and Collaboration over Rivers*, that Graham produced and co-directed with indigenous filmmakers David Hernández Palmar (Wayuu) and Caimi Waiassé (Xavante), continues to screen at festivals and win awards. The film screened opening night of the 8th Nepal International Indigenous Film Festival in Kathmandu (NIIFF), where it won the Silver Drum Award. The film also screened in Chicago at the Facets Indigenous Film Festival: Brazil and, in São Paulo, Brazil as part of Mostra Retrospectiva de Cinema "Contro-Sguardi Festival Internacional de Cinema Antropológico. *Cultural Anthropology* featured the film and directors' interviews in its "Online Screening Room," a series edited by Ulowa-Anthropology PhD Jenna Grant.

Graham continues to collaborate with indigenous partners in advocacy work that supports human and environmental rights. Along with allies and international celebrities Graham accompanied the Indigenous Peoples' delegation in the September 23 People's Climate March in New York city (see photos). Then, together with Xavante leader Hiparidi Top'tiro, she attended the World Summit on Indigenous Philanthropy (see photos). Also, after speaking on her collaborative writing with indigenous educator Flor A. Palmar at the National Museum of the American Indian in an event sponsored by the Venezuelan Embassy in commemoration of Indigenous Resistance Day (Venezuela's resignified "Columbus Day"), Graham and Palmar toured several U.S. universities, including the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota.

Graham is also active in (and founder of) the American Anthropological Association's Committee on Language and Social Justice. She is a member of the sub-committee that, over the last year, researched and drafted a resolution on the use of American Indian names in sports. Graham is pleased to report that, in May 2015, the AAA Executive Board passed a resolution on sports mascots that calls on professional and college sports organizations to denounce and abandon the use of American Indian nicknames, logos, and mascots, unless appropriate consultation has taken place with individual tribes and other indigenous stakeholders.



At the Peoples' Climate March in New York City, 2014. Above: Laura Graham (right) with Brazilian Indigenous Leader, Marcos Terena (left) and Evelyn Arce (Executive Director, International Funders for Indigenous People). Below : Laura and Evelyn with actor Mark Ruffalo — and is that a photobomb by actor Edward Norton?



# Faculty Updates



Dr. Matthew Hill visits a temple (above) and palace (below) in Rajasthan, India during the winter of 2015 where he conducted research with colleagues Meena Khandelwal and Jerry Anthony.



## Matthew Hill

In the last year I continued my on-going research project focused on my two main research interests: the earliest big game hunters of the Americas, and the impact that hunting on the past environments of the Great Plains. I look forward to our planned fieldwork this summer that will involve a number of Anthropology graduate students.

## Meena Khandelwal

Meena Khandelwal published "Dance On! Inter-collegiate Indian Dance Competitions as New Cultural Form" in *Cultural Dynamics* (2014); it focuses on the largest such competition in the Midwest, which is hosted by UI's own Indian Student Alliance. She also completed an essay "Cooking with Fire" to appear in *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the 21st Century*, edited by Ellen Lewin and Leni Silverstein (Rutgers University Press). Her ongoing involvement in a multi-disciplinary and collaborative project on environment, development and culture in the arid and semi-arid region of Rajasthan, India, is deeply linked to her teaching and research activities during this past year. In Fall 2014, she directed a new course entitled People and the Environment: Technology, Culture and Social Justice. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for International and Global Issues and is the second course to be launched as part of UI's "Big Ideas" course initiative that implements multiple innovative pedagogical practices ([See a video featuring Meena and Cornelia Lang on the Extraordinary Teaching Project\\*](http://teach.its.uiowa.edu/resources/extraordinary-teaching-project/big-ideas-authentic-learning)). This course, developed and taught by five UI faculty members, emerged from her collaborative research involving H.S. Udaykumar, Paul Greenough, Marc Linderman, Matt Hill and Jerry Anthony. The group received a CGRER seed grant to visit Rajasthan in winter of 2015 for preliminary research. While in India, Meena gave three lectures on this project at two of India's premier graduate training institutes, including National Centre for Biological Sciences and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Also related to this project, she is preparing a co-authored paper on 'improved cook-stoves' in India and writing a book on collaborative research to address problems that are as deeply cultural as they are ecological.

\*<http://teach.its.uiowa.edu/resources/extraordinary-teaching-project/big-ideas-authentic-learning>

## THE EXTRAORDINARY TEACHING PROJECT

### Big Ideas, Authentic Learning

**Instructors:**

[Meena Khandelwal](#), PhD  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies

[Cornelia Lang](#), PhD  
Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy

**Overview:**

Use thematic course design to promote students' interdisciplinary curiosity.

The Extraordinary Teaching Project: Big Ideas, Authentic Learning

MEENA KHANDELWAL  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ANTHROPOLOGY AND GENDER, WOMEN'S AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

CORNELIA LANG  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

0:04 / 4:24

# Faculty Updates

## Drew Kitchen

During the 2014-2015 academic year, Drew presented his research at the annual American Association of Physical Anthropology meeting in St. Louis (MO) and the joint 14th Pan African Archaeological Congress and 22nd Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in Johannesburg, South Africa. Drew's current research projects involve: 1) identifying the major historical events and determinants of Native American diversity, focusing on the original peopling event ~15 KYA and the post-Columbian population crash; 2) investigating the effect of human demographic history on the evolution of human pathogens and parasites, including the effect of agricultural lifestyles on the human microbiome; 3) understanding the molecular evolution and macro-evolutionary processes affecting pathogen genetic diversity; and 4) the application of evolutionary principles to infer the complex history of human cultural diversity, especially with regard to the construction of language phylogenies. Drew is an International Programs faculty fellow, a member of the Genetics Cluster, the Informatics program, and an Obermann Center working group investigating the interstices of social and biological understandings of human behavior.



Above: Andre Mano taking some coordinates before the rain comes in from the Atlantic.

Below: Leonel Trindade and Katina Lillios at the site of Castelão, Portugal

## Ellen Lewin

Ellen is making slow progress on her book on a predominantly Africa American LGBT coalition of Pentecostal churches. The book, titled *Filled With the Spirit*, is under contract with University of Chicago Press. However, her co-edited book (with Leni Silverstein), *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*, has been completed and will be published by Rutgers University Press in 2016. She is serving in the second year of her term as President of the Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA). After years of complaining about the lack of curriculum on American cultures, she taught a new course on the topic in Spring 2014 and will very likely teach it again in Spring 2016.

## Katina Lillios

Katina Lillios, and members of the Bolores project team, wrapped up their analyses of the site and the people who were buried there over 4000 years ago. She published articles in the *European Journal of Archaeology*, *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, and *Trabajos de Prehistoria*, coauthored a paper presented at the European Association of Archaeologists meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, and submitted the Bolores monograph for publication to British Archaeological Reports. She also published a chapter on Bronze Age mortuary practices on both sides of the Strait of Gibraltar for the *Cambridge Handbook of the Mediterranean World in the Bronze and Iron Ages*. The year was also spent shifting to other phases of her NSF project. In the fall of 2014, she worked with Portuguese colleagues Andre Mano and Leonel Trindade on surveying Copper and Bronze Age settlements in the Sizandro Valley, Portugal. In the spring, she traveled to Madrid as part of the review of the German Archaeological Institute. In her personal time, she enjoys running (completing her first marathon in 2014), playing piano, and watching her son play soccer.





# Faculty Updates



Dr. Erica Prussing

## Ted Powers

Please refer to the feature on page 11 for updates.

## Erica Prussing

Erica was very fortunate to visit sites in Hawai'i and several other U.S. states this past year, while reaching the halfway point in an NSF-funded, four-year, comparative study of the international rise of public health research by and for indigenous peoples. This project focuses the development and workings of indigenous-controlled health research at multiple sites across the U.S. and Aotearoa/New Zealand. The first two publications from this study are aimed at interdisciplinary audiences in the social sciences and epidemiology, while the third speaks to a more conventional anthropological audience. Closer to home, Erica is continuing to work with ICRU-funded undergraduate research assistants on a collaborative project with Dr. Carolyn Hough at Augustana College, which is an Iowa-based study of the experiences of first-time parents as they return to work after childbirth. Erica is also very pleased that her third doctoral student, Tony Pomales, successfully defended a fascinating dissertation this spring, "ESTAMOS DE PIE Y EN LUCHA"/"WE ARE STANDING AND FIGHTING": Aging, Inequality and Activism among Sex Workers in Neoliberal Costa Rica. Erica continues to work with numerous graduate students who specialize in health and/or social justice topics in Anthropology and across campus, and to serve as co-academic coordinator (with Jacki Rand, Dept of History) for the small but inspired American Indian & Native Studies Program within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS). This year she has also served on both the Faculty Assembly in CLAS and the university-wide Faculty Senate. Finally, Erica has continued to work with other faculty to involve Anthropology in a new accelerated program with the College of Public Health that will launch in fall 2015, through which students can complete an undergraduate major and Master's in Public Health in 5 rather than the usual 6 years.

Scott Schnell and colleagues, with sacred Mt. Moriyoshi in the background, May 3, 2015



## Scott Schnell

Scott Schnell continues his research on the matagi—traditional hunters of bear and other animals in the forested mountains of Northeastern Japan. Last fall, at the Midwest Japan Seminar, Scott presented a paper entitled "Co-Existing with Nature?: The Ambivalent Role of Matagi Hunting Tradition in Environmentalist Discourse." The paper was partly inspired by Gary Snyder's poem, "One Should Not Talk to a Skilled Hunter about What is Forbidden by the Buddha." The matagi are similar to Native American and other indigenous hunters in recognizing nature as a conscious presence—one that provides for and protects them but expects responsible conduct in return. They thus subscribe to a



# Faculty Updates

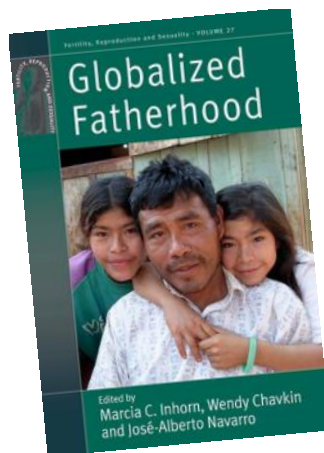
more localized set of ethics in addition to that which is contained in “world religions” like Buddhism. This provides ideological support for their own activities, which they deem essential to the healthy functioning of the mountain ecosystem. Scott hosted some Japanese colleagues during their recent US visit to research the problem of urban wildlife, which is gaining significance worldwide as human populations continue to encroach upon the habitat of other species (as in America) or as depopulation of rural areas erodes the village buffer zone that once surrounded urban areas (as in Japan). Should our approach to the problem be control or accommodation? Traditional hunters like the matagi may offer some insight. Scott and his colleagues plan to sponsor an international conference on the topic here at the University of Iowa during the 2016-2017 academic year.

## Emily Wentzell

In 2014 I published material from my research on Mexican men's experiences of erectile difficulty in *Sexualities and Culture, Health and Sexuality*, and turned to writing up findings from a three-year project on heterosexual couples' experiences of sexual health research participation in Mexico. Early work from this new project was published in *Global Public Health* and an edited volume entitled *Globalized Fatherhood* (Berghahn Books). I am also happy to report that my 2013 book *Maturing Masculinities: Aging, Chronic Illness and Viagra in Mexico* (Duke University Press) has received positive reviews. On the 2014 teaching front, I was glad to have had the opportunity to work with several fantastic undergraduate and graduate students on their research projects, and to mentor a summer student through the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) program. I also had the new experience of creating a distance education course, which has opened up enrollment in our large lecture Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems to off-site students. Finally, I'm looking forward to returning to the Belin Blank Institute this summer to teach an intensive Global and Cultural Studies course to Iowan middle schoolers.



Dr. Emily Wentzell



# Graduate Student Updates



Congratulations to Meredith Anderson for being awarded a Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

## Meredith Anderson

Meredith is an archaeology Ph.D. candidate, currently in the process of writing her dissertation. Her doctoral research is focused on trade economy and consumption patterns in rural Classic-period sites at Teotihuacan. This research in part examines the relationship between the phenomenal economic and political success of Teotihuacan during the first few hundreds of years A.D. and the control and maintenance of obsidian exchange and procurement. Over the summer and fall of 2014, Meredith moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where she currently holds a position as the archaeological Principal Investigator for a national science and engineering firm. In the spring of 2015, with the tireless guidance of her advisors, Katina Lillios and Glenn Storey, she was nominated for the Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship. Meredith is planning to complete her dissertation by spring 2016. She still finds time for boxing and has recently acquired two cats, thereby realizing the graduate student prophecy.

## Toby Avalos

Toby is currently completing his PhD. in Paleoanthropology here at the University of Iowa under the guidance Dr. R.L. Ciochon. Tony earned his B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000, and more recently his M.A. in Anthropology from the New Mexico State University in 2011. His M.A. thesis addressed the primitive nature of the lower anterior dentition of the Early Pleistocene hominins from the Dmanisi Site, Georgia Republic, whose fossils represent the earliest evidence for hominins known outside of Africa, dating to 1.85 mya. At present, Toby's PhD. research is concerned with the transition from early Homo to the more modern Homo erectus form, primarily through dental analysis, and how this relates to the first hominin expansions eastward of the Levant region during the Latest Pliocene or Earliest Pleistocene. His other ongoing academic pursuits include post- Late Miocene hominoid evolution and systematics throughout Southern China and Peninsular Southeast Asia.



Congratulations to Amanda Bernemann for successfully completing her MA in Summer 2015

## Amanda Bernemann

Amanda is a second-year archaeology graduate student studying the diet and subsistence of the Oneota, Late Prehistoric forager-farmers in the Midwest. Amanda has spent the year analyzing faunal remains from a site in central Iowa for her Master's research. In the fall she attended the Plains Anthropological Conference and presented a poster titled "Faunal Use and Occupation at Three Dismal River Aspect Sites in Lake Scott State Park, Kansas" with Matthew E. Hill. She also attended the Society for American Archaeology Conference this spring and presented a poster titled "Oneota Subsistence Practices at the Christenson Site (13PK407)."

## Paul Capobianco

Paul Capobianco has completed his second year in the Ph.D. program and will be traveling to Japan this summer to conduct his dissertation fieldwork. His research explores the ways that immigration and population decline are impacting the treatment of foreign workers and conceptions of Japanese identity. Paul spent nearly

# Graduate Student Updates

two months in Japan last summer conducting pilot research that will serve as the foundation for this forthcoming fieldwork. This past academic year Paul presented his research at the AAAs in Washington D.C., a theory-oriented conference in Norway, and gave several lectures and presentations in Japan last summer.

## Christian Haunton

Christian is completing his doctoral dissertation in archaeology under the guidance of Dr. Glenn Storey. Christian is an Omaha, NE native who earned his B.S. in Criminal Justice at UNO (1998) and his M.A. in Religious Studies at the University of Iowa (2006). Christian's areas of academic interest have included religion in the ancient and classical Mediterranean world, archaeological investigation of religion, and the relationship between supernatural beliefs and material culture. Christian participated in two seasons of excavation in Israel with the Bethsaida Project. His doctoral research focuses on the material culture of Utopian communities, specifically the east-central Iowa Amana Colonies. When not picking the bones of history and culture, Christian works as a bookbinder, online content writer, and creative consultant for the architectural firm 212box. Christian has also been a professional actor, a prize-winning horror writer, and a cover photographer for the "swimsuit issue" of Biblical Archaeology Review...but those are stories for another time.

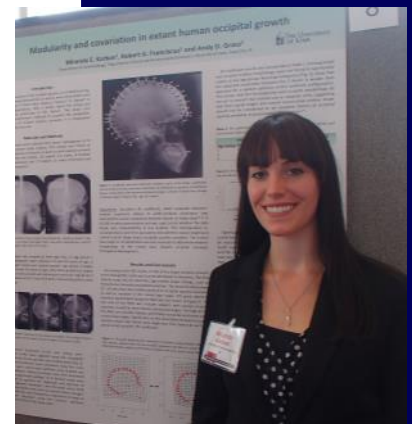
## Noah Johnson

Over the summer, the non-profit organization that Noah had been planning to study with began a process of corporate reorganization, and withdrew their support for a research relationship. Disappointed, but undeterred, Noah has returned to his work with karate practitioners to embark upon a study of the cultural transmission of an embodied practice like karate through transnational linkages and in global imaginaries, paying careful attention to the way cultural politics are expressed in discourses centering on the concept of 'authenticity' as it relates to this item of intangible cultural heritage. These research goals were refined further by a brief trip to Okinawa this fall where Noah participated in an international karate demonstration and cultural exchange alongside his advisor, Scott Schnell. At this year's AAA conference, Noah presented a paper on the touristic aspects of his field site in Okinawa, as a member of a panel supported by the Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group. In December, Noah defended his prospectus and is now in the process of writing his comprehensive exams. Last, but certainly not least, Noah became a father this year when his wife gave birth to their first child, William Terence Fiedler Johnson, on March 14th, 2015 (pi Day)."

## Miranda Karban

Miranda Karban is a PhD candidate in biological anthropology, with a primary interest in cranial growth and development in the genus *Homo*. She received her BA in Anthropology from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2008, and her MS in Archaeology from Illinois State University in 2010. Her current research assesses the timing and patterning of occipital squama growth and development in a longitudinal sample of extant humans. She recently presented this research at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) in St. Louis. During the

***Congratulations to  
Paul Capobianco for  
being awarded a  
T. Anne Cleary  
International  
Dissertation Research  
Fellowship***



***Miranda Karban with her  
poster at the annual  
meeting of the American  
Association of Physical  
Anthropologists (AAPA)  
in St. Louis.  
Congratulations to  
Miranda for being  
awarded a Ballard and  
Seashore Dissertation  
Fellowship***

# Graduate Student Updates

## Anthropology Graduate

### Student Association (AnthGrad) Officers

**2014-2015:**

**President:**

**Miranda Karban**

**Vice-President:**

**Shelby Putt**

**Secretary:**

**Sarah Raine**

**Treasurer:**

**Tony Pomaes**

**COGS representative:**

**Amanda Bernemann**

**GSS representative:**

**Paul Capobianco**

2014-2015 academic year, Miranda served as the president of AnthGrad and taught Issues in Anthropology: Anthropological Forensics. Miranda was awarded a 2016 Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship to fund the completion of her dissertation.

### **Natalie Luna-Renek**

Natalie Luna-Renek is working towards her Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology with an emphasis on the Anthropology of Religion, under the guidance of Dr. Sonia Ryang. Natalie received her B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Fullerton, in 2010 and her M.A. in Sociocultural Anthropology again from California State University, Fullerton, in 2012. Her thesis research focused on the dream and spirit theories of California-based Hawaiians. Her dissertation research is on the dreams of Latina Catholic immigrants living in West Liberty, Iowa.

### **Farai Marazi**

Farai Marazi began the dissertation fieldwork component of his studies in early 2014. His current work involves the use of ethnographic methods to investigate diabetes treatment for homeless people in Brooklyn, New York, that use mobile clinics. Farai has been conducting research about homelessness in New York City since the summer of 2009. During the summer of 2011, he was in NYC conducting pilot research for the proposed project on diabetes, which will be the subject of his dissertation fieldwork. The aim of the study is to examine the microeconomic demands of treating diabetes that pose problems to homeless populations, and the degree to which their health care providers understand and respond to this social context. Throughout graduate school, Farai's research interests and coursework in medical anthropology have focused on unmasking the sources of social inequality and poor health for the homeless by exploring conditions of inadequate housing and health structures

### **Ted Marks**

Ted Marks is a doctoral student in archaeology advised by Dr. James Enloe. Ted's dissertation research is focused on shifts in technological organization and land use strategies across the Middle to Later Stone Age transition in Southern Africa. Along with colleagues from the university of Namibia and Tulane University, Ted is currently co-directing ongoing excavations at three sites in the Namib Desert in Namibia: Erb Tanks Rockshelter, Mirabib Rockshelter, and the Early Stone Age site of Namib IV Pan. While he finishes his dissertation writing, Ted has become an adopted New Orleanian serving as an adjunct professor at Tulane University. Outside of academics, Ted spends most of his time mastering the art of slow-roasting large cuts of pork.

### **James McGrath**

James is a 1st year paleoanthropology graduate student. He graduated with his BA in Anthropology from Arizona State University in 2013. His research interests include the production and usage of ochre-based personal adornment and the



# Graduate Student Updates

paleoenvironment during the Middle and Later Stone Age in southern Africa, and their implications for modern human cognition and sociality. James has completed three field seasons at the Middle Stone Age site of Pinnacle Point 5-6 near Mossel Bay, South Africa as well as worked at a variety of locals in the American Southwest. This summer he will be TAing the Woodpecker Cave field school and conducting research on the ochre assemblages from three archaeological sites in Namibia.

## Alejandro Muzzio

Alejandro is a PhD candidate specializing in Latin American Cultural Anthropology, advised by Dr. Michael Chibnik. He researches the effects of politics on development programs in emerging markets, with specific attention paid to the conditions of labor. Currently, he's collecting data on the viability and outcomes of tourism ventures and development programs in Garifuna communities on the north coast of Honduras. His masters thesis focused on immigrant labor in Iowa's agricultural sector. In his spare time he researches and implements equities investment strategies in his online brokerage account. Also, he buys and sells silver bullion, military relics, and used road bicycles. He's taught courses on culture and society, world problems, socio-linguistics, human impacts on the environment, and archeology.

## Elizabeth Newbury

Liz is nearing completion of dissertation data collection, working with biobank donors and professionals in Iowa and focusing on their expectations for community representation, and expects to begin data analysis and writing this summer with generous support from a 2015 June Helm Graduate Fellowship. Other academic activities have included working as a research assistant with Prof. Erica Prussing and TA'ing online sections of Human Impacts on the Environment. Additionally, Liz continues to enjoy working part-time with a multi-disciplinary group of colleagues in the Center for Comprehensive Access and Delivery Research and Evaluation (CADRE) at the Iowa City VA Health Care System.

## Christina Nicholas

Christina Nicholas successfully defended her dissertation entitled "The ontogeny of nasal floor shape variation in Homo and the influence of facial size, the anterior dentition, and patterns of midfacial integration" in December. Her thesis project was supervised by Dr. Robert Franciscus and funded in part by the National Science Foundation. This fall, while completing her thesis, Christina was supported by the Ballard Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship. Since defending, Christina has started a position as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Dows Institute for Dental Research at the University of Iowa. Her main research interests include human evolution, human osteology, dental anthropology, and craniofacial ontogeny. In the College of Dentistry Christina works primarily on research related to craniofacial growth and implant dentistry. This spring, Christina presented her research at the annual meetings of the International Association of Dental Research in Boston, MA, and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in St. Louis, MO. She has recently had articles published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and *Archives of Oral Biology*. She is also co-author on a forthcoming book chapter, "Alveolar Ridge Preservation", in *Clinical Cases in Implant Dentistry*.

*Two of our graduate students presented at this year's Jakobsen Graduate Conference. James McGrath presented a poster on "Archaeology in 3-D: A GIS based approach to understanding the prehistory of Woodpecker Cave" and Jill Davis gave an oral presentation titled, "Racing for the Crown"*

# Graduate Student Updates



**Congratulation to Tony Pomales for being chosen by his peers as the 2014-2015 recipient of the June Helm Award (shown here being handed the award by fellow recent graduate Christina Nicholas) .**



**Congratulations to Shelby Putt for being awarded grants by the Leakey Foundation, Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the American Association of University Women.**

## Tony Pomales

In March 2015, Tony successfully defended his dissertation entitled "'Estamos de pie y en lucha'/'We are standing and fighting': Aging, Inequality, and Activism among Sex Workers in Neoliberal Costa Rica". He will be graduating in May 2015 with a PhD in Cultural Anthropology (with concentrations in feminist and medical anthropology) and a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies. Last semester (Fall 2014), Tony received an Honorable Mention in the Margaret Clark Award competition sponsored by the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology. He was also the recipient of a Graduate Student Scholarship to attend the Workshop Conference of the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology, sponsored by the Leon Center for Geriatric Research and Education at Florida International University Wertheim College of Medicine. This semester (Spring 2015), Tony was awarded a Dean's Achievement Award for his contributions to the Center for Diversity and Enrichment at the University of Iowa.

## Shelby Putt

Shelby is a sixth year student with a focus in paleoanthropology. Since last year, she has been collecting data for her dissertation, which involves the neuroimaging technique, functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), to investigate whether the presence of language while learning to flintknape leads to measurable differences in neural activation patterns. She hopes to finish this stage of her experiment during the summer. This has been a very successful year for Shelby because she received the Leakey Foundation Research Grant and Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant to support her PhD research, and she published an article on alternative stone flaking methods during the Early Stone Age in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*. She also attended the AAA meetings this year in Washington D.C. to present a paper for a special session on evolutionary cognitive archaeology.

## Michelle Quill

Misha is a PhD candidate, currently writing up her findings from her dissertation fieldwork on the role of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) on the resolution of protracted refugee situations. Her fieldsite was in Teknaf, Bangladesh, where a number of INGOs work alongside local organizations and UN agencies to assist Rohingya refugees, most of whom fled Myanmar in the 1990s. Misha's fieldwork was supported by a dissertation fellowship from the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, a T. Anne Cleary Fellowship, Crossing Borders research funds, and summer funding from the UI graduate college. In Spring 2014 she also assisted Meena Khandelwal and Matt Hill with development of a new, multidisciplinary "big questions" course called People and the Environment.

## Ana-Monica Racila

Ana-Monica is a PhD student in medical anthropology, working under the guidance of Dr. Emily Wentzell. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and a minor in Biology in 2013 at the University of Iowa. Ana-Monica would like to explore how transgender patients and their healthcare providers rework a medical system designed for cisgender patients. She hopes to understand what such

# Graduate Student Updates

modifications reflect about the construction of gender and sex in U.S. biomedicine while contributing to the broader goal of improving healthcare delivery to this community.

## Jill Scott

Jill is a Ph.D. candidate in paleoanthropology whose research focuses on the evolution of craniofacial variation in genus *Homo*. In May 2014, Jill traveled to South Africa to participate in the Rising Star Workshop as part of the team of scientists analyzing and describing the large hominin assemblage from the Dinaledi chamber of the Rising Star cave system in South Africa. In March 2015 Jill presented a talk about her dissertation research at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting in St. Louis. Recently, Jill co-authored a paper in the *Journal of Anatomy* entitled, "The ontogeny of the chin: an analysis of allometric and biomechanical scaling" along with colleagues in the UI departments of Anthropology and Orthodontics (Holton NE, Bonner LL, Scott JE, Marshall SD, Franciscus RG, Southard TE).



Former UI undergraduate Myra Laird (left; current PhD student at NYU) and Jill Scott (right) participated in the Rising Star Workshop at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa in May and June, 2014.

## Sarah Trabert

Sarah is in her seventh (and final) year and defends her dissertation "Plural Communities on the Plains: Dismal River People and the Puebloan Diaspora" in April. Her dissertation focuses on the effects of colonialism on populations not directly under colonial rule by studying connections between Puebloan groups in the Southwest and Dismal River groups living on the High Plains after AD 1600. Sarah has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma and will be moving to Norman this summer. She would like to thank all the wonderful faculty, staff, and students in the department for their mentorship and support over the last seven years and will be back in Iowa City to visit in October for the Plains Anthropological Conference.

## Meredith Wismer-Lanoë

Meredith is a doctoral candidate in anthropology, specializing in zooarchaeology. Her dissertation research focuses on changes in faunal subsistence throughout the Archaic and Woodland periods of the northern tallgrass prairies in the midcontinental United States. In addition to working on her dissertation research, she is an adjunct faculty member at Arizona Western College, and volunteer at the Arizona State Museum where she uses her expertise as a faunal analyst to document artifacts destined for repatriation. In September 2014 she presented a paper on some of the findings of her dissertation research at the 12th International Conference of Archaeozoology (ICAZ) in San Rafael, Argentina. In April 2015 she attended the 80th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in San Francisco, California and presented the paper "Faked but not forgotten: The enduring appeal of the crystal skulls" in an invited session sponsored by the Media Relations Committee. This spring she has also given outreach talks on archaeology to the Southern Arizona Grotto Club in Tucson, and to the community of Portal, in Arizona.



Meredith Wismer-Lanoë excavating at the "Desperation Ranch" site in Portal, Arizona, Fall 2014

# Focus on Undergraduate Studies

## ICRU Fellowship Experience in Medical Anthropology/Women's Health

Contributed by: Erica Prussing and Ashley Horne

**Congratulations to  
the 47  
undergraduates  
graduating with a  
degree in  
Anthropology  
during the 2014-  
2015 academic  
year!**

**Congratulations to  
Carissa Dewaele  
and Luke Stroth  
who were invited to  
join the Phi Beta  
Kappa honors  
society**

Anthropology major Ashley Horne is the second ICRU fellow to work on a collaborative project with Carrie Hough, associate professor at Augustana College (who received her PhD from UI in 2006), and UI medical anthropologist Erica Prussing.

The project includes analysis of pilot data, as well as new data collection, to examine the experiences of first-time parents in eastern Iowa as they negotiate new parenthood with paid employment. For the pilot study, Dr. Hough conducted paired prenatal and postnatal interviews with 20 first-time mothers in eastern Iowa. New data collection through University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics will begin this summer, and aims to enhance the sociodemographic diversity of study participants plus expand the sample to include not only mothers but also their spouses/partners. To date, our data analysis has focused on how women encounter numerous popular and medical messages about the importance of breastfeeding, but also face significant barriers to nursing their infants beyond a few weeks as they navigate the post-partum return to employment. Specifically, we examine first-time mothers' narratives of their prenatal expectations and postnatal decisions regarding breastfeeding in the context of returning to paid

employment, with a focus on how these reflect and/or resist professional (e.g., biomedical, public health) and popular messages about infant feeding. Analysis of transcribed pairs of prenatal and postnatal interviews, using MAXQDA software, affirms many of the barriers noted in existing research about breastfeeding challenges, but also suggests that women who have high expectations of breastfeeding while also experiencing difficulties balancing work and home life during their pregnancies may be especially likely to stop nursing once they encounter barriers to doing so. These findings suggest that public health strategies to promote breastfeeding would benefit from focusing not only on communicating the benefits of breastfeeding but also on more specific problem-solving strategies, ideally grounded in detailed understanding of common challenges that working mothers face as they balance paid employment with domestic responsibilities.



Ashley with her poster at the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival (SURF)



Based on her work on this project, Ashley says the following: *As an ICRU Fellow in the Department of Anthropology, I have developed essential qualitative research skills and have had the opportunity to apply what I have learned in the classroom to a formal research setting. Working closely with an experienced, enthusiastic mentor who shared my interests in anthropology and public health enriched my experience further. Dr. Prussing provided constructive guidance while still allowing me to explore my own specific interests within the study. Creating a poster for the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival helped me*

*bring together all the pieces we had been working on through the year, and presenting at the festival allowed me to gain experience talking to a diverse audience about the project. My experience with ICRU has definitely been one of the most meaningful components of my undergraduate education.*

Through ICRU and other experiences, Ashley developed an impressive undergraduate record at UI and was accepted to all of her top graduate school choices. She will begin graduate study at Emory University next fall, to complete their MSPH Program

## My ICRU Fellowship Experience

Contributed by: Christina Moscatel

**M**y name is Tina Moscatel and this academic year I have been working with Dr. Andrew Kitchen and the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU). ICRU provides the opportunity for undergraduates to work personally with professors on their research. My research with Dr. Kitchen involves studying the phylogenetics of Filioviruses, specifically the Ebola and Marburg viruses. My experience with ICRU has been extremely rewarding. When I first got involved with the program it happened purely by chance. In the spring of 2014 I was enrolled in Dr. Kitchen's Human Origins class. During the first week of class he explained some of his own work on phylogenetics which I found to be really interesting. After a few meetings and trips to his lab, where he explained more of his work to me, I knew that I wanted to get involved in this type of research. We then decided that the best course of action was to try and fund our research through ICRU.

Being awarded a grant through ICRU means that I received funds to create my own research topic with a mentor, the results of which were presented at an undergraduate research festival. This experience has helped me in more ways than one. I was only a second year student when I first approached Dr. Kitchen and I was still trying to find the right fit for myself within the anthropology department. Working one-on-one with Dr. Kitchen has helped me become more confident in myself as a scholar, determine what really interests me in anthropology, and has provided valuable research experience and mentorship I can turn to when I begin applying to graduate schools. Conducting research with a professor has been an amazing experience that I would suggest to anyone who is looking to find their place within their department.



Tina Moscatel  
working in the lab,  
2015

## My Anthropology Undergraduate Experience

Contributed by: Chloe Daniel



**Anthropology Undergraduate and ICRU fellow  
Chloe Daniel**

*“Throughout my undergraduate studies here at the university I have been involved in multiple research projects, both my own and as a research assistant.”*

I am currently a junior double majoring in Anthropology and Psychology, as well as pursuing a Museum Studies certificate.

Throughout my undergraduate studies here at the university I have been involved in multiple research projects, both my own and as a research assistant. For a year and a half I have been a research assistant in Dr. Russell Ciochon's Biological Anthropology lab, working on the organization of research materials, fossil and cast reconstructions, and finding relevant articles and resources for ongoing projects. I have volunteered in the North American Anthropology lab working on flotation analyses with Sarah Trabert. Last fall I started working in the CHILDS lab in the Department of Psychology as a research assistant for an anthropology graduate student, Shelby Putt, in her study investigating which regions of the brain are activated in novice stone toolmakers using functional near infrared spectroscopy.

For my honors thesis in Anthropology I am working with my faculty mentor, Dr. Robert Franciscus and Ms. Putt in an archaeological experiment to determine handedness in stone tool production. This study is investigating the possibilities of determining the handedness of novice toolmakers from the simple stone tool flakes they produce, similar to the earliest stone tools dated to 2.6-1.5 million years ago. My interest in handedness comes from a combination of being in the left-handed minority and an interesting fact I learned in the class Human Osteology, taught by Professor Robert

Franciscus, which I took during my sophomore year. In a lecture on the shoulder girdle the class was taught how to determine the dominant hand of a specimen by observing the differences between the two clavicles. This fact stayed in the back of my mind, and when I took the course Recreating the Past with Experimental Archaeology the following spring I thought it would be interesting to see if I could determine handedness from stone tool production for my class project, as stone tools are more abundant in the archaeological record than fossil remains. This class project turned into a pilot study for my honors thesis. Last summer I receive approval for my protocol from the university's Institutional Review Board and I started data collection this spring.

During the fall semester, I presented the results of my pilot study as a Brown Bag lecture to the Department of Anthropology, and as a poster at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference in Washington D.C. This was my first experience with presenting my research on a national level and I had a great time. Multiple people from different disciplines came up to my poster to ask about my topic, and I got to meet and discuss my poster with Natalie Uomini and Nicholas Toth. This was incredibly encouraging for me since I had cited papers from both of them in my pilot study.

Last fall I also began data collection for my Psychology honors thesis, in a study that is intended to corroborate previous findings to differentiate the

contributions of the two subregions of Broca's area during syntactic and semantic processing. I am working with my faculty mentor in the psychology department, Dr. John Spencer and Ms. Putt, and using data collected from Ms. Putt's larger study. The University of Iowa Dewey Stuit Fund for Undergraduate Research provided funding for my Anthropology honors thesis study, and next year I will be receiving funding from an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award, as an Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) fellow for both my Anthropology and Psychology honors theses.

I have presented at the bi-annual ICRU Undergraduate Research Festivals multiple times. The first time I presented on the methodologies of my pilot study. The second time, last fall, I presented a group project on osteological pathologies in contemporary and non-



A practice imaging session for NIRS, with fellow undergraduate research assistant, Dani Jones.

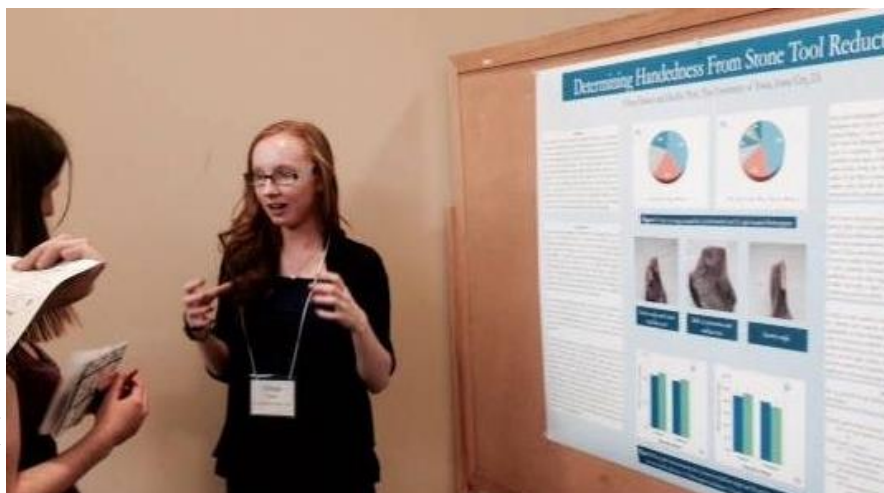
*"...next year I will be receiving funding from an Excellence in Undergraduate Research Award, as an Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) fellow for both my Anthropology and Psychology honors theses."*

contemporary contexts, and for the third time this spring semester on the final results of my pilot. I plan to present on the ancestral origins of *Homo floresiensis* in the fall of next year, and for my final spring semester, the results of my anthropology and psychology honors theses.

As part of the Museum Studies certificate I have also worked on non-major related research projects. I was a museum intern last semester working in the university's Museum of Natural History, cataloging and digitizing the insect collection as part of a service-learning project. This summer I will complete an internship through the education department of the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago, where I will be training and evaluating volunteers for the activity carts and workshops, and certifying as a gallery host for all the

permanent exhibitions.

For the rest of the summer, I have applied to attend the Koobi Fora Field School, in Kenya, where I hope to gain experience in the excavation of an archaeological site, learn about the sub-discipline of paleoanthropology, and apply what I learn to my current and future research.



Chloe at her first poster presentation for the Spring Undergraduate Research Fair (SURF) talking with anthropology alumnus Marlis Muschal, 2013.

## Colonialist Archaeology: Its Past, Present, and Possible Future

Contributed by: Maureen Lonergan

Maureen Lonergan is an undergraduate transfer student who will be pursuing departmental honors and is planning to graduate from the University of Iowa in spring 2016. She attended John Doershuk's Lakeside Lab field school in summer 2014 and her thesis will be on the pottery of the field school's site. In addition to Woodland pottery, Maureen is also interested in ancient European archaeology, as well as the social and political implications of archaeology itself. This essay was written for Prof. Lillios' Politics of the Archaeological Past class, in spring 2015.

*“Contemporary archaeology still has skeletons in its collective closet, and sometimes these skeletons are distressingly literal.”*

Contemporary archaeology still has skeletons in its collective closet, and sometimes these skeletons are distressingly literal. Until recently, for example, a long-time National Park Service employee had the bones of Native Americans from the repository of Effigy Mounds National Monument stored in his garage (Doershuk personal communication, 2015). The sobering reality, according to Sonya Atalay, an Ojibwe archaeologist, is that American archaeology's quest to redress the wrongs of its colonialist roots and decolonize the field has been “slow and limited” (Atalay 2008: 129). I believe that despite major shifts in both legal and academic practice, American archaeology, in particular, and “First World” archaeology, in general, are rooted in colonialist and imperialist ideas and that the decolonization of our discipline is an urgent issue if we wish it to remain both relevant and ethical.

Beginning in the 1980s, archaeologists began to think about how and why they “seek the kind of knowledge they do” (Trigger 1984: 369). Bruce Trigger, a Canadian archaeologist, defined three traditions of archaeology based on the political histories of nations: nationalist, colonialist, and imperialist (ibid: 358). While he argued that most archaeological traditions are nationalist in origin, colonialist archaeology developed where Europeans either politically dominated the native inhabitants or actually “replaced or

overwhelmed” them (ibid: 360). Trigger referred to colonialist archaeology in the past tense, stating that its purpose was to justify European exploitation of the land's native inhabitants. Imperialist archaeology is “associated with a small number of states that enjoy or have exerted political dominance over large areas of the world” and, thus, sway the worldwide intellectual direction of the discipline (ibid: 360).

Trigger argued that, since the 1960s, American archaeology has been imperialist. However, I believe American archaeology also still retains a significantly colonialist component, as nearly all Americans (and American archaeologists) are not descended from our country's original inhabitants. The case of Effigy Mounds is a clear example. In addition to the illegal removal of the bones, walkways were built over Native graves for visitor access while archaeologists stood by, their site survey records incomplete and unfilled (Doershuk personal communication, 2015).

Dorothy Lippert, a Choctaw archaeologist, writes powerfully of the “silencing techniques” used by academia and the federal government against those with any alternative, especially Indigenous, views of archaeology. She describes her feelings after being trained and shaped by the dominant scientific archaeological mode of writing: “[M]y voice was becoming ossified. It was hardening, ever so slowly becoming bone. Cold. Dry.



White.” (Lippert 2010: 188-189).

This denigration and silencing of indigenous views is apparent even in how time is categorized. As Peruvian archaeologist Miguel Díaz argues, the term “prehistory” itself is inherently colonialist, emphasizing “... our [Indigenous Peruvian] history is not pre anything!” except centuries of brutal Spanish colonialism (Díaz 2010: 21). Díaz notes that in Peruvian archaeological discourse, the term is rarely used. Increasingly, some American archaeologists use alternative terms, like “Native American archaeology” (e.g. Mills et al. 2008).

I see the passage of contemporary laws like the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) as an attempt to combat colonialism and imperialism in archaeology. NAGPRA was bitterly opposed by many in the academy at the time of its passage in 1990 (Atalay 2010: 49). However, considerable appreciation for the law now exists. According to Lara Noldner, Bioarchaeology Program Director of the University Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), NAGPRA has allowed both Native Americans and archaeologists to collaborate more closely, learn from each other’s viewpoints,

and redress issues of power imbalance (Nolder personal communication, 2015). Yet, Atalay cautions against extolling “the mandated model of consultation” as the be-all and end-all of Native American-archaeologist relations, pointing out that more organic and supportive relationships are not only possible, but necessary (Atalay 2008: 129).

Due to the long, painful, and sordid history of archaeological misconduct the world over, it is vital that archaeologists make a continual and conscious effort to decolonize archaeology and otherwise redress power imbalances inherent in the field. An important first step in this process is a deep commitment to collaboration. “When archaeology involves researching someone else’s heritage ... it must be collaborative or nothing at all, which means that in some cases, at certain sites or with some descendant communities, archaeological research will not be possible” (Atalay 2008: 133). This can be coupled with the model of “the engaged intellectual” (Díaz 2010). The kind of collaboration established by Mills and colleagues with the White Mountain Apache tribe in Arizona could work in a wider variety of situations beyond that of indigenous communities (Mills et al. 2008). The careful documentation

*“Ideally, [the archaeological site] will be named in a way that marks its indigenous origins, and this would be done in collaboration with a tribe that has roots in the area.”*

and restoration of looted archaeological sites on the Apache Reservation is paralleled by the OSA’s recent project of documenting and restoring a looted rockshelter in Jones County .

The ways to fight against colonialist and imperialist currents in archaeology are not always clear, much less simple. As I read about the decolonizing of field schools, I thought about the experience I had at Lakeside Lab field school last summer, directed by Professor Doershuk, which while extremely educational and formative, had no collaboration with descendant communities. This lack of collaboration is not due to any malice, however, but the result of a complex web of systemic issues, like the forced relocation of tribes from the area and the impact of arbitrary state lines on institutional jurisdiction.

I am now working on an honors project on the ceramics from the site and feel compelled to find some way to collaborate, but as the time period of the pottery is probably early Late Woodland, it is too old to trace descendant groups with any certainty. I have, nonetheless, advocated that the site not be named the Kettleson Hogsback site after the European-descended land donors of the area. Ideally, it will be named in a way that marks its indigenous origins, and

this would be done in collaboration with a tribe that has roots in the area. Through my experience in the field and in classroom, I am coming to terms with the fact that my “research is not an innocent or distant academic exercise but an activity that has something at stake...” (Tuihawai Smith qtd. in Silliman and Dring 2008: 77).

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Trigger, Bruce G.



Thank You to our  
Incredible  
Administrative  
Support Staff Members!

**Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight**  
expertly juggle the multiple demands of  
a busy department and do so with  
grace, flexibility, and good humor.  
Their experience, hard work and  
dedication is deeply appreciated by the  
faculty and students alike!

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## Note from the Editor

This newsletter would not have been possible without the important contributions of several people within the Department! My thanks to everyone who took the time to send information and photos to include.

A special thanks to those who graciously contributed extended features to this years newsletter: Mike Chibnik, Elana Buch, Ted Powers, Jim Enloe, Sarah Trabert, Matthew Hill, Margaret Beck, Erica Prussing, Miranda Karban, Chloe Daniel, and Maureen Lonergan.

Drew Kitchen and John Doershuk provided much needed assistance with obtaining and/or editing the features on undergraduate research. Many useful photos were contributed by Mike Chibnik, Laura Graham, and Sarah Trabert. Shelby Putt's diligent archiving of departmental happenings on the UI Anthropology Facebook page proved to be useful more than once.

From early on, Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight provided me with information and guidance.

Matt Hill and Liz Newbury assisted me with obtaining previous copies of the newsletter. Meghan Meyer, my talented sister, offered honest and shrewd advice on graphic design software and the formatting of an earlier draft of this newsletter.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to faculty advisor Katina Lillios for her insightful comments, sharp eye in editing, and for all her help in gathering information and suggesting feature ideas.

I take sole credit for any and all mistakes and omissions contained herein.

Cheers!

-Meredith Wismer-Lanoë  
AnthObserver Editor  
(2014-2015)

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