



The AnthObserver

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

2017-2018

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News from the Chair

This has been a year of lots of administrative reviews of faculty and of the department. We underwent a review by a committee of internal and external reviewers who visited our department and spoke extensively with faculty, staff and students. Their recommendations basically supported departmental goals of building on strengths, particularly in meeting needs for biological and archaeological anthropology in our Paleoanthropology program. We are awaiting a response to our reply to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



Dr. James G. Enloe

We are proud that Laurie Graham was promoted to Full Professor and of Emily Wentzell to Associate Professor with tenure at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year. We are equally proud that Elana Buch and Drew Kitchen were awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, beginning in August 2018. At that same time, we will welcome Dr. Brady G'Sell who will be joining us as a new Assistant Professor with a joint position in Anthropology and in Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies. Lecturer Heidi Lung, Academic Coordinator of the Museum Studies Program, continues to strive for increased regularity of course offerings for the Program, now that a Museum Studies Certificate can be completed entirely with distance education courses; this semester 23 undergraduates were awarded their Certificates, up from 17 last year. Anthropology faculty continued participation in the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates program, providing our students with opportunities to perform their research and to present it in public and professional venues. This academic year we have had 134 majors and 39 minors in Anthropology, producing 22 BA and 14 BS degrees, a substantial increase in our BS program.

Having offered additional distance education courses and sections to increase course availability and enrollment, the department was able to obtain significant funding from Division of Continuing Education returns for graduate student research support, contributing to continued production in the graduate program, including 3 MAs and 2 PhDs.

News from the Chair

Congratulations to our Graduates!

DOCTORATE

THEODORE MARKS—dissertation titled “Bedtime for the Middle Stone Age: Land Use, Foraging Strategies, and Technology at the End of the Pleistocene in the Namib Desert”

MEREDITH WISMER—dissertation titled “Hunt, Gather, Garden: Faunal Exploitation During the Adoption of Agriculture in the Tallgrass Prairie”

MASTERS

BRITTANY ANDERSON

AMY HOLBROOKS

SARAH MCCRACKEN

JEREMY SKEENS

SHANE WEITZMAN

2017-2018 UI Anthropology Department Presents:

BRADY G'SELL (University of Michigan) "They Come to Steal Our Women and Our Jobs: Migrants, Marriage, and National Belonging in South Africa "

OCTOBER 18, 2017

BRADLEY WILSON (West Virginia University) "Rethinking Food Deserts: Food Access, Justice and Rights in Appalachia"

OCTOBER 27, 2017

ERIC HIRSCH (Franklin & Marshall College) "Two Ways of Looking at Abundance"

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

ROSEMARY GIANNO (Keene State College) "Life into Death and Back: Semelai Soul-Flight Shamanism and Cosmology"

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

UI Anthropology Seminar "Breast Cancer Meanings: Journeys across Asia" Panelists: Mikael Hartman, Wong Mee Lian, Jenny Liu, Miriam Koktvedgaard Zeitzen, and Cynthia Chou

APRIL 23, 2018

Focus on Faculty

Portraits in Research: Using Evolutionary Theory to Investigate Anthropological Questions

Contributed by: Drew Kitchen



My research projects often seem only tangentially related to the study of human evolution. Studies about tick and mosquito evolution, or the spread of bacterial, viral, or parasitic microbes, are not obviously projects undertaken by traditional anthropologists. Of course, they are of central importance to understanding our history, as mortality from infectious disease was a strong selective force in human evolution. Put simply, understanding human evolution requires investigating infectious disease.

However, I am not going to write about those projects here. I want to take this space to expand upon two projects that I am currently very excited about, both of which are more obviously of anthropological interest. Specifically, in these projects I employ evolutionary theory to investigate the diversification of Afroasiatic languages and the origins of dogs amongst Native American populations.

The Afroasiatic languages comprise a large phylum of several language families (Semitic, Chadic, Cushitic, Berber, Omotic, and Egyptian) originating in Africa and Southwest Asia. In collaboration with Christopher Ehret (UCLA), Deven Vyas (SUNY Stony Brook), and our very own Paul Capobianco, I am performing a phylogenetic study to infer the origin and historical diffusion of the multiple lineages of Afroasiatic languages. We are using wordlist data that were gathered by Prof. Ehret and his graduate students. These wordlists consist of words with meanings that reflect central aspects of culture and are thus thought most likely to be conserved over time with little change. Words from 191 Afroasiatic languages have been collected, with each word coded as being cognate/non-cognate with words from the other languages. Data collection alone has been an immense undertaking and notable success, and now that our data have been finalized, we have begun analysis.

Our analysis, though preliminary, has produced two primary findings of interest

about the family tree of Afroasiatic languages. First, we have been able to use the ancient and “extinct” Afroasiatic languages as calibrations for determining the rate of language evolution. Languages that are no longer spoken, such as Egyptian, Aramaic, ancient Hebrew, and Akkadian, provide snapshots of language diversity through time. By comparing diversity across historical periods, we can quantify the rate at which cognates change as languages diverge over time. This rate allows us to convert cognate changes into calendar years, and contextualize the Afroasiatic language tree in time. Second, the Afroasiatic family seems to be quite old, possibly originating in excess of 8,000 years ago. This estimate suggests that the Afroasiatic family is significantly older than the Indo-European family, for example. Though we are far from done with this work, we have

already learned much about the prehistory of the Afroasiatic languages.

The expansion of the human toolkit to include domesticated plants and animals was a critical adaptation that allowed humans to manage their environments and colonize the globe. The exemplar domesticate is the dog. After the emergence of domesticated dogs from Eurasian wolves, dogs spread throughout human populations on multiple continents. Research by Ariane Thomas, a new member of my lab, suggests that only a handful of populations did not have dogs, and that most of these populations likely had dogs at some point. Dogs appear to be as near a universal cultural trait as can be found.

The near universality of dogs raises several important questions. When did dogs emerge on the scene? How were dogs bred? Did people travel with their dogs or get new ones upon arrival at their destination? These are questions that are best approached through genetic data, which inform us about breeding, ancestry, and origins. When this is combined with the close connection between humans and dogs, it is no wonder that many anthropological geneticists are interested in dogs. I am no exception.

I recently participated in a large study of ancient dogs in the Americas that just concluded. I performed analysis of mitochondrial genomes from dogs that lived hundreds to thousands of years before Europeans arrived in the Americas. One of the major findings of this study was that the first Native Americans that crossed the Bering land bridge from Asia ~15,000 years ago brought dogs with them. Until Europeans began to colonize the Americas after 1492, all dogs in the Americas descended from this initial group of dogs.

In collaboration with graduate student Ariane Thomas and Matt Hill in our department, and



Above: Graduate student Ariane Thomas holds a dog skull used in the study

Sarah Trabert and Brian Kemp at Oklahoma, we have begun a project to reveal the history of Dene dogs. These are dogs that would have belonged to Native Americans who spoke Athapaskan languages and lived in northern North America and in isolated parts of the American Southwest. It is thought that the southern Athapaskan people are the descendants of a group that migrated south from northern Canada. What is clear, though, is that both groups had dogs. We are interested in determining if they brought their dogs south with them; if they let their dogs interbreed with dogs they encountered in their new environment; and if their breeding regimes changed over time, especially with regard to European contact.

To answer these questions, we need ancient DNA data from both Dene and non-Dene dogs; from dogs that lived thousands of years ago and from dogs that lived just two centuries ago; and we need hundreds of samples. Luckily, Ariane has this covered. She is spending her summer in Oklahoma, where she will daily don a hazmat suit and enter a clean lab through an air lock, before grinding up ancient dog bones to collect their DNA. After a few years of data collection and analysis, we will have our answers. Oh, the things we will do for our dogs.



Above: Ariane Thomas “kitted up” in a clean lab suit, holds samples to be processed

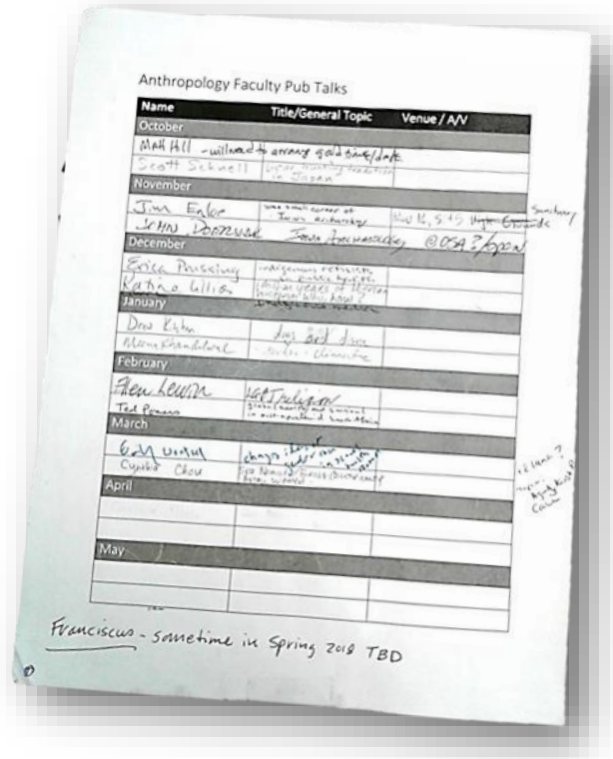
Graduate Students Sponsor Faculty Pub Talk

Contributed by: Scott Schnell

Back when I was in grad school we had a professor who had been trained at one of the “Oxbridge” colleges, and he used to tell us that he learned most of his anthropology in the pubs. It was the custom in his day for faculty and students alike to gather at a pub after classes. There they would continue their discussions of anthropological theory and methodology over a pint or two of beer. “You could skip out on a seminar now and then,” he fondly recalled, “but you dared not miss those pub sessions.” The beer was incidental—what really mattered was the free exchange of ideas and opinions outside the structures of a formal classroom.

This past year our own graduate students initiated a monthly gathering called “The Pub Talk,” where faculty members were invited to share their research interests in the informal setting of a local bar. As one of two presenters scheduled for the first meeting, I viewed the prospect with both excitement and trepidation: there would be no podium to hide behind, no powerpoint slides to fall back on; monologue was to be limited in favor of challenging questions from the grad students. It turned out to be a delightful and stimulating experience, my only disappointment being that the time passed too quickly. The Pub Talk is, in my opinion, an excellent way of promoting greater interaction and collegiality within our department. The meetings continued and were well attended throughout the academic year, with nearly every faculty member making an appearance.

It is for the grad students themselves to determine whether the program was successful, and whether it should continue in the coming years. But as a faculty member I believe that I speak on behalf of all my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this kind of open and spirited intellectual exchange.



UI Department Brown Bag Speaker Series

ELIZABETH HANDSCHY "'There is No There, There': Social Imaginaries and Social Networks among Queer Women in California"

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

SCOTT OLSON "Ich bin ein Berliner: Conjuring Sexual Capital and Kinky Placemaking in Berlin"

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

SHANE WEITZMAN "The Affective Life of Waste in Modern India's Development Landscape"

DECEMBER 1, 2017

EMMA WOOD "The Influence of Selection for Tame Behavior on Tooth Size Reduction in Domesticated Foxes and its Implications for the "Self-domestication" Model in Modern Human Evolution"

DECEMBER 1, 2017

ADDISON KIMMEL "Collectors, Detectors, and Archaeologists: How Collaboration Can Lead to a Better Understanding of Native American History"

DECEMBER 8, 2017

CALEB KLIPOWICZ "Voice, Culture, and Language Ideology in a US Tuberculosis Treatment Program for Marshallese Migrants"

MARCH 9, 2018

EMMA WOOD "Dental Size Reduction in Tame Russian Silver Foxes and its Implications for the 'Self-domestication' Model in Hominin Evolution"

APRIL 6, 2018

AMY HOLBROOKS "'The Only Thing There Is Is the Stories': Critical Discursive Placemaking and Contestation of Authority in an Appalachian Podcast"

April 13, 2018



Faculty Updates



Dr. Elana Buch

Margaret Beck

My colleagues and I are continuing to work and publish on seventeenth-century red-slipped pottery made in Kansas, as one line of evidence for the arrival of Puebloan refugees in this part of the Great Plains, and on other compositional analyses (including Woodland pottery in Kansas, red-slipped pottery from North Dakota, and Hohokam and Patayan pottery from southwestern Arizona). This coming fall I look forward to serving as co-editor (alongside Valentine Roux from the French National Centre for Scientific Research [CNRS]) of the *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*.

Elana Buch

My book, *Inequalities of Aging: Paradoxes of Independence in American Home Care* will be published by NYU press this summer. The book examines everyday relationships in paid home care, one of the fastest growing occupations in the United States. The ethnographic narrative reveals how two of the nation's most pressing concerns—rising social inequality and caring for an aging population—intersect to transform the lives of older adults, home care workers and the world around them. Illuminating the lived experience of both workers and clients, *Inequalities of Aging* shows the different ways in which the idea of independence both connects and shapes the lives of America's elderly and working poor. I am also in the early stages of two new projects. One uses digital storytelling techniques to enable older rural Iowans to share their experiences of care across the life course with a broad audience. The second focuses on the diverse experiences of older adults who enter into new romantic relationships in later life. I continue to teach a wide range of courses on aging, kinship, contemporary world problems, care, and the life course. In teaching, I prepare students to contribute to an increasingly complex and aging world. I continue to serve on the advisory board for the Aging Studies Program, and am increasingly involved in consulting with local and national non-profits engaged with worker justice and elder care issues.



Dr. Cynthia Chou

Cynthia Chou

Cynthia's second year at the Department of Anthropology saw her collaborative research project -- with breast surgeons at the National University of Singapore Hospital -- on the perceptions of breast cancer among Asian women taking off in many exciting ways. She was invited twice to Singapore to give keynote addresses, first to the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Asian Breast Diseases Association; then to the National University of Singapore's Breast Cancer Meanings Symposium 2018. Her book, *Breast Cancer Meanings: Journeys across Asia*, was co-published by the National University of Singapore Press and the Nordic Institute for Asian Studies Press. A book launch was organized in Singapore in March 2018, which was attended by Madam Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, as the guest of honor. The event was marked by an academic seminar during the day and a fund raising gala dinner in the evening. One million Singapore dollars (approximately US\$749,910.00) was raised to aid low income families undergoing breast cancer treatment and a further S\$300,000 (US\$224,973.00) for research. In April her research collaborators visited the University of Iowa and participated in two short seminars: one on "Breast Cancer Meanings: Journeys across Asia" and the other on "Choosing to Die: A Global Look at the Impact of Cultural Norms on the Choices Women Make in Cancer Treatment".

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Over the past year, Cynthia was also kept busy with her research on the *orang suku laut* (tribe of sea people) in Indonesia. A publication on this topic entitled, “Orang Suku Laut Seascape” appeared with MIT Press. She presented papers about the sea nomads at international conferences in Singapore and Washington D.C.

Other publications during the year include an analytical article on the current state of Southeast Asian studies which appeared in Anna-Katharina Hornidge and Katja Mielke (eds.), *Area Studies at the Crossroads: Knowledge Production after the Mobility Turn* published by Palgrave Macmillan (Springer Nature) and a book review of *The Social Sciences in the Asia Century* which was published in the *International Journal of Asia Studies*. She is also working to complete the editing of a volume on her third research project about food, identity and social change.

Russell L. Ciochon

Russ continues to expand his academic research in Asian fossil primates with an emphasis on *Homo erectus* in Indonesia and *Gigantopithecus* in southern China. He has been working in the Sangiran Dome, Java, Indonesia for over 20 years. Last summer Russ continued his invited research with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology & Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IVPP, CAS) on the scientific issues related to *Gigantopithecus* faunas with Professor Wang Wei, Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, China. Russ, along with Kira Westaway, Macquarie University, received a grant from the Australia Research Council to date cave sites in southern China in order to better understand the extinction of this great ape. *Gigantopithecus* continues to generate media interest and a French film team came to campus as part of a documentary on megafauna. Russ balances his research with teaching and administrative duties. He continues to serve as Director of CLAS' Museum Studies Certificate Program and Coordinator of Distance Education for the department.

Jim G. Enloe

Jim Enloe is in the middle of his third and final term as chair of the department of Anthropology. These days of tightening University budgets have presented quite a few problems for the faculty, staff and students of the department. While being chair is a time consuming task, he was able to continue his various research programs. Jim is continuing his Namibian research program in collaboration with Grant McCall of Tulane University, UI graduate students Teddy Marks and James McGrath, and Paul Grigg of Albuquerque. They have cooperated with the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre in Namibia in submitting a proposal to the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation for survey and planning for protection of archaeological sites in western Namibia. Jim and Paul will be travelling to visit Gobabeb and work on more concrete plans for the research project this summer.

Jim continued his work at the field school site of Woodpecker Cave at the Coralville Reservoir for the sixth 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. 6a – University of Iowa Archaeological Field School 2017” to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with contributions by Jacob Arana, Mackenzie Cross, Jacob Foubert, Elise Heitmann, Katy

**Congratulations to
Laura Graham
for her promotion to
Full Professor
and to
Emily Wentzell,
Elana Buch, and
Drew Kitchen
for their promotions
to Associate
Professor!**



Dr. Russell Ciochon

Faculty Updates



Above: Bob Franciscus, Emma Wood, and Scott Maddux in front of the conference hall for the Dmitri Belyaev Centenary conference held August, 2017 in the academic town ("Akademgorodok") which houses the Novosibirsk State University and contains 35 distinct research institutes.

Left: Bob Franciscus and Emma Wood discussing plans for their collaborative project at the Institute for Cytology and Genetics with Prof. Lyudmila Trut, the longtime head of the IC&G Fox Farm and Dimitri Belyaev's first graduate student (far left), and her principal colleague Dr. Anastasyia Kharlamova (second from left).



Right: Banner for the Dmitri Belyaev Centenary conference



Kelly, Robert Lepcin, Jeremy Skeens, Adam Skibbe, Bekah Truhan, & Arthur Wold. He presented "Spatial analysis in the Woodland: foraging behavior in sedentary agricultural societies" in the symposium "Intra-site spatial analysis of mobile peoples: Analytical approaches to reconstructing occupation history" at the 83rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Washington, DC, April 12-16, 2018.

Jim is preparing for the next field season of excavations at Woodpecker Cave, where he will be assisted by James McGrath, graduate Teaching Assistant, and Arthur Wold, Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates fellow. They already have a crew of 21 enthusiastic undergraduate students, ready to attack continued excavations on several occupation surfaces of the Middle and Late Woodland if the river doesn't rise too soon.

Robert G. Franciscus

Bob made his second trip to the Institute for Cytology and Genetics (IC&G) at the Siberian Division of the Russian National Academy of Science in Novosibirsk this past August for an ongoing project studying skeletal changes in domesticated Russian foxes. A previous visit to the IC&G resulted in the acquisition of tame-selected, aggressive-selected, and unselected strain fox skeletal samples in 2015. The analyses of this material in Bob's lab since then has provided previously unrecognized evidence of hard-tissue changes in both the tame and aggressive fox strains resulting from this long term behavioral experimental study. This past summer's trip, funded in part by the UI College of Dentistry, stemmed from an invitation to present results from this recent work at a conference honoring the centenary of the birth of the founder of

the Russian fox experiments, Dmitri Belyaev, held August 7-11, 2017 at the IC&G. Bob and one of his former PhD students, Scott Maddux (Bob's co-director on this project) were joined on this trip by one of Bob's current PhD students, Emma Wood, who contributed significantly to the new findings presented at this international conference. This

Faculty Updates

trip also afforded Bob, Scott and Emma the opportunity to meet face-to-face with their Russian colleagues, revisit the fox farm, and plan further aspects of their ongoing collaboration. The overarching goal of this project is to model similar skeletal changes reflecting ‘tameness’ observed in the human fossil record through the evolution of ‘self-domestication’ in which there was strong selection for aggression-dampening and increased social tolerance and cooperation.

Bob was also a co-author on five poster/podium presentations in 2017. These included two given at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting held in New Orleans, LA, two at the Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists meeting held in San Antonio, TX, and one at the European Society for the study of Human Evolution held in Leiden, Netherlands. Bob also participated in both local and national community science outreach this past year including an appearance on Iowa Public Radio’s “River to River” program in June discussing the 300,000 year old early modern humans recently found in northwestern Africa indicating that the emergence of our species was likely a Pan-African phenomenon, and commentary in the *Boston Globe* in October on research linking dietary changes in human evolution with altered craniofacial anatomy



Laura R. Graham

In February 2018, the University of São Paulo Press released the Portuguese edition of Laura Graham’s first book as *Performance de Sonhos: Discursos de imortalidade Xavante*. In addition to providing an update of the Xavante situation, this edition features a new CD of field recordings that acoustically illustrate sounds and expressive genres discussed in the book. As part of the engaged anthropology Graham practices to support Xavante in their efforts to defend their human rights and constitutionally guaranteed rights to territory and livelihood, in April 2018 Graham accompanied a Xavante delegation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (see photo). Graham organized the mission, facilitated capacity building, translation and meetings with various nation state UN missions that have interests in central Brazil and Indigenous human rights. The collection of essays on language and social justice, *Language & Social Justice in Practice* (Routledge, forthcoming 2018), that she is co-editing will include Graham’s chapter on the politics of linguistic representation on highway signs titled, *A’uwe-Xavante Represent: Rights and Resistance in Native Language Signage on Brazil’s Federal Highways*.

Laura Graham with Xavante representatives to the UNPFII, courtesy of Jackie Tiller 2018.

Matthew E. Hill

In the last year I continued to focus on my three main research interests: the earliest big game hunters of the Americas, the appearance of Dene populations on the High Plains of North America, and anthropogenic deforestation in Rajasthan, India. I was very fortunate to work closely with a number of Iowa colleagues and graduate students. This collaboration culminated in the publication of two articles and a chapter, and the submission of a book chapter manuscript over the last year. I look

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Dr. Meena Khandelwal

forward to taking undergraduate and graduate students into the field this summer for excavations and survey at the White Cat and Humphrey sites in Nebraska.

Meena Khandelwal

Meena Khandelwal is collaborating with several colleagues, including Matt Hill and Margaret Beck, on a project to understand the complex nexus linking cooking technologies, forests, and gender in southern Rajasthan, India. This year, she completed work on three works of public scholarship. Her essay [“The Humble Cookstove”](#), co-authored with Kayley Lain (UI Engineering), appeared in a special issue of LIMN Issue 9: Little Development Devices/Humanitarian Goods, edited by Stephen J. Collier, Jamie Cross, Peter Redfield, and Alice Street. LIMN is an open-access digital platform for public scholarship in Anthropology. This year she also completed an essay, co-authored with Udaykumar (UI Engineering), to appear in a University of Iowa Press volume *As Far as the Eye Can See*, edited by Stephen Pradarelli. This volume aims to showcase the work of UI researchers in various fields. Khandelwal also completed an essay to appear in *Regenerative City*, edited by Jeff Biggers, about the Big Ideas course she co-directs with Matt Hill called People and Environment: Technology, Culture and Social Change. Khandelwal plans to spend a month in Rajasthan this summer conducting research on cooking-related development interventions.

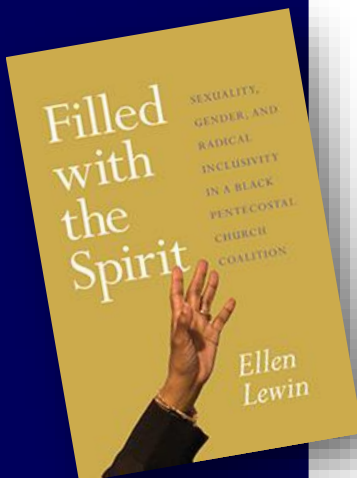
Drew Kitchen

I had an eventful and productive sixth year at the University of Iowa, well beyond the usual sturm and drang of teaching four courses of students, publishing, and managing the (growing) Evolutionary Anthropology lab. I participated in projects that were published in *Current Biology*, *International Journal for Parasitology*, *Infection*, *Genetics and Evolution*, and *eLife*. I continue to work on projects related to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* evolution, human demography, arthropod vector phylogeography, and language evolution. An area of research that I am expanding is the evolution and demographic history of dogs, with the help of new graduate student Ariane Thomas (M.A., University of Montana), who joined the Evolutionary Anthropology lab this year. However, all was over-shadowed by this being my tenure year, which dwarfed my perception of year-to-year achievements and progress. Now that I am (almost) on the other side of this academic hurdle, I can honestly say that I am extremely happy to be a continuing part of the Anthropology department at the University of Iowa. See page 3.

Ellen Lewin

My book, *Filled with the Spirit: Sexuality, Gender and Radical Inclusivity in a Black Pentecostal Church Coalition*, was published this spring by the University of Chicago Press. The book is an ethnographic study of a coalition of predominantly African American LGBT Pentecostal congregations around the country, and is based on fieldwork I have conducted since 2009.

Other than that, I am continuing to work within my phased retirement, which began in fall 2017 and will end in spring 2019. My principal challenge is to come up with a big writing project that will occupy me after I retire. In the coming year, I will continue to serve on the Executive Boards of the Section Assembly and the AAA, completing the term of a colleague who felt he had to resign because he is Mexican



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and no longer feels safe coming to the US. We live in very challenging times, to say the least.

Katina Lillios

With the support of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Katina spent the year working on her book: *The Prehistoric Archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula: The Making of Cultural Mosaic*, under contract with Cambridge University Press. While most of the time she was holed up in her office, she also traveled to Spain and Portugal to visit archaeological sites and museums, meet with colleagues, give lectures, and consult the library of the German Archaeological Institute in Madrid. She presented a paper entitled: "Moving Bodies Over Space and Time: Multiscalar Analyses and Critical Reflections" at the European Association of Archaeologists in Maastricht, Netherlands, and published two coauthored articles in the *Journal of World Prehistory* and *Nature*.



Katina meeting with specialists on Iberian Bell Beakers at the library of the German Archaeological Institute in Madrid (March 2018). Left to right, Michael Kunst, Katina Lillios, Corina Liesau von Lettow-Vorbeck, and Rafael Garrido-Pena.

Heidi Lung

Having been assigned to lead the Museum Studies Certificate program late last spring, I intensified my third-year efforts on mentoring students in the program and connecting them with professional learning opportunities. In addition to strengthening relationships with students and faculty on campus, I worked on developing collaborations with a variety of local and regional museums and professional organizations. These new connections have already added depth and resources to course offerings and will lead to a variety of unique professional opportunities for students enrolled in the Certificate program.

Taking a moment to reflect on teaching, in the fall I led three courses including the newest online course titled *Museum Origins*, a focus on the history of museums from the earliest cabinets of curiosity to today's online virtual museum experiences. This course, developed with the assistance of Distance and Online Education, utilized a variety of online tools including *Padlet* and *VoiceThread* to engage students in the collaborative learning environment. I had the privilege to present this course as a pedagogical model for online communication and collaboration in two presentations to faculty on campus during *ICONext* and *TILE* training sessions.

In the spring, I taught *Museum Evaluation and Visitor Studies*, another new offering that has student researchers integrating evaluation processes into museum programming and exhibition development. While reviewing foundational literature on audience research, students were engaged in group projects in collaboration with two museums, the University's Stanley Museum of Art and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library located in Cedar Rapids. Working as professional consultants, students designed and presented audience research proposals aimed at answering specific questions posted by each collaborating institution. The two museums will integrate the evaluation projects into current programming to inform future institutional decisions.

During these first three years at the University, I have been grateful for the many



Dr. Heidi Lung

Faculty Updates



Dr. Ted Powers

faculty and staff on campus who have become critical partners in my teaching and mentoring efforts. I am most grateful to those working in all of our campus collections who have provided mentorship to our students through countless service projects and internships. These professional opportunities are integral to their learning and success in the field. I would expressly like to thank Trina Roberts, Director of the Pentecrest Museums, for her wholehearted dedication and service to the Museum Studies Certificate program. Museum On Dr. Roberts!

Ted Powers

Over the past year, I continued to expand my work with faculty and students in the Department of Anthropology, a process that I have enjoyed a great deal. I continue to be struck by the fascinating and excellent work that is being undertaken in the department, which contributes to the growth of the discipline at large. Critical thinking, productive exchange, and scholarly solidarity are some of the concepts that best encapsulate the culture of the department. Thanks to all faculty and students that I work with in the department for contributing to another great year at the University of Iowa.

I have continued to publish and expand my research on the South African HIV/AIDS epidemic during the academic year. I have focused recently on the development of a book manuscript that focused on South African HIV/AIDS activism, which is now moving into its latter stages. In addition, an article that outlines a novel approach to carrying out multi-sited field research was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Medicine, Anthropology, Theory*. This piece is also based on my research with the South African HIV/AIDS movement. Input, guidance, and support from senior colleagues in the department has been invaluable for the progression of these projects.

A second project, which analyzes the relation between post-apartheid austerity, public health, and social inequality in South Africa, has shifted into the publication phase over the past year. In 2017 I finalized a peer-reviewed chapter entitled "On Austerity and Structural Adjustment: Tracing Continuity and Difference Across Space and Time." The piece will be published in 2018 in an edited volume entitled *Austerity: the View from Anthropology* (Berghahn). In addition, I am co-editing a special issue that reviews and presents anthropological cross-cultural case studies on austerity, which is currently under review at a peer-reviewed journal. I will continue my work on the long-term effects of fiscal austerity on health and social inequality in South Africa moving forward.



Dr. Erica Prussing

With respect to teaching, I have enjoyed working with a wide array of students from anthropology and global health studies. I relished sharing my fieldwork experiences with anthropology students in my ANTH 2182 Africa: Health and Society course. My students engaged with debates on the dynamics of health, social inequality, and transnationalism with energy and impressive critical thinking skills, making the class a joy to teach. I also continued to bring insights from anthropology to students in Global Health, engaging with learners from across disciplines and emphasizing that questions of health and well being must always begin and end with people.

As my time in the department has increased, so too has my engagement with our

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graduate program. As my work has expanded with our doctoral students, I have a greater appreciation for their hard work, dedication, and capacity to ask questions that push forward the boundaries of our discipline. If our graduate students are the future of anthropology, the future is bright indeed.

Erica Prussing

This past year Erica has been periodically submerged in the depths of intensive data analysis for her transnational study of the cultural workings and political impacts of epidemiological research by and for indigenous peoples. These efforts have produced two full articles for medical anthropology and science & technology studies journals, plus the skeleton of a third article for a public health journal. This summer her attention will turn to drafting a book (tentatively entitled *Quantifying Justice: Epidemiological Research and Indigenous Advocacy*). Erica also co-authored a chapter about new mothers' experiences of breastfeeding that was published in *Breastfeeding: New Anthropological Approaches* (Routledge, 2017), based on a collaborative project with UI Anthropology/Public Health alum Dr. Carrie Hough (Augustana College) and UI/ICRU undergraduate research assistant Kayleigh Applegate (now a grad student at St. Louis University). Erica has continued to teach a variety of undergraduate courses in medical anthropology, indigenous studies, public health, and gender studies. She has also continued representing departmental and collegiate interests through elected positions on the university-wide Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council (the executive council of the Faculty Senate). Given needs to focus less on service and more on research, Erica is stepping down as Director of Graduate Studies for the department at the end of this year.

Scott Schnell

Scott Schnell continues his research on the matagi—traditional hunters, most notably of bears, in the forested mountains of Northeastern Japan. To the matagi, the deep mountains are inhabited by a female spirit or deity who protects and sustains them—as long as they maintain proper attitudes of respect and gratitude and avoid abusing the privilege by taking too much. Of course, present day matagi have regular jobs and avail themselves of the latest technologies. Hunting is done on weekends and only at certain times of year. Thus the question that presents itself is: what justifies killing and eating wild animals when it is no longer an economic necessity? In addition to the usual arguments for preserving a way of life, maintaining certain survival skills, and controlling crop depredations and other damages, Scott suggests that matagi hunting tradition perpetuates a direct, reciprocal relationship with nature personified. Such “animistic” concepts—in which nature is recognized as a conscious presence—encourage not only responsibility for the environment but to it as well, a subtle but important distinction that is sadly lacking in the industrialized West.

Emily Wentzell

The highlight of my publishing year was completing a book manuscript based on my longitudinal research with Mexican couples involved in HPV research. In addition to publishing on other aspects of that project and work related to sexual health medicine, I have also begun a new research project examining the relationships between gender stereotypes and professional turf wars. In this project, I will investigate how specific local cultural understandings of masculinities get naturalized and globalized in the emerging field of “men’s health” medicine. I will also investigate



Dr. Scott Schnell

Faculty Updates



Dr. Emily Wentzell

the health and social consequences of this phenomenon. Extending my prior work with public health researchers, I have begun collaborating with physicians involved in the world of men's health, as well as presenting about anthropological views of gender and medical practice to groups of physicians. I also continue to direct the CLAS International Studies Program, which grants an interdisciplinary BA.

My forthcoming book, *Collective Biologies: Healing Mexican Gender, Race and Family through Medical Research Participation*, draws on research based in the Cuernavaca arm of a multinational, longitudinal study of human papillomavirus (HPV) occurrence in men. In this book, I analyze the ways that people's collective rather than individual ideas of biology - based in Mexican cultural understandings of race and society - enabled them to use men's sexual health research participation to further goals outside the clinic. Spouses collaboratively used their research-related experiences to live out self-consciously modern marriage and gender, and to heal bio-social ills on the levels of the couple, family, religious congregation, and Mexican populace, despite economic and narcoviolence crises that threatened these bodies' well-being.



Above and Right:
Cuernavaca HPV study site



Graduate Student Updates

Brittany Anderson

Brittany Anderson is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the University of Iowa. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology and Biology from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Her research interests within medical anthropology include West Africa, health systems/infrastructure, and Critical Medical Anthropology.

Paul Capobianco

Paul Capobianco is a Ph.D. candidate in cultural anthropology. His dissertation focuses on the changing nature of Japanese identity as Japan grapples with the dual problems of immigration and population decline. He is currently writing his dissertation and hopes to defend some time in 2019. In April, Paul presented his most recent research at the Anthropology of Japan in Japan Conference in Tokyo and also gave a lecture at the University of Tokyo's Global Japan Studies seminar series. Segments of his dissertation were recently published in *Transforming Anthropology*.

Lizzy Handschy

Elizabeth is a cultural anthropology PhD student advised by Dr. Erica Prussing. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014 with a BA in Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Public Health. Elizabeth conducts fieldwork in the Northeastern United States and is interested in sexuality, health, and activism. Her research focuses on knowledge production and circulation and the impacts of activism on embodied experience.

Amy Holbrooks

Amy is a PhD student in cultural anthropology, working with Dr. Elana Buch. She received a Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology in 2016 from Furman University. Amy's research explores questions of belonging and attachment in the context of urban growth and gentrification in a growing city in Southern Appalachia. Her dissertation project examines how community organizations stake claims to space through discursive framing and place-making strategies. Amy's project also uses frameworks from the anthropology of care to help understand how collectives of interdependence such as "communities" and "publics" are constructed and maintained in these contested contexts.

Noah Johnson

Noah is currently writing his doctoral dissertation in sociocultural anthropology under the advisement of Dr. Scott Schnell. His work is with karate practitioners in the United States of America, though he also travels to Okinawa, Japan from time to time as part of this research. Noah's dissertation extends his earlier work through the use of a multi-sited approach to karate as a cultural practice and cultural product in the circuits of globalization. Data collected in his fieldwork over the course of 2016 indicate that karate has a crucial role to play in the lives of its practitioners and – more than simply a pastime – this practice is instrumental in how these people structure their lives and make their way through the world. This last semester, Noah was a teaching assistant in the Sociology Department, and found the change of approach enlivening and worthwhile. Still, he is greatly looking forward to "returning to the fold" once again next fall as a teaching assistant in our department. Noah is inspired in his work and his life by his wife, Jessica, their three year-old son, Liam, and their infant daughter, Evie.

Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AnthGrad) Officers 2017-2018

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Lizzy Handschy

Vice-President:

James McGrath

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Scott Olson

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Sarah Raine

Secretary:

Addison Kimmel

Graduate Student Updates



*Teddy Marks and
advisor Jim Enloe
after Ted's successful
dissertation defense
this April*

Steven Keehner

I am a second year archaeology PhD student advised by Dr. Margaret Beck. I received my BGS with Distinction (2012) and MA with Honors (2015) from the University of Kansas. My professional experience includes cultural resource management (CRM) and museum curation. I have worked at archaeological sites ranging from Paleoindian to Historic in age. I have also supervised the curation of North American and Mesoamerican museum collections for the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. I am interested in the archaeology of North American Woodland cultures (500 BCE–CE 1000) and Mesoamerican Formative cultures (1500 BCE–CE 100). Topics that are of special interest to me include ceramic technology, lithic technology, radiocarbon dating, site formation processes, remote sensing, social interaction, symbolism, shamanism, and rock art. My dissertation research focuses on the formation of symbolic identity and broad regional interactions of the archaeological manifestation known as the Hopewell.

Addison Kimmel

Addison is a PhD student in archaeology working with Dr. Margaret Beck. He earned his B.A. in History from Miami University in 2010, and his M.A. in Anthropology from Northwestern in 2012. He has excavation experience in The Bahamas and Dominica, and has worked in CRM in Illinois. Broadly, he is interested in historical archaeology, the archaeology of the Midwestern United States, household archaeology, and the archaeology of identity. His current work looks at identity and social and economic networks in "Indian Country" during the first decades of the 19th century.

Caleb Klipowicz

Caleb Klipowicz is a doctoral student in sociocultural anthropology advised by Dr. Erica Prussing. He graduated from the University of Memphis in 2016 with a Master's in Applied Anthropology and a concentration in Medical Anthropology. Caleb's research interests center on the varied health problems facing Marshall Islanders both in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and in the US.

Jeongeun Lee

Jeongeun Lee is a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology. She received her BA in Chinese Literature and Languages/Anthropology and MA in Anthropology from Seoul National University. Her dissertation research is focused on the mothering practices of North Korean refugee women in South Korea. Her work examines how North Korean mothers reconfigure their notions of motherhood in (neoliberal) South Korean society.

Natalie Luna-Renek

Natalie Luna-Renek is working towards her Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology with an emphasis on the Anthropology of Religion. 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.

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.

Graduate Student Updates

Sally McCracken

Sally is a biological anthropology graduate student with a focus in paleoanthropology. Sally received her BA in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2016. Prior to coming to Iowa Sally worked at the Forensic Anthropology Center and participated in archaeological digs in South Carolina and Tennessee. Sally's primary research interests involve trauma in Mid-Late Pleistocene hominins and morphological changes associated with cold adaptation.

James McGrath

James is a paleoanthropology graduate student advised by Dr. Jim Enloe. He received his MA from the Anthropology Department at U. Iowa in 2016. James has participated in excavations at two Middle Stone Age archaeological sites in South Africa, Pinnacle Point 5-6 and Vleesbaai, as well as several surveys in South Africa and Namibia. His dissertation research is on the social and environmental context of symbolic technology use during the Middle and Later Stone Age in southern Africa. James recently received the T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship and will be conducting laboratory research in Cape Town and Mossel Bay, South Africa this upcoming summer.

Scott Olson

Scott is a Ph.D. student in cultural anthropology advised by Dr. Emily Wentzell. He graduated with honors in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies and Anthropology from Grinnell College in 2015. He has conducted fieldwork in Chicago, Illinois, and Berlin, Germany, and is interested in the way that collective memories of the AIDS epidemic shape contemporary debates about HIV in Europe and North America. Specifically, his interest in memories of AIDS relates to queer experiences with sexuality, public sex, mass death, and public health policy.

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. As part of her dissertation research, Ana-Monica examines how transgender patients and their healthcare providers rework a medical system designed for cisgender people. To do this, she applies an ethnographic approach paired with document analysis to investigate how providers trained in U.S. trans healthcare and trans patients engage with and navigate bureaucratic health technologies—specifically, bureaucratic labels referencing dominant ideas about gender in widespread technologies such as electronic health records (EHRs). Informed by broader trans activist movements, trans-sensitive healthcare providers and trans patients can interpret these gender-normative labels differently than insurers and healthcare staff with less exposure to the nascent field of trans healthcare. Through her fieldwork, Ana-Monica hopes to understand what such interpretations reflect about the fluidity of these labels' meanings, as well as the construction of gender and sex in U.S. biomedicine more broadly. The overarching goal of this research is to improve healthcare delivery to this community.

Jeremy Skeens

Jeremy is a cultural resource management graduate student advised by Dr. Margaret Beck. He previously graduated from the University of Iowa in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Museum Studies certificate. Jeremy has been involved with

Congratulations to James McGrath for being selected by his peers as the recipient of this years June Helm Award!

Congratulations to Scott Olson for winning a prestigious Research Grant for Doctoral Candidates and Young Academics and Scientists from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)!

Graduate Student Updates

the University of Iowa field school at Woodpecker Cave in Iowa since 2014 as a student, supervising excavator, and TA. His research is focused on the prehistoric ceramics in the North American Midwest, specifically the change in technologies and resources used in vessel production during the shift from the Middle to Late Woodland periods.

Kirsten Tharalson

Kirsten is a zooarchaeology graduate student advised by Dr. Matthew E. Hill. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma in 2016. Kirsten completed one field season at the 9,000-year-old bison kill site of Ravenscroft in the Oklahoma panhandle, as well as multiple other field projects throughout Oklahoma. She has also excavated a Dismal River aspect site in Nebraska. Kirsten's current research involves the faunal analysis of the 2,000-year-old bison kill site, the Certain site, from western Oklahoma. She is also currently analyzing the faunal remains from the Dismal River aspect site of Lovitt from Nebraska.

Ariane Thomas

Ariane is a biological anthropology doctoral student advised by Dr. Andrew Kitchen. Her research explores past human behavior and its impact on the environment through the analysis of non-human genomes. Her dissertation uses the genomes of North American indigenous dogs to investigate their role as a trading commodity among past Native American populations and as a proxy for human migration within the Western Hemisphere.

Shane Weitzman

Shane Weitzman is a graduate student advised by Meena Khandelwal. He earned a BA in Anthropology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Brandeis University. His research interests took an unexpected turn after he haphazardly found himself at the city dump in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Shane spent last summer in

Rajasthan studying Hindi on a Critical Language Scholarship from the US Department of State.

Meredith Wismer

Meredith's dissertation research focuses on understanding the role that wild animal resources played toward the speed and scale of the adoption of agriculture, using the tallgrass prairie region of western Iowa during the Woodland period (~800 BC-AD 1200) as a case study. This spring she presented a paper at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual meeting and successfully defended her dissertation. Meredith continues to enjoy teaching courses in anthropology at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado.

Emma Wood

Emma is a biological anthropology student working with Dr. Robert Franciscus. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from Colorado State University in 2012. She is interested in craniofacial anatomy, craniofacial development, and paleoanthropology. Her research explores the parallels in craniofacial evolution observable between domesticated animals and Middle and Late Pleistocene *Homo sapiens*.



Meredith Wismer and advisor Matt E. Hill pose in their regalia during spring Commencement

Undergraduate Spotlight



Above: Undergraduate Alana Cayro works on materials from the Humphrey Site (Nebraska) as part of her "Practicum in Archaeology" course, spring 2018

*Congratulations
to the 36 students
graduating with a
BA or BS degree in
Anthropology
and the 23
graduating with a
Museum Studies
Certificate
during the 2017-
2018 academic
year!*

Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU)

Several anthropology undergraduate students presented their research at this year's ICRU spring festival, including:

JENNIFER BANKS— "Dismal River Housing: A Comparative Study of Apache Housing Structures"

MACKENZIE CROSS— "Analyzing the Faunal Assemblage Produced by Woodland Hunters"

DIANA GARCIA— "Stone Tool Manufacture at Woodpecker Cave: Results from Raw Material Analysis"

ELISE HEITMANN— "Don't be so Dense: The Creation of Density Contour Maps"

KATELYN KELLY— "Use and Discard: Analyzing Piece Plotted and Screened Artifacts from Woodpecker Cave"

ARTHUR WOLD— "The Shellfish Informant: Using Bivalve Remains to Reconstruct Ancient Environments"

Focus on Museum Studies

Using Objects to Teach Iowa's History

Contributed by: Jessica Klein, Joshua Waldorf, and Emma Walhof



As students of history, education, and museum studies, we recognize the educational value of historic documents, artifacts, and structures maintained by Iowa's museums and cultural organizations. That is why, when presented with an opportunity to contribute a state-wide community of practice focused on connecting K-12 teachers and their students with museums and their resources, we jumped at the chance!

The UI Teaching Iowa History video project includes the development and production of a series of videos modeling pedagogical best practices for teaching with primary resources found in Iowa museum collections. In addition to the series of videos, we are assembling a digital archive of existing resources that support and enhance classroom teaching with objects to be shared with K-12 teachers through a project website. The development of these teaching resources is one component of a larger project led by the Iowa Museum Association called Teaching Iowa History (TIH). At its core, the TIH project is a state-wide effort aimed at bringing together K-12 educators, museum practitioners, and varied educational stakeholders including the University of Northern Iowa, Simpson College, Iowa Public Television, Iowa's Department of Education, and the UI Museum Studies Program to develop museum-based resources that align with the newly released Iowa social studies standards. The larger project will create classroom lessons, text sets, and professional development opportunities that utilize historically significant documents, artifacts, and locations to engage students and the general public in Iowa's rich history. Our video series and resource website will be presented as a teaching tool box to educators during professional development sessions that take place over the next two years.

Our ultimate goal is to make history come alive for students inside the classroom, and to have teachers be able to get students easily engaged. Through this series of videos our hope is to not only make Iowa teachers more aware of local historical resources, but to demonstrate the most

effective way to use objects to support student learning. We also wish to bring awareness to the resources made available by museums and other institutions in order to actively increase the desire for students to learn about history; this is an important point that we can't emphasize enough.

As students ourselves, we've learned so much from this project. From an educator's perspective, we have learned how to teach using historical objects. From the museum studies view we have found out new ways to communicate and connect with educators in Iowa while demonstrating how to use the historical resources available to all. Finally, during this project we have enhanced our research and analytical skills. It's been an absolute honor to work on this project for the Iowa Museum Association, and we thank you!



Teaching IOWA History

www.iowamuseums.org



Above: Recent graduates celebrate achieving their certificates in Museum Studies, at the Museum Studies Graduation Ceremony, spring 2018

Left: Iowa museum representatives (including Heidi Lung) look on as Governor Kim Reynolds proclaims June 11-17, 2018 "Iowa Museum Week"

Focus on Alumni

What does that have to do with anthropology?

Anthropology-Informed Leadership*

Contributed by: Cerisa Reynolds



"...one of the biggest strengths in anthropology-informed leadership [is] the compassion and empathy that come from truly wanting to know what someone is thinking or what they have experienced."

I have been studying anthropology since 2001 and teaching anthropology—in one capacity or another—since 2004. My leadership during most of these years was very anthropology-specific: anthropology instructor, lab coordinator, archaeological field crew leader, project supervisor. Since joining Aims Community College as an anthropology instructor six years ago, my leadership experiences expanded to include positions like student club advisor and co-chair of a major planning committee. Last summer, I officially moved into administration when I became the Chair of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center (FTLC).

The FTLC provides professional development for Aims' faculty through New Faculty Orientation, formal courses on andragogy, faculty conferences, ongoing professional development, and a peer-mentoring program. In my position, then, I seek to answer three questions: what do our students need from their faculty? What do our faculty need to meet

their students' needs? And what do our faculty need to continually grow in their professions?

For five years, I had been serving as our only full-time anthropology instructor, teaching an average of five classes per semester. This position, in contrast, would reduce my time in the classroom with anthropology students to one class per semester. It would also shift my intellectual focus to teaching generally rather than anthropology specifically. Not surprisingly, then, several family members greeted my announcement that I was applying for this position with one main question: "What does that have to do with anthropology?" This question honestly surprised me, because in my mind there was never a disconnect between this position and anthropology. In fact, my lack of anxiety over that served as proof that what we often tell our students—and learned ourselves in school—is true: anthropology can help you in almost any field or position. However, it was in that moment, when I needed to defend this decision, that I fully recognized

how much anthropology has prepared me for leadership specifically.

First, my anthropological background helps me see the many microcultures that exist within the overarching culture of Aims Community College. Each campus, each department, each class, has its own culture. They therefore have their own strengths, needs, fears, and expectations, and each person in these microcultures brings their own outside experiences on to campus with them. This makes everything incredibly complex. There is never going to be a “fix-all” for every student. There is never going to be a training session that will work for every instructor’s department or class. But, by listening to the many voices in each of these micro-cultures, and by observing the similarities and differences between them, I can attempt to find the common ground, hosting training that will meet the needs of most instructors and students, and organizing specialized training when appropriate.

An important part of this, and perhaps the most important aspect of anthropology-informed leadership, is that anthropologists ask a lot of questions. We do not assume we know what others are thinking, that we know what they want, or that we know how something may affect them. Other people are the experts in their own lives, and if we want to truly know about their experiences, their strengths, and their struggles, we need to ask them questions. As an anthropology-informed leader, then, I ask questions, I listen—deeply—to peoples’ answers, and then I ask more questions. When I design a new program, I also need to ask questions about the programs themselves. For example, what will this mean to the people involved? How might it affect their lives? I need to focus on the individual experiences as well as the big picture, the context of it all.

But this also means that it can take me awhile to make decisions, as I need to be thoughtful, I need

to feel as though I have checked in with various stakeholders, and I need to make sure I have thought about how my decisions will impact our institution’s culture and how they will impact the individuals within that culture. This thoughtfulness—the amount of time it takes me to process things—can be difficult in today’s world, where decisions are often made quickly. And I know that it can be frustrating for some of the people I work with, including my staff, our faculty, and my supervisors.

However, while the amount of time it takes an anthropologist to make a decision—based on all of the questions they need to ask and the people they need to hear from—can be frustrating, it can also build trust. It can create an environment where people have agency and feel as though their voices have truly been heard. Some have suggested that this is one of the biggest strengths in anthropology-informed leadership: the compassion and empathy that come from truly wanting to know what someone is thinking or what they have experienced.

Anthropology has helped me become a leader who can work with different stakeholders; who can ask questions of my colleagues; who can build environments of trust; and who can find ways to address the concerns of various constituents. It has helped me become a leader who can see the individuals within the system, yet understand the importance of the system—the culture—itself.

Cerisa Reynolds is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and the Chair of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center at Aims Community College. She earned her PhD in Anthropology at the University of Iowa in 2012.

*Portions of this article were presented at the 2018 ADVANCE Talks Conference: Advocating Development, Versatility, Aspiration, Networking, Community and Education, sponsored by the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, Rocky Mountain Chapter.



Thank You to Our Incredible Administrative Support Staff!

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!

A special congratulations to Beverly for receiving the Longevity Award—we are lucky to have the benefit of her many years of service to the department!



Note from the Editor

This editor would like to thank all those who took the time to send materials and craft feature stories.

A special thanks to Drew Kitchen, Jessica Klein, Joshua Waldorf, Emma Walhof, and Cerisa Reynolds for taking the time to write feature stories. Bob Franciscus, Laura Graham, Emily Wentzell, and James McGrath provided excellent photos.

As always, Beverly Poduska and Shari Knight provided information and guidance.

Many thanks to faculty advisors Elana Buch, Heidi Lung, and Scott Schnell for developing story ideas, contacting contributors, and offering many great suggestions as to the formatting and editing of this year's edition.

I take credit for any mistakes and omissions in this year's edition, and wish you all a wonderful start to the next academic year!

Cheers!

-Meredith Wismer
AnthrObserver Editor
(2013-2018)

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