

# The AnthObserver

50<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
since 1969



Please join us in celebrating 50 years of teaching, research, and outreach in Anthropology!

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

2019-2020

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## News from the Chair

How does one take stock of an academic year, with its usual challenges, expected and unexpected, when its final weeks were upturned by a pandemic? How does one celebrate the well-earned successes and career milestones of our departmental community while acknowledging the uncertainties and anxieties facing the world? All chairs, I am sure, have found it difficult to sum up the multitude of events of an academic year, but this year is particularly challenging.



Dr. Katina Lillios

This was the first year for me as DEO for Anthropology, after being passed the baton from Jim Enloe. Major budgetary, planning, and decision-making changes were also instituted this year by CLAS, which underwent a turnover in leadership, with which all faculty and staff have had to grapple. Thankfully, the faculty, staff, and students of this Department have been immensely supportive and patient with me and each other through this transition. I especially wish to acknowledge the steadfast assistance that Sarah Horgen, our new Departmental Administrator, has provided, all while learning a new job. Shari Knight provided much-needed humor and gentle nudges about upcoming deadlines. The Department's Executive Committee, including Meena Khandelwal (Associate DEO), Matt Hill (DGS), Margaret Beck (DUS), Curriculum Coordinator (Drew Kitchen/fall; Elana Buch/spring), as well as Diversity Coordinator Erica Prussing have given me sage counsel as well as critical assistance. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to all faculty and TAs for working so hard to adjust to online teaching so quickly and under such challenging conditions.

The Department did have much to celebrate this year. Ted Powers was awarded tenure, and also published his first book *Sustaining Life: AIDS*

# News from the Chair

Activism in South Africa (U of Pennsylvania Press, 2020). The Department turned 50 and, with the assistance of the Anniversary Committee chaired by Heidi Lung, a series of lectures took place and other events were planned, including a culminating celebration on May 1, which had to be cancelled. One of the other milestones we were going to celebrate was the retirement of Russell Ciochon after 33 years in the Department, and a May 8 event was planned to honor him. Sadly, that, too had to be postponed.

Our students have been a source of pride and inspiration. Five of our undergraduates were nominated to Phi Beta Kappa: Lauren Spencer, Kylie Shields, Emilio Tovar, Isabella Senno, and Kathryn Kuennen. Lucas Fagre was the winner of a Fulbright Study/Research grant to Bulgaria and Romania for 2020-2021. Isabella Senno was awarded a Dean's Achievement Award. Two Anthropology students were featured in Dare to Discover campaigns on campus: undergraduate Mackenzie Cross and graduate student Christie Vogler. Christie also won the Graduate College's 3-minute thesis competition for her presentation on the women of Gangivecchio. Brittany Anderson was awarded a 2019-2020 Fulbright Study/Research fellowship in Anthropology. Max Lieberman and Noah Johnson were recognized with Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards.

Although University Commencement was cancelled, I want to congratulate all our graduates for their hard work and contributions to our department community. There will be 31 students receiving a BA or BS degree in Anthropology this year, including 8 Anthropology Honors students. Among our graduate students, Logan Moore (advisor, Franciscus), Victoria Priola (advisor, Lillios), Rachel Riendeau (advisor, Buch), Josh McKinney (advisor, Kitchen), and Faith Wilfong (advisor, Hill) will receive their MA. James McGrath (advisor, Enloe), Ana-Monica Racila (advisor, Wentzell), and Emma Wood (advisor, Franciscus) will graduate with their PhD degrees.

As anthropologists with a long-term historical perspective, we know that human beings can be resilient and adaptable. But we also realize that not all will experience or suffer this pandemic equally or in the same ways. It will be a mirror and magnifier of our social fabric, starkly revealing its strengths and laying bare its fragilities. It could well lead to needed political, social, and economic changes, and one can only hope that anthropology will be able to provide insights, solutions, and some measure of comfort to cope with the aftermath.

# A Brief History of the Anthropology Department

## By Mike Chibnik

The origins of anthropology at the University of Iowa can be traced to 1951 when the sociologists decided to add “anthropology” to the name of their department even though they had no faculty members specializing in our field. During the 1950s a few anthropologists joined the newly-named department including Raymond Ruppe, who laid the groundwork for the Office of the State Archaeologist. Most of these anthropologists, including Ruppe, did not stick around long. Starting around 1960, however, a number of anthropologists, notably June Helm, came on a more permanent basis.

In 1969, anthropology became a separate department and the number of undergraduate majors grew rapidly. Although the department offered Ph.Ds during the next two decades, it was primarily a master’s program. M.A. students had to write a lengthy (60-100 pages) thesis and take numerous required courses in all four anthropological subfields. Faculty size remained small (about 8-10). The department nonetheless was able to gain much office and laboratory space in Macbride Hall in the 1980s when the Home Economics department was eliminated and the Sociology department moved to Seashore Hall.

The 1990s were a period of considerable expansion with faculty size reaching 20 at its zenith, a larger doctoral program, and improved laboratory facilities. The department had significant strengths in feminist anthropology, economic anthropology, and Latin American studies. During this period sociocultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology were especially strong. Prominent faculty in these subfields included June Helm, Nora England, Virginia Dominguez, Mac Marshall, Paul Durrenberger, Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, Margery Wolf, Florence Babb, Ellen Lewin, Laura Graham, and Allen Roberts. (Only Laurie is still on the faculty.) Undergraduate majors rebounded after a drop in the previous decade and the department was

able to offer many new courses. Russ Ciochon and Bob Franciscus attracted increasing numbers of students in biological anthropology. The graduate program was revised to emphasize doctoral study, with a relative short M.A. paper replacing the lengthy thesis of previous years.

The changes in the department in this century have been less dramatic. The decrease in state support for the university had resulted in a reduction in faculty size in many departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, including an-

thropology. The amount of financial support for graduate students has also decreased. Because of idiosyncratic events, the distribution of faculty and graduate students among the subfields has changed significantly. Archaeology and biological anthropology have grown; sociocultural anthropology and linguistic anthropology have shrunk. The current topical strengths of the sociocultural program are in medical anthropology and feminist anthropology; area coverage focuses more on Asia and Africa and the United States than formerly and less on Latin America. The graduate program has once again been revised, with the M.A. paper eliminated as a requirement.

The department has developed in the context of the political economy of the state and the nation and decisions about allocations of funds made by university administrators and the Board of Regents. The topics examined by department researchers have varied over time, affected by world events and new theoretical approaches in anthropology. The current pandemic, of course, has transformed the department's activities this semester and will doubtless have longstanding effects. Despite academia's well-deserved reputation for stodginess, we can sure that the only constant in department in future years will be change

## 2019—2020 AnthGrad Brownbag Series

Several graduate students presented their work as part of the 2019—2020 Brownbag Series:

**CALEB KLIPOWICZ:** "TB, not TB, and everything in-between: Understanding Productive Uncertainty in a Mass Public Health Screening"

**CORINNE WATTS:** "Monuments & Landscapes: A Case Study at Falkner's Circle (Avebury, U.K.)"

**VICTORIA PRIOLA:** "The Weight of It: Loom weights and Textile Production in Copper and Bronze Age Iberia"

**ARIANE THOMAS:** "Community Engagement as a Forensic Anthropologist"

**JAMES MCGRATH:** "Flintknapping 101"

**LIZZY HANDSCHY:** "Feeling Privilege: Queer Affects in Multi-Issue Social Justice Coalitions"

**ANA-MONICA RACILA:** "The Feel of a Room: Locating Affect in the Interior Design of Gender-Affirming Health Clinics"

Congratulations to our Spring & Summer Graduates!

**DOCTORATE**

NOAH JOHNSON

"Fighting For Our Lives": Karate as Global Assemblage and Technology of the Self in the Contemporary United States of America"

JAMES MCGRATH

"Human Signaling Ecology: A Case Study of Late Pleistocene Mineral Pigment Assemblages from Southernmost Africa"

ANA-MONICA RACILA

"Providers and Patients as Activists: Bureaucratic Encorpment in Midwest Gender-Affirming Health Clinics"

CHRISTIE VOGLER

"The Women of Gangivecchio: Investigating Gender, Wealth, and Work in the Agricultural Economy of Roman Sicily"

EMMA WOOD

"Dental Size Reduction in the Domesticated Silver Fox: Implications for the Domestication Syndrome Model"

**MASTERS**

JOSH MCKINNEY

LOGAN MOORE

RACHEL RIENDEAU

VICTORIA PRIOLA

FAITH WILFONG



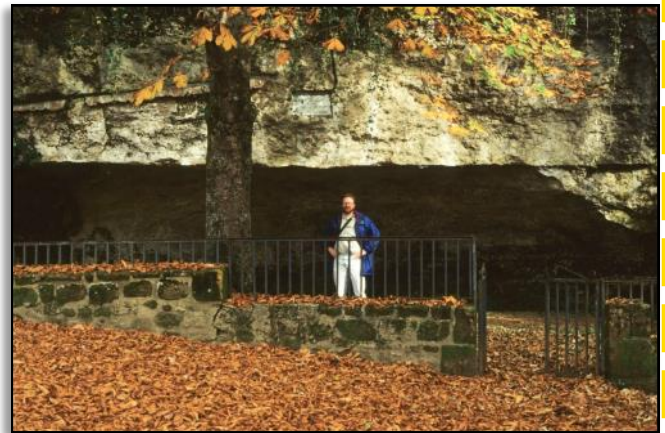
# Focus on Faculty

## A Visit with Old Friends By Bob Franciscus

This past winter break I spent a couple of weeks in France in the Parisian Musée de l'Homme (the Museum of Man) becoming reacquainted with some very special people—the skeletal remains of a group of paleolithic hunter-gathers buried some 30,000 years ago in a rock shelter along a river valley in southwestern France—a small group whose indelible imprint on the understanding of the origins of our species has been singular. Excavated from a rock shelter known as “Cro-Magnon” after their discovery in 1868 in the village of Les Eyzies, the site from which they derive is part of an extensive series of Paleolithic locales concentrated in a small area of ca. 1,200 square kilometers in the Vézère River Valley of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of the Dordogne. With some 150 prehistoric sites discovered over the years ranging in age from 400,000 to 10,000 years ago, including 30 caves decorated with prehistoric etchings and paintings, one of which is the well-known “Lascaux Cave,” this entire area has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.<sup>1</sup>

I first worked on the Cro-Magnon remains thirty-three years ago at the Musée de l'Homme where they and other early modern humans, along with several Neanderthal samples are curated when I was a beginning graduate student on my first “grand tour” of Pleistocene hominin

remains. Later, in 1993, funded by an NSF DDIG grant, I worked with the Cro-Magnon material again in a more systematic fashion as part of my doctoral dissertation data collection on an expanded number of prehistoric fossil hominin remains. From the outset, I felt a strong connection to the individuals of this particular sample because they have significantly impacted our views on the emergence and evolution of modern *Homo sapiens*. Discovered just four years after



Bob standing in front of the Cro-Magnon rock shelter on one of his visits to the village of Les Eyzies taken in 1993.

the formal scientific naming of Neanderthals (*Homo neanderthalensis*) by Gregory King in 1864, the Cro-Magnon individuals were immediately recognized as ancient representatives of our species in distinction to the more primitive appearing Neanderthals. Because they were found in stratigraphic association with extinct Ice-Age mammoth and reindeer remains, they were pivotal in the establishment of human antiquity. The term “Cro-Magnon,” was subsequently



Bob in front of the wing of the Palais de Chaillot that houses the Musée de l'Homme where the Cro-Magnon remains and many other important Pleistocene human

used to characterize all European Upper Paleolithic modern humans and was even applied to “Cro-Magnoid” populations elsewhere in the world. Indeed, the highly influential 1981 monograph on the 100,000-year-old early modern skeletons from the Qafzeh Cave in Israel<sup>2</sup>, which emphasized the differences between them and Neanderthals, interpreted the Qafzeh and similar early modern human material from Skhul Cave in Israel as “Proto Cro-Magnons.”

Thus, when I was invited to join a team of French paleoanthropologists this past fall to help produce a modern description and comparative analysis of the craniofacial material from this important assemblage, I jumped at the chance to visit these old skeletal friends again and collect additional data from them. Recent developments have made a current comprehensive description and analysis of this sample important to undertake. Recent dating of one of the several periwinkle shells associated with the Cro-Magnon skeletons produced an age of

31,000-32,000 years ago (calibrated). Along with the extensive diagnostic cultural items associated with the burials, this dating clearly aligns them with other “Gravettian” peoples, members of a cultural complex that followed the earlier Aurignacian period to which the Cro-Magnon material was initially associated. Recent years have also seen the discovery of new Gravettian-aged skeletal material from across western and central Europe that significantly augments our comparative samples of these Ice-Age people. Additionally, new imaging modalities that allow the detailed investigation of internal skeletal structures, as well as micro-CT scanning which facilitates study at even finer levels of bone structure have allowed researchers to wring substantial new information out of old bones. My contributions focus on the mid-facial remains of the Cro-Magnon individuals given the utility of this part of the skeleton in deciphering the population



Bob working on the cranium of the Cro-Magnon 1 individual.

history of regionally diverse groups, and insights into whether these Gravettian populations show connections to early modern humans in Africa as the wellspring from which our species

emerged and spread to every other region on the planet.

Beyond ongoing “yellow-vest” protests in Paris that snarled commuter traffic while I was there, working on these remains is difficult because the crania of the two most complete individuals are on display in the gallery of the museum, which means that researchers can only have access to them on Tuesdays when the museum is closed and they can be removed from their display cases. However, luck was with me on this trip because a busy phase of remodeling of the museum spaces resulted in vibrations on the display floors that were deemed hazardous to items precariously perched on rigid display



A view of the [Palais de Chaillot](#) taken from the nearby Eiffel Tower.

elements. Thus, during all the days of my stay on this visit these key remains were kept with the rest of the research collection and I had complete access to them for recording detailed observation, measurements, photography and scanning. Such work always proceeds better with a slow, deliberate and careful pace of work. And so it was that long and enjoyable days engaged in

working with the Cro-Magnon remains were coupled with evenings of savoring great meals in the many local Parisian cafes close to the apartment that we rented.

As always on such trips, the days fly by, and sooner than you would like your allotted time is up. Returning the skeletons to their storage spaces on my last day of work at the museum, I found myself wondering if this was the last time I would see those venerable and familiar remains? I couldn't remember having had that particular thought at the end of my earlier visits. But I was younger back then, and less reflective. As with the increasing recognition of the importance of old friends who are still alive, it takes some time for the full measure of their impact on our lives to be truly appreciated. Those old friends from Cro-Magnon have indeed played a substantial role in my life over the years. Perhaps, similar thoughts were also in the minds of the members of that Gravettian clan some 30,000 years earlier as they carefully interred their deceased companions, along with some carefully chosen burial goods to accompany them, into the soil of the rock shelter that had long overlooked their river valley.

#### References:

1. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/85>
2. Vandermeersch, B. (1981) *Les Hommes Fossiles de Qafzeh* (Israël). Paris: Éditions du C.N.R.S.



## Medical Anthropology @ IOWA in 2020

By Erica Prussing, with input from Emily Wentzell, Elana Buch, Cynthia Chou, Drew Kitchen, and Ted Powers

Five of the eight cultural anthropologists in our department, as well as one of our three biological anthropology faculty, currently focus their research and teaching on health-related topics. Medical anthropology remains one of the fastest-growing topical fields within anthropology today, both nationally and globally. Pandemics like COVID-19 highlight just how much human health is affected by globalization, social behavior, political decision-making, and whether/how information circulates—all key topics studied insightfully by anthropologists.

While contributing directly to global health, public health and medicine at Iowa, faculty in medical anthropology also strengthen our cultural and biological anthropology programs more broadly. Our faculty teach core graduate seminars in both subfields, for example. Our research and teaching also contribute to gender, women's & sexuality studies, studies of care, Indigenous studies, Latinx studies, economic and political anthropology, aging studies, informatics, studies of ecology and environment, Asian studies, African studies, urban anthropology, genetics, and science & technology studies. Given how Iowa and other public universities currently face declining resources and restructuring, greater collaboration—both across anthropological subfields and across campus—seems more important than ever to the department's successful future.

Over the past 15 years especially, faculty at Iowa have collaboratively focused on cultivating medical anthropology as a departmental strength. As a result, this topic now accounts for over 30% of our undergraduate anthropology majors, plus continues to attract a steady stream of strong graduate students. Our collective accomplishments through this time period have built on foundations laid by previous UI faculty. Before his retirement in 2004, Mac Marshall taught the first medical anthropology courses, mentored numerous graduate students, and also served as editor of the flagship journal *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. Ellen Lewin, a self-described 'fellow traveler' in the field through her retirement in 2019, also provided essential support for feminist approaches to medical anthropology, supervising doctoral students prior to 2005 like [Michelle Ramirez](#) (currently Associate Professor of Behavioral & Social Sciences at University of the Sciences, where her ongoing work on gender, sexuality and health in Oaxaca, Mexico was [recently featured](#)).

Current medical anthropology faculty publish in wide range of anthropological, hybrid social science & medical, medical, public health, global health, science & technology studies, and natural science journals. Recent books include Elana Buch's [Inequalities](#)

[of Aging: Paradoxes of Independence in American Home Care](#) (NYU Press, 2018), Ted Powers's [Sustaining Life: AIDS Activism in South Africa](#) (UPenn Press, 2020) and Cynthia Chou's co-edited collection [Breast Cancer Meanings: Journey Across Asia](#) (NIAS-NUS Press, 2018). Faculty with medical interests also contribute substantially to teaching ethnographic methods at both the graduate (Buch, Prussing) and undergraduate (Wentzell) levels; and contribute to grantwriting courses both for the department (Wentzell) and for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (Prussing). Medical anthropology faculty also help to mentor and supervise dozens of graduate students within Anthropology and across campus, and Prussing has supported several Anthropology graduate students with external funding from the National Science Foundation.

### **Undergraduates & medical anthropology**

Undergraduate students majoring in anthropology at Iowa can select a track in Medical Anthropology, completing both core and elective courses as part of either a B.A. or B.S. degree. For approximately 60 undergraduate students over the past 15 years, our faculty have collectively provided independent study courses, tailored to student interests in topics like combining anthropology with public health; supervised health-related honors theses in Anthropology, Global Health, International Studies and related fields; and provided research assistant opportunities. Through these experiences, both [Prussing](#) and [Wentzell](#) have co-authored publications with

undergraduate students at Iowa.

Iowa undergraduates with interests in medical anthropology have gone on to pursue:

- doctoral education in anthropology in programs like those at University of Florida and Harvard University, leading to current tenure-track faculty positions at Baylor University ([Alan Schultz](#), whose ongoing work in Bolivia was [recently featured](#) there) & Tulane University ([Andy McDowell](#), whose 2018 paper "[Mohit's pharmakon: Symptom, rotational bodies, and pharmaceuticals in rural Rajasthan](#)" in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* won the Society for Medical Anthropology's 2018 Steven Polgar Professional Paper Prize)
- graduate training in clinical professions like nursing and medicine
- graduate training in public health and global health
- employment in health research programs at universities and government agencies (e.g., Laura Ruebling and Ryan Leparski's research assistance and project coordination work for Iowa City's VA Health Care System, where Liz Newbury also brings skills from both graduate and undergraduate study at Iowa to her role as project coordinator)

### **Graduate training & career pathways**

Medical anthropology has attracted a number of strong graduate students to Iowa over the past 15 years. All have acquired internal funding from Iowa to successfully complete their degrees, and several have also successfully procured external funding from sources like the

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation (Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship) Fulbright Program, and American Association of University Women for their doctoral research and dissertation writing. Faculty have worked intensively to support research publications by Iowa graduate students, both single-authored (e.g., [Pomales, 2013](#)) and co-authored (e.g., [Prussing & Newbury](#)). A number of Iowa graduate students with health interests have gone on to acquire competitive postdoctoral positions at US and international institutions, bringing insights from medical anthropology into fields like sexuality studies, aging studies and Asian studies.

Most recent Iowa graduate students with interests in health specifically worked with medical topics and faculty for their dissertations. Yet some noted here actually connected with medical anthropology after working on other topics, so were advised/mentored by additional Iowa faculty like Michael Chibnik (Kenda Stewart, Brandi Janssen) and Laura Graham (Sarah Ono). Overall, Iowa graduate students now working in medical anthropology have pursued an impressive balance of career pathways across both academic and non-academic settings, such as:

- tenured/tenure-track faculty positions in diverse settings that range from research-intensive to teaching-focused:
  - at the University of Washington, [Jenna Grant](#)'s research projects and courses span the intersections of feminist medical anthropology, science & technology studies, and visual anthropology through multiple projects about

biomedicine and the arts in Cambodia;

- at Augustana College, [Carrie Hough](#) teaches medical anthropology and cultural anthropology courses, involving students in local research projects about the challenges of breastfeeding for US women and about race and imprisonment in the US;
- at Blackhawk Community College, [Rachel Horner Brackett](#) teaches courses in 3 of anthropology's 4 subfields as well as in women's studies, continues to conduct field research in Italy, and focuses on internationalizing opportunities for her students through fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and at the East-West Center in Honolulu
- hybrid academic and administrative positions in colleges of public health:
  - [Brandi Janssen](#) directs Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, and also teaches courses on farms, food, health and environmental sustainability
- visiting faculty positions that focus on both teaching and research:
  - Tony Pomales continues with research and writing on aging, health activism and gender in Costa Rica, and teaches multiple courses in medical anthropology, cultural anthropology, Latin American studies and gender/sexuality studies in smaller college settings (e.g., Augustana College, Dickinson College)
- research and administrative positions

with governmental agencies that help to translate anthropology's insights into improving health services:

- Samantha Solimeo and Kenda Stewart's long-standing work at the [Veterans Administration Health Care System](#) in Iowa City (featured in 2017's AnthrObserver);
- Samantha Solimeo and Sarah Ono also now direct [VA Rural Health Resource](#) Centers from Iowa City and Portland, OR, respectively, to improve health care to rural veterans;
- Alexis Matza, now in upstate New York, has worked since 2012 on clinician training and other programs to improve health services for LGBT veterans, and now serves as Deputy Director of the [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Program](#) in the VA's Office of Patient Care Services.

Current graduate students at Iowa are completing fascinating and timely projects on improving health care for transgender patients, how safe injection sites figure as a focus for queer activism in the urban U.S., how knowledge politics are shaping tuberculosis and other infectious disease control programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, how Ebola has reconfigured social and political worlds in Sierra Leone, and the myriad health consequences generated by urbanization and poverty in Nigeria. Many are especially interested in pursuing hybrid research-administrative positions in fields like health services research and public health.

Medical anthropology is a vital and growing field that remains a major departmental strength in both research and teaching at Iowa in 2020, building on the department's history and also helping to chart its future.

## Graduate & Alumni Achievements

Congratulations to these current and former students for their recent achievements!

**Toby Avalos** — Dr. Avalos just received **tenure** at Centralia College in Washington.

**Lizzy Handschy** — Lizzy was awarded the **2019-2020 June Helm Award**.

**Emma Wood** — Emma has accepted a **tenure-track position** at University of north Texas Health Science Center.



## Graduate Student Awards

**Ebenezer Adeyemi:** Stanley Award for International Research

**Brittany Anderson:** 2019-2020 Fulbright Study/Research in Anthropology

**Noah Johnson:** Council on Teaching Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (teaching department International Studies)

**Derick Juptner** (incoming student): Graduate College Iowa Recruitment Fellowship

**Caleb Klipowicz:** College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship for Spring 2021

**Caleb Klipowicz:** T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship

**Caleb Klipowicz:** Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2020

**Maxwell Lieberman:** Council on Teaching Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (teaching department Anthropology)

**Maxwell Lieberman:** Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Fellowship

# Faculty Updates



Margaret Beck and Meena Kandelwal (back right) doing fieldwork in Odisha, India, Jan 2020.



Late 18th-early 19th century Pawnee bowl with red paint residue (Picture from Margaret Beck).

## Margaret Beck

My recent work has focused on two projects: (1) Pawnee ceramics and paint after AD 1500 and (2) modern biofuel use in India, in collaboration with Meena Khandelwal and Matthew Hill. Meena and I conducted fieldwork in the Indian states of Odisha and Rajasthan in January 2020. My identification of and experiments with Pawnee paints and comparative raw materials is ongoing.

## Elana Buch

My research examines the central role of care in human life, with a particular focus on contexts and relationships that are changing as a result of our lengthening lives. Over the past year, I have focused on wrapping up several writing projects, developing research collaborations and launching new research projects. I continue to give talks based on my book *Inequalities of Aging: Paradoxes of Independence in American Home Care*. (NYU Press, 2018). My new ethnographic research examines the relationships between older rural Iowan's changing experiences of care and their understandings of kinship, community, and citizenship. I am also working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary, international team to develop new research examining the links between gender, dementia, and caregiving across a wide range of contexts. With Aaron Seaman (Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa) and Jessica Robbins, I recently published an article arguing for greater attention to the ways in which possibilities and outcomes for care are unpredictable in later life. Dr. Seaman and I are also writing a chapter discussing the ethics of consent in home-based ethnographic fieldwork.

## Cynthia Chou

Cynthia continues to develop her research on the Orang Suku Laut of Riau, Indonesia. Based on the field data she collected from a collaborative project with colleagues from Monash University (Australia), University of New South Wales (Australia) and Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), she produced several peer-reviewed publications. The project titled, "The Changing Identity and Sustainability of the Music-Cultures and Worldviews of the Riau Islands' Sea Nomads and Sedentary Malays" was supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. In the past year, Cynthia's publications included a book chapter on "Sounds in the Water World of the Orang Suku Laut in the Riau Islands of Indonesia" that appeared in an edited volume entitled *In Hearing Southeast Asia: Sounds of Hierarchy and Power in Context*; as well a book chapter on "The Sound of Music and the Orang Suku Laut Today" in another edited volume entitled, *Performing the Arts of Indonesia: Malay Identity and Politics in the Music, Dance and Theatre of the Riau Islands*. Beyond these publications that had stemmed from the collaborative project, Cynthia also delved deeper into the concept of nomadology. An article she has written on this is currently under peer-review for publication.

Progress continued to be made with Cynthia's ongoing breast cancer project with colleagues from the National University of Singapore. The research team has jointly submitted an article to a medical journal.

# Faculty Updates

Cynthia is also working to complete the editing of a volume for her research project on food, identity and social change.

In August 2019, Cynthia took on the reigns as inter-faculty Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies. Her mission “is to create a hub for movements of peoples and ideas to share knowledge on Asia and to advance teaching and research collaborations that will transcend all boundaries for a new dynamism in [the] understanding of present-day Asian realities” (see <https://international.uiowa.edu/partnerships-and-research/academic/caps>).

## **Russell L. Ciochon**

Despite retiring at the end of this academic year, Russ continues to develop his academic research in Asian fossil primates with an emphasis on *Homo erectus* in Indonesia and *Gigantopithecus* in southern China. In December, Russ and his international research team published a comprehensive paper on the dating of Ngandong, Indonesia, in *Nature*. His team concluded that Ngandong is the youngest known *Homo erectus* site in the world. Their research was widely publicized with over 100 media outlets publishing news stories worldwide. Russ plans to continue his research after retirement. He still has several active projects including 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. Russ is planning another visit to Myanmar in order to continue his investigations of the fossil fauna from the limestone caves located on the Shan Plateau that could have fossils of the “mystery ape” and *Gigantopithecus*. The “mystery ape” and *Gigantopithecus* are both found within the same Pleistocene karst cave fossil assemblages. Additionally, Russ is finishing his research on Lang Trang Caves, Vietnam. His original excavations of the site were conducted in 1993 with grants from the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation and the National Geographic Society. His original team is now working with new researchers to update their original research and prepare a monograph on the site.

## **John Doershuk**

John Doershuk, State Archaeologist and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, organized and taught a summer archaeological field school in 2019. As in previous years, the course was based at Iowa Lakeside Lab, a facility in northwest Iowa which is part of the Iowa Regent’s University system (as is UI). Participants earned four semester hours of credit and paid tuition at the in-state rate. The class returned to site 13DK143, a Prairie Lakes Woodland site, to continue collecting contextual data on the relationship of Fox Lake and Lake Benton ceramic wares. UI, ISU, and UNI students participated, and all had a chance to build and throw darts with atlatls (see photo). Doershuk will be returning to 13DK143 in summer 2020 with a new cohort of Lakeside Lab students. During October 2019, OSA celebrated 60 years as an organized research unit at UI (see

# Faculty Updates

photo), marked by an open house event attended by 150 participants from across campus. Doershuk continued his term as president of the Midwest Archaeological Conference (MAC); the October 2019 MAC meeting was held at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Doershuk also attended the 2019 Society for American Archaeology annual meeting (Albuquerque) where he participated in the National Association of State Archaeologists meeting, the Council of Councils meeting of professional archaeological organizations, the Council of Affiliated Societies meeting of state-level avocational archaeology groups, participated as a discussant for the forum, “Establishing Best-Practices Guidelines for Archaeologist and Artifact-Collector Collaborators, and presented an invited poster in a symposium honoring the career of Terry Childs. Spring semester 2019 Doershuk taught the online course “CRM Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities” and Fall 2019 he taught the online course “Archaeology of the American Midcontinent”; these two courses will be offered next in 2021. Please remember all students (and faculty!) with archaeological interests are cordially invited to visit the UI Office of the State Archaeologist facility (700 Clinton Street Building) and avail themselves of the collections, archives, Brown Bag presentations, and personnel to enhance their UI learning and research experiences!

## James Enloe

After more than 50 years as an active field archaeologist, I find myself for the first time with no field project before me. We wrapped up the Woodpecker Cave field school excavation in 2018, backfilled it definitively. Analyses are still ongoing in the lab, particularly as student projects for their ICRU presentations (Spring Undergraduate Research Festival was unfortunately cancelled, as was the Austin Society for American Archaeology meeting, where undergraduates Kathryn Kuennan and Zachary Dierks were to present their first professional posters) and for their BA honors theses. My last PhD student, James McGrath will surely successfully defend his dissertation in April, and be out on the job market. I am on a few other PhD committees, as well as the honors advisor for Kathryn and Zachary.

I continue to work on publications. My co-authored article “Dietary traits and habitats of the reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) during the Late Glacial: the case of Stellmoor and Meiendorf (Northern Germany) and Verberie (Paris Basin)” has been accepted by *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences*. I have submitted a chapter manuscript “Spatial Analysis in the Woodland: foraging behavior in sedentary agricultural societies” to appear in *Intra-Site Spatial Analysis of Mobile Peoples: Analytical approaches to reconstructing occupation history* to be published by the University of Utah press. I have also submitted a chapter manuscript “A Witness on the Past: Stratigraphic correlations and Spatial Organization in the Châtelperronian of the Grotte du Bison, Arcy-sur-Cure” to be published by Publications scientifiques du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris.

With no field work, there are still messes to be cleaned up, including the final analysis and preparation of a monograph for the 7 years at Woodpecker Cave. I am also wrapping up chapters on the faunal for multiple levels of the French Magdalenian site of Verberie, an earlier UI field school;



# Faculty Updates

Michele is proofreading my French for the monograph to be published by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. I have particularly enjoyed this semesters' classes, the grad archaeology seminar and my lithic analysis class, where we have spent most of the semester breaking rocks on Tuesday evenings, with the assistance of John Whittaker of Grinnell College and Veronica Mraz of the Office of the State Archaeologist. Next year I am beginning a two-year phased retirement, teaching only in the fall semesters, where I will revisit my favorite courses: Hunter/Gatherer Ethnoarchaeology, Animal Bones for the Archaeologist, Lithic Analysis again, and finally Cave Man Novels and Cinema.

## Robert G. Franciscus

2019 turned out to be a busy year for Bob. This past spring, he was an invited presenter at a symposium honoring the retirement of his PhD mentor, Erik Trinkaus, whose lifetime contributions to Late Pleistocene paleoanthropology were celebrated at the annual meeting of the *American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, in Cleveland, Ohio. The gathering included a large number of Trinkaus' former doctoral students (and *their* current and former students), colleagues, family members and friends who shared a number of stories, much laughter, and a few tears in a wonderful afternoon tribute to a scholar whose imprint on paleoanthropology over the last 45 years has been immense. Bob also spent considerable time over the summer of 2019 organizing and adding a large portion of Trinkaus' personal library of paleoanthropology volumes and personally acquired fossil hominin casts to his own lab collections for curation and future use. Summer 2019 also included a two-week driving tour through England that included a visit to Charles Darwin's Down house and surrounding grounds, and strolling along his "thinking path" where Darwin often worked out the myriad issues in his mind as he researched and wrote his many books and papers including the seminal 1859 volume *The Origin of Species*. Other site visits included the 500,000 year old *H. Heidelbergensis* "Boxgrove" excavation area at Eartham Pit (a bit of a challenge to find) and the 400,000 year old pre-Neanderthal discovery site of "Swanscombe," which have collectively yielded the earliest human remains yet discovered in England. This trip also included a good amount of time spent at Oxford University and the surrounding community with daily imbibing of morning coffee at a café on Queen's Lane that first began serving that essential beverage in 1654! Despite driving on the left, navigating the frequent, multilane roundabouts, and white-knuckled negotiations of oncoming traffic on roads barely wider than a single car, Bob and Carrie managed to turn in their rental vehicle after more than 1,600 miles of driving throughout England over 16 days without a single dent or scratch! Co-authored publications that came out in 2019 include *Climatic adaptation in human inferior nasal turbinate morphology: Evidence from Arctic and equatorial populations* in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* in late spring, and *Development of the mandibular curve of Spee and maxillary compensating curve: A finite element model* in the journal *PLoS ONE* in late fall. Finally, Bob also spent time at one of his favorite natural history museums in Paris over the past winter break working on the

# Faculty Updates

craniofacial remains of key early modern human remains from southwest France (see Faculty highlight story in this issue).

## Brady G'Sell

My second year with the department has been a fruitful one. I have enjoyed connecting with our stellar students across multiple classes and I have the privilege of advising senior Isabella Senno in her honors thesis "Dating Application Use and Perceptions of Adulthood in Domestic vs. International Youth." This fall, I received a University of Iowa Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant to support my second research project. This project tracks the efforts of trans-border migrants from the African continent as they work to build families and homes for themselves in South Africa amidst growing xenophobic violence. The research will involve interviews with migrants, documentary photography of their attempts to carve out places of belonging, and journals written by migrants reflecting on everyday life in urban South Africa. This project will lay the groundwork for important collaboration with scholars of migration in South Africa and at the University of Iowa. This spring, I look forward to the publication of my article "Multiple Maternities: Performative Motherhood and Support Seeking in South Africa" in *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*. With the onset of COVID19 dramatically changing the teaching and research landscape, I am grateful for the analytic and activist tools that anthropology scholarship and colleagues provide. This is a moment where an understanding of human diversity matters more than ever.

## Laura R. Graham

During Spring semester, Laura Graham is a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues at the University of California, Berkeley. Her article, "From 'Ugh' to Babble (or Babel): Linguistic Primitivism, Sound-Blindness, and the Cinematic Representation of Native Amazonians," is in press with *Current Anthropology* and should be in print later this year. She continues to work on her book, *Toward Representational Sovereignty: Media, Cultural Consciousness, and the Politics of Alterity among the A'uwẽ-Xavante of central Brazil*. Laura Graham also continues to work with and support A'uwẽ-Xavante in their efforts to defend their rights and territories. She coordinates an team of A'uwẽ-Xavante and attorneys from Brazil and the U.S. and, in April 2019, led a team to the UN, Geneva where Xavante presented their case against halt megadevelopment projects in their territories.

## 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 the use of wood resources in Rajasthan and Odisha, India. I was very fortunate to work closely with a number of Iowa colleagues and students this past year.



Laura Graham (second from right) with her team at the United Nations.

# Faculty Updates

## 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. Following three weeks of field research in July 2018, she returned to India for research with Matt Hill and UI Anthropology alum Misha Quill in July 2019, then with Margaret Beck in January 2020. In 2019 and 2020, the group added a new field site in Odisha on the western side of India – to compare it with Rajasthan. The material collected during these three trips to India is the basis for a paper she is writing with Hill, Beck and one of our Indian collaborators Sanoop Valappanandi on the gender of fuelwood use and exchange. Khandelwal is also writing a monograph titled *Demons of the Hearth: Feminist Fieldnotes on India's Cookstove Campaigns*. She continues to give public presentations on this project. Khandelwal has also re-designed the big ideas course she co-taught with Matt Hill for four years (2014-2017) and taught this course, Environmental Politics in India, for the first time in Spring 2020.

## Katina Lillios

This year, my book *Archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula: From the Paleolithic through the Bronze Age* (Cambridge U Press) was published. The book relates the ancient history of the Peninsula to broader debates in anthropology and archaeology. During the summer of 2019, I coordinated, with Dr. Luis Benítez de Lugo, a Study Abroad program at the Bronze Age ceremonial center of Castillejo del Bonete. Six UI students participated, including graduate students Victoria Priola and Corinne Watts. We all learned a lot about the archaeology of the La Mancha region, as well as its food (yes, manchego cheese), history (especially Miguel de Cervantes), and distinctive climate and environment. I have begun exploring directions for my next research project, which will center on Islamic uses of pre-Islamic (particularly Neolithic-Bronze Age) archaeological sites in southern Iberia.

## Heidi Lung

The 2019-20 academic year brought forth several noteworthy teaching moment, but I first want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all faculty, staff and students on campus and in our community who contributed to the museum studies program through teaching, mentoring and service. Without your support our program would not be a success.

Building a community of learning that extends beyond the classroom is one goal of my teaching. This year, in addition to teaching and advising students, I served as faculty advisor for several community projects that brought students together with museum professionals throughout Iowa. Highlights include the development of a collection management document for the Preston's Station Historic District in Belle Plaine, Iowa and Museum Interns Speak, a group research project where students presented best practices for internships that support both museum and student. In an exciting culmination, both projects were presented at the fall Iowa Museum Association conference held in Fort Dodge, Iowa.



Meena Kandelwal (second from right), Matt Hill (back) and alumna Misha Quill (UI Anthro alumna; right) with a woman forest guard and research assistants and partners.

# Faculty Updates



Heidi Lung (right) and student Allison Steger at Preston's Station in Belle Plaine, IA 2020

I continue to serve as the President of the Board for the Iowa Museum Association (IMA) and am heavily involved in strategic planning and leadership. One noteworthy project, Teaching Iowa History, is a collaboration between state-wide educational partners and over 100 Iowa museums. Many of our students have completed research for the project and this fall, student Natalie Berry wrote a unit of 10th grade lessons using museum artifacts as primary sources to teach history. These lessons are published on the Teaching Iowa History online site as free resources for educators.

Teaching Iowa History earned national attention in the fall when the Alliance of Museums (AAM) published my co-authored article about the project on its AAM Blog and even more in the spring when AAM honored the project with its Advocacy Award for increasing access to collections state-wide. Increased access to free educational resources has ever more value now that we live in a COVID-19 world. Community-based projects like Teaching Iowa History will continue to play a significant role in museum studies curriculum and will provide opportunities for students to work with professionals while gaining professional skills. Museum on!

## Ted Powers

During the 2019/20 academic year, I have continued my research, teaching, and publishing work with the Department of Anthropology. My thanks to all the faculty members and students that have contributed to making it another productive and enjoyable year at the University of Iowa. I am happy to announce that my book, entitled *Sustaining Life: AIDS Activism, Health, and Society in South Africa* (2020), has been published as part of the Pennsylvania Series in Human Rights with the University of Pennsylvania Press. The book engages with academic debates in anthropology, global health, and African studies while contributing to theoretical debates on social movements, the state, and transnationalism. In addition, I co-edited a special issue that reviews and presents anthropological case studies of austerity that was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Focaal*. In addition to co-authoring a substantive introductory article that reviews key perspectives and debates within the anthropology of austerity literature, I also authored a peer-reviewed research article for the collection entitled "Echoes of Austerity: Policy, Temporality, and Public Health in South Africa." With respect to teaching, I continue to enjoy working with a diverse group of students from Anthropology and the Global Health Studies Program. My students engage with debates on the dynamics of health, social inequality, and transnationalism, bringing their ideas and experiences into conversation with academic debates in all of my courses. I also continue to bring insights from anthropology to students in Global Health, engaging with learners from across the disciplines and emphasizing that questions of health and well being always begin and end with people.



# Faculty Updates

## Erica Prussing

Erica continues to publish articles and finalize a book manuscript from her transnational ethnographic study of researchers who are using the quantitative credibility of epidemiology to advocate for Indigenous health equity. Her latest article appears in *Science, Technology and Human Values*, and makes the case for how and why key lines of inquiry in science & technology studies benefit from attending to the growing diversity among technoscientific researchers. Her book based on this study, *Quantifying Justice: Epidemiological Research and Indigenous Advocacy*, has progressed substantially and should be ready to submit this summer. Although primarily based on ethnographic research, the book includes archival research in its three major settings (Aotearoa New Zealand, continental U.S., and Hawai'i)—and Erica has appreciated help from both past graduate assistants and current undergraduate research assistant Sam Billingsley, in completing analysis of these archival data. Erica continues to collaborate with UI Anthropology/Public Health alum Dr. Carrie Hough (Augustana College), on a project about how new parents navigate through multiple cultural, social and structural barriers to breastfeeding in the U.S. This local study has also provided opportunities for multiple UI/ICRU undergraduate research assistants over the past several years. At a national level, Erica is currently enjoying serving as a member of the Executive Board for the Society of Medical Anthropology. At a departmental level, she has appreciated the opportunity to serve as Anthropology's first Diversity Coordinator this year, a new role designed to help further promote, facilitate, and formalize the numerous diversity, equity and inclusion efforts underway among our faculty and students.

## Scott Schnell

Scott Schnell continues his research on the matagi—traditional hunters in the forested mountains of Northeastern Japan. Last spring the roles were reversed when he himself was interviewed in Japan by a Spanish team of documentary film makers working for National Geographic. Part of his research involves the way the matagi are represented in the media as instructive examples for “coexisting with nature.” Now they are beginning to receive worldwide attention. Scott's article on matagi bear ritual will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Religion in Japan*. He, graduate student Max Lieberman, and undergraduate Anthropology major Anj Droe are also applying their shared interest in human-wildlife interactions to a study of the controversy surrounding management of the deer population in Iowa City.

## Glenn Storey

Glenn R. Storey, Associate Professor, is continuing his work at the site of Gangivecchio, Sicily. This past summer (2019), a history of the excavations, *Gangivecchio: Una Storia nei Secoli*, was published by Edizioni Arianna in Geraci Siculo, Sicily. Storey is also completing an archaeological primer, *The Archaeology of Ancient Cities*, part of the Principles of Archaeology Series, published by Eliot Werner Press. That



Scott Schnell makes a new friend at Tōdai Buddhist temple in Nara, Japan,

# Faculty Updates



Emily Wentzell

volume should be released in September of 2020.

## Emily Wentzell

This year I continued to publish from my research on gender, race and ideologies of collectivity in a Mexican medical research study, and am wrapping up a book on the topic entitled “Collective Biologies: Healing Mexican Gender, Race and Family through Medical Research Participation” (forthcoming from Duke UP). It 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. I argue that 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.

I'm also in the midst of interview-based research on the emerging global field of “men's health” medicine. 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.

On campus, I've continued to serve as Faculty Director of the CLAS International Studies B.A. program.

I also had my second child, Simon, in 2019!

# Graduate Student Updates

## **Ebenezer Adeyemi**

Ebenezer Olamiposi Adeyemi is a graduate student in the sociocultural anthropology track, under the advisement of Dr. Ted Powers. Ebenezer holds a BA in Anthropology and a MA in Peace and Conflict Studies, both from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has participated in several fieldwork projects across Nigeria and has attended and presented papers at academic conferences both in Nigeria and the U.S. For his doctoral research at Iowa, Ebenezer is interested in dynamics of health and society in Nigeria, social inequality in shack communities/informal settlements like Makoko in Lagos state, Nigeria, and how poor and marginalized communities negotiate access to health care amid increasing global inequality and resource deprivation.

## **Brittany Anderson**

Brittany is currently a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology under the advisement of Dr. Theodore Powers. She graduated from Luther College with a BA in Anthropology and Biology in 2016, and completed her MA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa in 2018. She is currently conducting her doctoral fieldwork in Sierra Leone funded by a Fulbright Student Research Grant. Her dissertation research focuses on Ebola survivors and their treatment decisions and experiences in the aftermath of the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak.

## **Elizabeth Handschy**

Elizabeth Handschy is a PhD candidate studying cultural anthropology with Erica Prussing. She conducts fieldwork in the North Eastern United States and studies with queer activists who work for economic justice, criminal justice reform, and in other grassroots community movements. Her research explores the moral and emotional dimensions of community organizing and policy advocacy, especially the mundane activities that maintain social movements. Broadly, she is interested in what matters about the fact that so many non-sexuality-specific movements are led by queer and trans folks. She returned from Iowa after a year of fieldwork in August 2019 to finish writing her dissertation.

## **Amy Holbrooks**

Amy is a PhD student in Cultural Anthropology, working with Dr. Elana Buch. 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 examines how community organizations stake claims to space through discursive framing and place-making strategies, and aims to understand how collectives of interdependence such as "communities" and "publics" are constructed and maintained in these contested contexts.

## **Noah Johnson**

Noah Johnson is a PhD candidate in sociocultural anthropology who examines the dynamics of cultural globalization through his work with karate practitioners in United States, under the supervision of Dr. Scott Schnell. Noah's dissertation extends his earlier work in Okinawa, Japan to various

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*New Student  
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**Brittany Anderson**

# Graduate Student Updates

locations in the U.S., and documents how karate practitioners use their martial art as a cultural adaptation to the challenges and stressors of everyday life in our contemporary society. Noah is finishing his thesis and is currently on the job market. Realizing that his time in the area and in the department is likely coming to a close in the very near future, Noah would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the department—staff, faculty, and fellow students—for all of the support and inspiration.

## Steven Keehner

Steven is a PhD candidate advised by Dr. Margaret Beck. He received his MA from the University of Kansas in 2015, and has experience working in CRM and museum collections management. Steven specializes in Woodland period (2500-1000 BP) archaeology of North America. His dissertation research focuses on the introduction and development of ceramic technology among populations located within the lower Missouri and Middle Arkansas Valleys of the tallgrass prairies. His broader research interests include ceramic analysis, pattern recognition analysis, spatial analysis, chronological modeling, social interaction, identity, and archaeological methods and theory.

## Addison Kimmel

I am a PhD candidate in Archaeology, working with Dr. Margaret Beck and Dr. Steve Warren (History). My dissertation will examine the ways Native people (mostly Ho-Chunks) living in Northern Illinois in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century reacted to and coped with encroaching settler colonists and the increasing threat of Indian Removal. Over the past year, I have conducted an extensive surface survey and metal detector survey at my site of interest and will be wrapping up excavation there this summer. Please keep an eye out in 2020 for the publication of a special issue of *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, of which I am a co-editor and contributed a paper.

## Caleb Klipowicz

Caleb's research examines the knowledge politics of public health interventions in the island country of the Marshall Islands. This past year, he advanced to PhD candidacy as well as began a secondary master's in the College of Public Health. Keen on interdisciplinary engagements, Caleb also presented at an international science and technology conference with travel support provided by the Department of Anthropology. With the help of his advisor Erica Prussing, Caleb also applied to several nationally competitive dissertation grants. He is currently planning to begin fieldwork in the Marshall Islands in August of 2020.

## Jeongeun Lee

Jeongeun Lee is a Ph.D. candidate in cultural anthropology who is working with Professor Meena Khandelwal. She is working on her dissertation, and segments of her dissertation were published in *Transnational Asia*. Her dissertation focuses on the North Korean defector mothers' reconfiguration of mothering practices in South Korea. She received Dillingham Award from the Central States Anthropological Society in 2019. She has been writing a



Addison Kimmel holding a projectile point he found.



# Graduate Student Updates

column in the *Beibinyuseu* (a South Korean media) entitled "Anthropological Essays on Raising Children" since 2019.

## Max Lieberman

Max Lieberman is a third-year PhD student in cultural anthropology advised by Dr. Scott Schnell. His research focuses on relationships between people and wildlife, specifically concerning the bison herds of Yellowstone National Park. He has spent 2 summers conducting ethnographic research in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, supported by grants from the American Ethnological Society and the Culture and Animals Foundation. Max is currently completing his comprehensive exams, and looks forward to returning to Yellowstone in the summer of 2020.



Max Lieberman on a float run by the Buffalo Field Campaign in the 4th of July parade in West Yellowstone, MT.

## Kerri Lorigan

Kerri Lorigan is completing her PhD in archaeology, with a focus on Greco-Roman Egypt, under the guidance of Dr. Glenn Storey. She received her MA in history, with a concentration in Ancient Egypt, from the University of Memphis. She has conducted field work at the Mississippian site of Castalian Springs, and in the ancient cemetery of Abydos in Egypt. Her dissertation research is focusing on urban experience in ancient Egypt. She currently works as a full-time lecturer at Austin Peay State University.

## 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. Scott Schnell. Her master's thesis research focused on the dream and spirit theories of Native Hawaiians living in Southern California. Natalie's dissertation research expands upon her previous work. She is examining how Native Hawaiian animism is sustained away from the islands of Hawai'i and how Christianity changes when exposed to animism.

## James McGrath

James is a PhD candidate advised by Dr. Jim Enloe. He received his MA from the Anthropology Department at U of Iowa in 2016 and his BA from Arizona State University in 2013. His dissertation research is on the social and environmental context of symbolic technology use during the Middle and Later Stone Age in southern Africa. He will be presenting some of his dissertation results at the upcoming Society for American Archaeology meetings in Austin, TX. James completed a dissertation writing fellowship through the U of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences this year and will graduate in May.

## Joshua McKinney

Josh McKinney is an MA bioanthropological student who focuses on primate behavior. His main research interest is in human-primate relations and primate conservation, especially outside protected areas. Understanding human behavior and beliefs about primates and other wildlife is a boon to their continued conservation. This is called Ethnoprimatology, and he wishes



Josh McKinney swimming in Borneo.

# Graduate Student Updates



Scott Olson (far right) with folks he worked with at an LGBTQ museum in Berlin.

to research human-primate relations within the context of agriculture. He plans to graduate with an MA this Spring.

## **Logan Moore**

Logan is a second year Ph.D student working with Bob Franciscus. He is finishing up his Masters degree and looking forward to moving into his third year. His research currently focuses on Middle to Late Pleistocene Homo and is working to deduce fossil with asymmetrical head shape from taphonomically deformed fossils. He is looking to publish his first paper and moving into the next phase of his research.

## **Scott Olson**

Scott Olson is in his second year of PhD candidacy, working under the supervision of Dr. Emily Wentzell. His recent year-long fieldwork, supported by the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst, focuses on the way LGBTQ Berliners forge collective futures across disparate experiences of privilege and marginalization within both queer and straight, cisgender spaces. During this year, he volunteered at an LGBTQ museum and archive, and with a queer refugee peer mentorship program. Between volunteering for COGS, tutoring teens in German, and walks with his beagle Claus, Scott is focused on writing a dissertation based on his ethnographic findings during his year abroad.

## **Victoria Priola**

Victoria Priola is set to graduate with a Master's degree in Anthropology following the Spring semester of 2020. Within the subfield of archaeology, under the advisement of Dr. Katina Lillios, she is studying textile production in Copper and Bronze Age Southern Iberia. More specifically, Victoria is researching ceramic loom weights from a gendered perspective. She began preliminary research on these materials last summer in Portugal and Spain with the aid of the Stanley Award for International Research. She plans to continue this work during the coming summer and begin working on her PhD next year.

## **Ana-Monica Racila**

Ana-Monica is a PhD candidate in medical anthropology, working under the tutelage of Dr. Emily Wentzell and preparing to graduate this spring. She examines how healthcare staff and patients in U.S. Midwest gender-affirming health clinics navigate constraints produced by gender-normative healthcare bureaucracy, and how bodily materiality shapes and is shaped by these interactions. Following graduation she hopes to practice applied anthropology in a hospital setting.

## **Ariane Thomas**

Ariane is a PhD candidate interested in leveraging nonhuman genomes to understand past human behavior. Ariane and her advisor, Andrew Kitchen, are researching the human impact on indigenous dog genomes from North America in the context of human cultural affiliation and European colonization. She spent the past two summers extracting DNA from ancient

# Graduate Student Updates

dog remains at the University of Oklahoma and will continue this work at the Malhi Ancient DNA Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the summer of 2020. In May 2019, Ariane published her master's thesis as a technical report in the Journal of Forensic Sciences and is currently a coauthor on a paper accepted by Scientific Reports.

## **Christie Vogler**

Christie Vogler is PhD candidate currently in the process of completing her doctoral dissertation in archaeology under the advisement of Dr. Glenn Storey, with plans to defend and graduate in Summer 2020. Her research based on excavations at Gangivecchio, Sicily, the site of an Early Roman Empire structure, employs feminist and queer theory along with small-artifact distribution analysis to argue for the presence of a female-operated medical practice there dating to the 1st-3rd century CE. Christie is currently working in partnership with Iowa and the National Center for Science Education as a graduate fellow to train in, develop, and facilitate STEM activities at public outreach events in the communities of Iowa City and Coralville.

## **Corinne Watts**

Corinne Watts is a first-year archaeology graduate student under the advisement of Dr. Katina Lillios. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Emory University in 2016 and a Master of Arts in Archaeology from the University of Leicester in 2019. Her work explores connections between stone monuments, environmental engagement, and materiality in Prehistoric Atlantic Europe. This April she will be presenting a poster, "Monuments as Assemblages: Case Study at Falkner's Circle (Wiltshire, UK)", on her MA research at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeologists.

## **Faith Wilfong**

Faith is an archaeology student advised by Dr. Matthew E. Hill. Her research explores the appearance of the Cody Complex on the Great Plains and the lifeways of the earliest human inhabitants of North America. After she finishes her master's degree this spring (2020), she will immediately return to the Smithsonian to finish my analysis of the faunal material from the Cody component at the Lamb Spring site (5DA201). The data Faith gathers from this site will form the foundation of her dissertation research. In other news, she is working on my first publishable paper!

## **Emma Wood**

Emma is a Ph.D. candidate in biological anthropology. She is completing her doctoral dissertation this spring and is advised by Dr. Robert Franciscus. Her research examines the influence of behavioral selection on the size and structure of teeth. For the past year, she has been an instructor at University of North Texas Health Science Center, where she will move into an assistant professorship in the fall.

# Focus on Graduate Students

## Graduating in the Time of COVID-19

By Christie Vogler

Before the events of the last couple of weeks, I had a pretty clear idea about what I wanted to say in this article. Last semester my success in the Three Minute Thesis contest for the Obermann Center, and later of the campus-wide competition, offered encouragement and motivation to finally sit down and get my dissertation written. I was also fortunate to receive a fellowship to work with the National Center for Science Education to develop and facilitate STEM activities for outreach events in the Iowa City and Coralville communities, which offered the much needed time required to write and work on job applications for the next academic year. I was looking forward to presenting my 3MT talk at Hancher auditorium and competing one last time at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools conference in Milwaukee. All this work would accumulate into finally defending my dissertation and getting hooded at the commencement ceremony this spring. I figured that is what I would write about for this piece.

At this point, you all know what happened next. The university started making small teaching changes for the semester, and then bigger ones. Both 3MT events were cancelled indefinitely. I currently sit at a tiny desk, working and trying to avoid going stir-crazy in an apartment shared with another human who also must work from home now. My work with the NCSE is in limbo since trying to make any future outreach plans is near impossible. Then the most gut-wrenching moment came with the cancellation of the spring commencement ceremony. For a moment all the hard work of the last year, as well as all the years working toward my doctorate, felt as if it had been for nothing.

Fortunately, my time with the Anthropology Department here at the University of Iowa reminds me that this is not the case. Graduate school was never going to be easy, but it might have been impossible if not for the support and camaraderie of the faculty and my fellow graduate students. Through classes and seminars, I delved further into the field I love and found a research topic to be passionate about. As a teaching assistant, I was able to connect with faculty and students in a way I never had before. When I struggled, my advisor and other faculty members reassured and supported me until I was back on my feet. One of the best things about joining this program was having the opportunity to travel to Sicily for my research enough times for it to feel like a second home. I have also had to watch many people I care about leave the program over the years. This was the case for one of my first, and best friend I made in the department. To this day, she continues to check-in on me and reminds me that if I genuinely believe my research is worthwhile, then finishing my doctorate is within reach.

It is for all these reasons that I recognize my time with Anthropology Department has not been for nothing. This pandemic cannot rob me of the relationships I have built, the experiences I have undergone, and the significance of the research I have conducted over the last eight years. To my fellow graduates experiencing the disappointment of a cancelled ceremony, I share your grief, but I also know you will all go on to do amazing things with your work. To those graduate students feeling anxious about current events, I cannot promise that things will work out like you hope, but I do know that this department and its people will do everything it can to support you. To the whole department, thank you for giving something that can never be taken away, a sense of purpose in this crazy world.

# Focus on Undergraduate Students

## My Time in Anthropology By Mackenzie Cross

I have been lurking around the hallways of Macbride for around three years now but, sadly, this semester will be my last semester here. I will be graduating this Spring with a dual degree in Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies (Animal Biology), a degree I made to supplement my BioAnth courses. When I was a freshman, I changed my major on an almost weekly basis as I found myself interested in many things, but couldn't find anything that I was truly passionate about—until I took *Evolution of Human Sex* with Tarah. I found myself in awe of other primates and distinctly remember Tarah explaining that we study other primates to learn more about ourselves. It is such an obvious idea to me now but, as a little first-year undergraduate, it blew my mind and launched me into my own anthropological journey.



Mackenzie Cross hanging with the lemurs at the Duke Lemur Center.

I began research in Dr. Enloe's lab where I identified animal bones. It was an amazing, supportive experience and, over the span of a year, I gained confidence in my abilities as a researcher. The next summer, I transitioned to primatological research as an intern at the Duke Lemur Center (DLC). At the DLC, I created an independent research project studying lemur movement. I also helped with microbiome research by collecting Aye-aye fecal samples. Although it sounds gross, it was fun to try to find the samples in the dark while avoiding the curious Aye-aye. I will be the first to tell you that watching lemurs all day isn't always exciting—like any animal, they spend most of their day sleeping—but I found these animals captivating.

For my senior year, I had two priorities: my senior thesis with Dr. Kitchen and my science outreach project with the Latham Scholars. Throughout my undergraduate experience, I became particularly interested in how humans evolved their massive brains (in spite of the huge energetic expense which comes along with our brains!). Some anthropologists have suggested that meat, as a calorically dense food, may have been an important resource to support the increasing energetic demands of the brain. My senior thesis looks at the two genes which encode umami receptors (these are the taste receptors responsible for our ability to taste the "savory"-ness of meat) in humans compared to other primates from all infraorders. By comparing these genes, we can better evaluate their importance in human evolution relative to other primates.

During my last year as an undergraduate, I transitioned from a student to a teacher. I recently created a science outreach game to teach children about how human adaptations can shape diversity. First, students are given an environment card which depicts either a cold, tropical, agricultural, mountainous or coastal environment. Then, students pick from boards with various adapta-



tions and place their chosen pieces on a giant blank superhero. After they have built their superhero, the students and I discuss their choices. The students either rebuild their superhero or choose a new environment card. Through this game, students learn that human adaptations are like superpowers, and that every human is a superhero.

As my final semester comes to a close, I'm excited but also a little sad, as Macbride has felt like a home for years now. I learned from wonderful graduate students (shoutout to Tarah, James, Jeremy, Ariane, Josh, Logan, Emma, Noah and many more!), bounced ideas off the ever knowledgeable Kiran Patel, and studied under phenomenal researchers. My undergraduate experience has been a long sprint, so I will be taking a gap year to work and decompress, but I cannot stay away from research for long. This Fall, I intend to apply to Ph.D. programs to study the interactions between energetics, adaptations and disease in primates.

## 2019-2020 UI Anthropology Department Presents:

SARAH BLAKENEY (American University) "An Analysis of the Experience  
Accessing Healthcare in Rural Morocco"

*October 11, 2019*

VERONICA MARZ (Office of the State Archaeologist) "Quantifying the Effects of  
Heat – Treating Tool Stone and How it Augments Knapper Skill"

*October 25, 2019*

MIKE CHIBNIK (University of Iowa) "The History of Anthropology at The  
University of Iowa: People, Programs, and Policies"

*November 8, 2019*

JAMES 'WOODY' WATSON (Emeritus Professor, Harvard University) Between  
Land and Sea: Oyster Farming, Shore Fishing, Salt Production, and Scavenging  
along the South China Coast (1728-1978)"

*February 28, 2020*

RUBIE WATSON (Former Director, Peabody Museum) Making and Unmaking a  
Rural Culture: Henry County, Illinois (1849-2019)"

*April 3, 2020*

# Focus on Alumni

## Living Large in Texas

By Scott Maddux

I received my MA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa in 2006 followed by my PhD in 2011. With sage guidance from Bob Franciscus, I was fortunate enough to have my dissertation research on Middle and Late Pleistocene craniofacial evolution funded by both the Wenner Gren and Leakey Foundations, along with a T. Anne Cleary Research Fellowship. This support allowed me to conduct fieldwork at more than 40 fossil repositories in the US, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia in 2009-2010. The data compiled during my PhD fieldwork continue to fuel publications more than 10 years (gulp!) after collection.

Upon graduating in 2011, I accepted a faculty position with the Integrative [evolutionary] Anatomy program at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Missouri proved an exceptional intellectual environment for a newly-minted PhD, as daily interactions with biological anthropologists such as Carol Ward, Libby Cowgill, Greg Blomquist, Ashley Hammond, Lauren Butaric, and Rachel Dunn encouraged me to foray into new and exciting areas of research. In particular, with the support of an MU seed grant, I was able to initiate collaborative work with Siberian researchers to investigate behavior-morphology linkage in the domesticated silver fox as a model for evaluating the human “self-domestication” hypothesis (a project co-directed with Bob Franciscus). Among other outcomes, this project recently served as the basis for UI graduate student Emma Wood’s successfully defended PhD dissertation (spring 2020) on behavioral selection and dental size reduction.

In 2016, after 5 great years in Missouri, I accepted a tenure-track faculty position at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in my hometown of Fort Worth, TX. At UNTHSC, I have more fully developed a research program focused on human respiratory and thermoregulatory evolution, including recent collaborations with aerospace engineers investigating the relationship between ecogeographic variation in nasal anatomy and intranasal airflow patterns. I also enjoy advising my own graduate students at UNTHSC, with my 2 PhD and 2 Master’s students developing projects at the intersection of biological anthropology and evolutionary anatomy.

On a more personal note, Tressa and I will celebrate our 16<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June. Our son Judah will turn six at the end of May and our cat Tex (adopted in Iowa City) will turn 15 in August. Although we are thoroughly enjoying being back home in Texas, Tressa and I reminisce about our years in Iowa often and fondly.

*Scott Maddux is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Anatomical Sciences at the University of North Texas HSC in Fort Worth, TX.*



Scott presenting at the Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists (TABA) conference in San Marcos, TX (2018)

## Thank You to Our Incredible Administrative Support Staff!

As always, we thank **Shari Knight** and **Sarah Horgen** for their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to Sarah on a successful first year and a big thanks to Shari for being a rock in the office.



## Note from the Editor

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who contributed new content and photos for this newsletter.

A special thanks to Bob Franciscus, Erica Prussing, Christie Vogler, Mackenzie Cross, and Scott Maddux for writing our featured articles and contributing great photos.

Many thanks are also extended to Russ Ciochon for his support and guidance throughout this process and for coordinating

this newsletter for several years. Happy Retirement, Russ!

Thank you to James McGrath, the previous editor of the AnthrObserver, for providing helpful examples and previous editions.

I take credit for any mistakes or omissions in this year's newsletter. Thanks for a great year!

Regards,  
Emma Wood  
AnthrObserver Editor  
(2019-2020 Edition)

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