

2023 | 2024

# AnthrObserver



Cover Photos Courtesy of Ariane Thomas, Matthew Hill, and Max Leiberman.

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**IOWA** | Department of  
Anthropology

# In This Issue of

# The AnthrObserver

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PhD candidate Victoria Priola as featured in the Ulowa Grad College News article about her work in experimental and feminist archaeology.

# A Letter from the DEO

This was another busy year in the Department of Anthropology, with much to celebrate.

The Department welcomed a new faculty member, Madeline Line (PhD Durham, 2020), a specialist in Classical archaeology and Museum Studies. Two faculty were promoted to Full Professor: Matt Hill and John Doershuk. Matt was additionally honored by being named a CLAS Collegiate Scholar in recognition of his exceptional achievement. Brady G'sell was awarded a fellowship from the American Association of University Women and devoted the year to finishing her upcoming book with Stanford University Press. Meena Khandelwal and Erica Prussing also have books coming out in the next year. Drew Kitchen conducted research with the NSF grant he received with Andrew Forbes (Biology). Bob Franciscus was nominated for the 2024 Hancher-Finkbine Medallion.

All faculty engaged in research, published, and presented their work at conferences and invited lectures in the US and abroad. They also provided important service in major professional organizations as journal editors, committee chairs and members, and grant panelists, as well as leadership in CLAS, such as Cynthia Chou, Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies. Glenn



by Prof. Katina Lillios

Storey continues to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Human Relations Area Files.

Our graduate students made us proud this year. Ariane Thomas received her PhD and will be a postdoc at the NIH. Mackenzie Cross, Danielle Johnsen, and Tristan Szymanski received MA degrees. Mackenzie Cross was awarded a National Science Foundation-Graduate Research Fellowship, which provides support for five years of graduate education. Kyle Bikowski was awarded a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant to conduct research in Mexico. On his Wenner-Gren grant, Ebenezer Adeyemi carried out fieldwork and archival studies in Nigeria. Victoria Priola conducted archaeological studies

in Portugal with an Archaeological Institute of America Archaeology of Portugal Grant. Caleb Klipowicz was awarded a Ballard and Seashore Fellowship, and Corinne Watts and Logan Moore received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards. Brittany Anderson received a Dissertation Writing Fellowship.

Our undergraduates also continue to shine. Nineteen students graduated this year with their BA or BS in Anthropology, and twenty minored in Anthropology. Five students were invited to accept membership to Phi Beta Kappa: Annabel Hendrickson, Katarina O'Kulich, Anna Ottavi, Yardley Whaylen, and Amelia Williams. Three students were awarded the Undergraduate Experiential Scholarships to support their participation in field schools and study abroad programs: Avery Hillier, Grace Heiden, and Payton LeGrand.

The Department awarded the Native American and Indigenous Studies Prize to Joe Maxwell, a third-year student majoring in Political Science with minors in Social Justice and Urban Studies. He plans to use a portion of the scholarship to travel to Noêpe in the summer to participate in an Earth Knowledge Weekend with members of the Wampanoag Tribe.

The Department hosted three international speakers in its Colloquium Series: Emma Pomeroy from the University of Cambridge, Ochy Curiel from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and Artur Ribeiro, from the University of Kiel.

This is the last year of my 5-year term as DEO, and I will pass the baton on to my colleague Drew Kitchen, who will

**"I could not imagine better colleagues than the ones I was able to work with over the past five years."**

lead the department beginning in August 2024. Running a department (particularly during a pandemic!) requires a major team effort, and I could not imagine better colleagues than the ones I was able to work with over the past five years.

I am particularly grateful to those who served with me as Director of Graduate Studies (Matt Hill and Margaret Beck) and Director of Undergraduate Studies and Curriculum Coordinator (Ted Powers, Elana Buch, and Drew Kitchen). I am also so lucky to have had the assistance of Sarah Horgen-Department Administrator, Shari Knight-Administrative Services Coordinator, Terry Tharp-IT Support, and Ben Landsee-Academic Advising; their work, often unseen, has been critical to our Department's successes.

Thank you, everyone.

Katina Lillios  
Professor and DEO, Anthropology

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*Prof. Katina Lillios (katina-lillios@uiowa.edu) is an anthropological archaeologist who studies people who lived on the Iberian peninsula from the Neolithic through the Bronze Age, and serves as Anthropology Department Executive Officer (DEO).*

# Colloquium Series



"People at the end of history: archaeology in times of hyperculture"



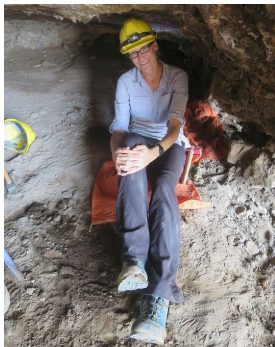
**Artur Ribeiro, PhD**  
University of Kiel

"Decolonial feminism: Contributions and debates for the social sciences"

El feminismo descolonial: Aportes y debates para las ciencias sociales



**Ochy Curiel, PhD**  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia



"Insights into life and death at Shanidar Cave from the new Neanderthal skeletal remains"

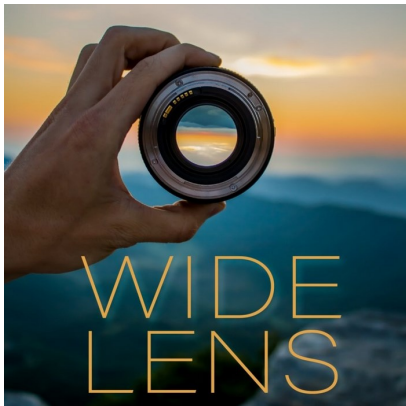
**Emma Pomeroy, PhD**  
University of Cambridge

"Relationships, responsibilities, and economies of care in Tonga and the U.S."



**Mary K. Good, PhD**  
VA Iowa City Health Care System

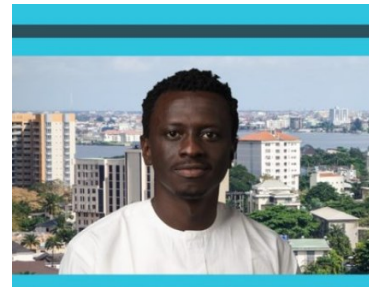




### Climate Through a Wide Lens

"Cookstoves and Climate Change in India"  
By **Meena Khandelwal**

**IOWA**  
Obermann Center for Advanced Studies



### "Peoples Science: Community response to Public Health Crises in Lagos, Nigeria"

By **Ebenezer Olamiposi Adeyemi**

Iowa City  
**Foreign Relations Council**

### "Pediatrics is Pink, Radiology is Blue: Mapping Male Nursing Care inside the Hospital"

By **Andres Restrepo-Sanchez**

**22ND ANNUAL WOMEN'S AND GENDER HISTORY SYMPOSIUM**



# Anthropology Gift Fund

## Undergraduate Awards & Prizes

### Native American & Indigenous Studies Prize



Joe Maxwell



### Undergraduate Scholarship for Experiential Learning



Avery Hillier



Grace Heiden



Payton LeGrand

### Invitations to Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society



Annabel Hendrickson

Yardley Whaylen

Katarina O’Kulich

Amelia Williams

Anna Otavi



Support the work of our Graduate and Undergraduate students by contributing to our Gift Fund at <http://www.givetoioa.org/anthropology>



# Alumni Spotlight

When I started my MA at Iowa, I had a BS in Education, with a broad assortment of liberal arts credits and one Intro to Anthropology class but no archaeology at all. On the plus side, I attended a local field school run by Tom Charlton, and, as one of my advisors suggested, at least I could write.

To make up for my lack of background in the field, I went to the library journal stacks and started reading the latest issues and Xerox articles I wanted to read more carefully. Those made it into a database, and the paper versions into an ever-growing phalanx of filing cabinets.

**My coverage and interests were global: Machu Picchu and Poverty Point, domestication of dogs and millet, neanderthals and mastodons - I could write whatever I liked!**

Around 1992 I saw my first website—photographs of Lascaux Cave.

In 1996, I saw an ad looking for experts in various academic (and nonacademic) fields to produce content for a network of websites called The Mining Company.

There were few and rickety search engines at the time and our goal was to find existing websites on our topics and feature them in a weekly column. I applied and was lucky enough to be chosen to run the Archaeology section covering the entire world.

Between 1997-2020, I wrote thousands of scientific-based public articles on archaeology and ancient history for what is today called DotDash Meredith Publishing.



**K. Kris Hirst**  
MA 1986

It was a fantastic experience that I fed with voracious reading and the zen practice of learning something new every day. It was rarely a full-time gig and never paid well, but it was wonderfully fulfilling. And fun. Some 600 articles are still on the service in ThoughtCo, the academic piece of the DotDash Meredith publishing group. My writing process was based on a woeful ignorance of archaeology.

In 1999, the company morphed into About.com, and the goal of that site was to produce original content in various fields. I signed up to get notifications that I leveraged to (cont'd p.10)

write a weekly or biweekly 800-word column. My coverage and interests were global: Machu Picchu and Poverty Point, domestication of dogs and millet, neanderthals and mastodons. I could write whatever I liked.

Today, of course, the Internet is far more open to content producers—just about anybody with a smartphone can write for the Internet,

and writing no longer requires esoteric coding at all. Physical visits to the library are no longer necessary: all the research you need can be downloaded from journal websites. Barriers to writing public-oriented vehicles for passing along the tasty bits of archaeology (or anything) are considerably less troublesome today than when I started. The multitude of social media venues—most

of which I only have a nodding acquaintance with—are perfect for publicizing archaeology.

I no longer write articles for ThoughtCo, having retired in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. But many people are following in my footsteps, for which I am grateful. I hope it's just as fun for you as it was for me.

—Kris Hirst

## James McGrath-Seegmiller PhD 2020

My entire career trajectory changed in 2020 with the onset of the pandemic. I was aiming for an academic position. I had several publications, plenty of teaching experience, a nationally competitive grant, and a post-doc position lined up by the time I graduated. I felt confident that I stood a good chance of getting an academic job somewhere. By May 2020, however, the dramatic shift in higher education driven by the pandemic and unknown timeline of these changes led me to consider a career in the private sector.

Hopefully, there isn't another pandemic in our lifetimes, but many of us will experience other life chang-



es that may alter our career paths. My advice to students in the Anthropology department is to use graduate school to acquire a range of skills to prepare you for both academia and non-academic jobs. I was lucky that my advisor Jim encouraged me to take classes outside of the department. I took

several classes in Earth and Environmental Sciences that, were both useful for my dissertation research and gave me practical skills that I use most days in my current position in Cultural Resource Management.

Today, I am a co-owner and principal investigator at Tallgrass Archaeology in Iowa City. Now I get to spend considerable time in the field all over the state. I have been very happy with my transition from academia into the private sector. While both fields have their own challenges, I have found CRM to be a very interesting and fulfilling career path.

— James McGrath-Seegmiller



*Photo courtesy of Dr. Mike Chibnik.*

# In Remembrance: Doug Midgett

by Dr. Mike Chibnik

Doug Midgett, a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology from 1972 to 2006, died in Montana earlier this year. He conducted fieldwork in many different countries in the Caribbean and taught and wrote about diverse topics related to his research.

Doug was born in 1939 to a family with deep roots in Montana. He attended the University of Montana as an undergraduate, majoring in anthropology and carrying out short-term fieldwork among the Nez Perce (a Native American group). From 1965 to 1967 Doug served in the Peace Corps in St. Lucia. He then attended graduate school in anthropology at the University of Illinois, receiving a PhD in 1977 for a dissertation about migration based on fieldwork in both St. Lucia and London.

The courses Doug taught at Iowa included Social Anthropology of the Caribbean; Anthropology of Tourism; Race, Ethnicity, and International Relations; Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems; Africans

in the New World; Contemporary Issues in Development; Literature and Anthropology; Sociology of the Third World; and Development Policy and Planning. In the 1990s Doug taught for an Iowa program in London and ran a field school in St. Lucia. He was the chair or co-chair of four PhD students in anthropology (Catherine Douillet, Rocky Sexton, Frank O'Connor, and Christopher Reichl) and a committee member of an astonishing number of doctoral and master's students in anthropology, economics, education, geography, history, English, sports studies, sociology, political science, communication studies, journalism, and American Studies. Doug also was a chair or committee member of more than 50 students in the Third World Development Support program in International Studies, which he headed for a number of years.

Doug was a storyteller and his teaching style, which worked especially well in smaller classes, might be described as laid-back and discursive. (cont'd p.12)

The topics covered in Doug's publications were as varied as the courses he taught. He wrote about cricket, calypso, tourism, politics, literature, ethnicity, history, labor, migration, voluntary associations, and bilingualism. Late in his career he began focusing more on the U.S. West and updated a book (Traces on the Landscape) written by his father about life in eastern Montana in the first part of the twentieth century.

Doug had many interests outside of anthropology and was an engaged member of the Iowa City community. He taught yoga, fished, officiated at track and field meets, cooked well, knew a lot about local politics and the literary scene, and was an avid sports fan who had

season tickets for Iowa wrestling meets. Doug read widely, enjoyed music, and was a regular on late Friday afternoons at the bygone, beloved Mill bar/restaurant. I am sure that I talked more about non-anthropological matters with Doug than with any other member of our department.

After Doug retired, he stayed in Iowa City for several years. He then returned to Montana for the last years of his life. Even after leaving town, Doug would visit Iowa City regularly for sports events. Doug is survived by his daughter Margaret and his son Luke.

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*Prof. Mike Chibnik is a Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Iowa.*

## In Remembrance: Duane Anderson

by Dr. John F. Doershuk

Duane C. Anderson, third state archaeologist of Iowa and long-time adjunct associate professor of anthropology at UI passed away in May after a lengthy battle with complications of hereditary liver disease. Duane had a remarkable and very productive professional career but is particularly known for a major NSF-funded research effort that led to the Academic Press publication, "The Cherokee Excavations," which Duane co-authored.

As state archaeologist, Duane led a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded program entitled Iowa's P.A.S.T. (Programming Archaeology for School Teachers), and he and colleagues spearheaded the revival of the University of Iowa

Museum of Natural History where he taught museum classes and developed the cultural exhibits (1983–1986) for Iowa Hall, the Museum's popular permanent exhibition. Duane was a prime mover in the 1976 passage of the first state law in the country specifically designed to protect Native American graves.

Before leaving OSA in 1986, The Turtle Band of the Yankton Sioux adopted Duane and his wife Carol in recognition of his work on behalf of Native peoples. Duane's contributions to Iowa archaeology are legion and he will be sorely missed.

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*John F. Doershuk is Director and State Archaeologist in the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist*

# Promotions & Awards

## Promotions

**Matthew Hill & John Doershuk** Full Professor

## Faculty

## External Awards

**Brady G'Sell** American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship by the American Association of University Women

## Internal Awards

**Matthew Hill** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Collegiate Scholar  
UI Arts and Humanities Initiative

**Brady G'sell** 2022-2023 Collegiate Teaching Award

## Graduate Students

## External Awards

**Mackenzie Cross** National Science Foundation Graduate Research  
Fellowship Program

**Kyle Bikowski** Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

## Internal Awards

**Ebenezer Adeyemi** T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship

**Logan Moore** Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

**Corinne Watts** Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

**Brittany Anderson** CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship

**Caleb Klipowicz** Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Writing Fellowship

**Victoria Priola** June Helm Award

## Graduations

Master of Arts **Mackenzie Cross, Danielle Johnsen, & Tristan Szymanski**

Doctor of Philosophy **Ariane Thomas & Caleb Klipowicz**

# Publications 2023-2024

**Beck, Margaret E.**, Freimuth, Glen A., MacDonald, Brandi L. (2024). "Slips, Films, and Material Choice: Long-Distance Hydrothermal Pigments on Middle Mississippian Red Ware." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 54, 104456.

**Beck, Margaret E.**, Trabert, Sarah J., **Hill, Matthew E.** (2023). "Pipe Forms and Regional Interaction Spheres in the Great Plains and U.S. Southwest: A View from Scott County Pueblo (14SC1)." *Plains Anthropologist*, 68, 107-133.

Boutry, Maxime, **Cynthia Chou**, Jacques Ivanoff, and Clifford Sather. (2024). "Introduction: Seeing Southeast Asia through a Sea-Nomadic Lens." *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 39, no. 1: 28-37.

Carlisle, Erica M., Laura A. Shinkunas, **Maxwell T. Lieberman**, Richard M. Hoffman, and Heather Schacht Reisinger. (2023) "Empowering parents of pediatric surgical oncology patients through collaborative engagement with surgeons." *Journal of pediatric surgery* 58, no. 9: 1736-1743.

**Chou, Cynthia.** (2024). "The Orang Suku Laut." *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 39, no. 1: 125-153.

Ciubotariu, Ilinca I., Rebecca P. Wilkes, Jobin J. Kattoor, Erin N. Christian, Giovanna Carpi, and **Andrew Kitchen.** (2024) "Investigating the rise of Omicron variant through genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 infections in a highly vaccinated university population." *Microbial genomics* 10, no. 2: 001194.

**Cross, Mackenzie,** and **Andrew Kitchen.** (2023) "A gene selection analysis of TAS1R1 and TAS1R3 to examine human carnivory." *bioRxiv*: 2023-10.

Davis, Warren D. and **John F. Doershuk.** (2023) "Exploring an Ancient Proboscidean Discovery at Lake Red Rock." *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* 73(1):2-4.

**Doershuk, John F.** (2023) "Book Review: People in a Sea of Grass: Archaeology's Changing Perspective on Indigenous Plains Communities." *American Antiquity* 88(2), 269-271.

**Doershuk, John F.** and Stephen C. Lensink. (2023) "Joy Creek Major (13PM7): Flood-ravaged but Still Informative." *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* 72(3&4):6–7.

**Gsell, Brady.** (2024). *Reworking Citizenship: Gender, Race, and Kinship in South Africa*, Stanford University Press.

**Gsell, Brady.** (2024). "Diffuse and Enduring Disappointment: Considering kinship in South Africa and beyond" in *Difficult Attachments: Anxieties of Kinship and Care*, Katheryn Goldfarb and Sandra Bamford, Eds. Rutgers University Press.

**Khandelwal, Meena.** 2024. *Cookstove Chronicles: Social Life of a Women's Technology in India*. The University of Arizona Press.

**Noldner, Lara K.** (2023) "Human Remains and Mortuary Practice at Dixon." *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 70:52–57.

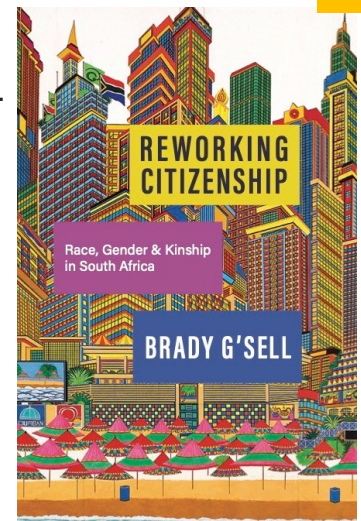
Oba Eduviere, Osamamen and **Brady Gsell.** (2024). "From church to the mosque, faith and friends help Iowa's African immigrants and refugees build a sense of home." *The Conversation*, 9 February.

**Powers, Theodore,** and Jimmy Pieterse. (2024). "Vacillating vaccines: responses to Covid-19 in the United States and South Africa." *Anthropology Southern Africa* 47, no. 1: 6-19.

**Storey, Glenn R.** (2023). "The organization of ancient economies: A global perspective." *Economic Anthropology* 10, no. 1.

**Thomas, Ariane E., Matthew E. Hill,** Leah Stricker, Michael Lavin, David Givens, Alida De Flamingh, Kelsey E. Witt, Ripan S. Malhi, and **Andrew Kitchen.** (2024). "The Dogs of Tsenacomoco: Ancient DNA Reveals the Presence of Local Dogs at Jamestown Colony in the Early Seventeenth Century." *American Antiquity*: 1-19.

Thompson, Lena, **Elana Buch,** and Sato Ashida.(2023) "Exploring AI Elder's Cultural Perceptions of Disasters and the Role of Generativity in Preparing Future Generations." *Innovation in Aging* 7, no. Supplement\_1: 157-157.



# Grad Student Updates

## Ebenezer Adeyemi



Ebenezer Olamiposi Adeyemi is a PhD candidate under the advisement of Dr. Ted Powers. Ebenezer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Peace and Conflict Studies--both from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Ebenezer also received an MA degree in anthropology from the University of Iowa (UI) in May 2021. His research interests center around medical anthropology, infrastructure, the intersection of urban landscape and public health, African studies, and survival strategies in marginalized urban communities. For his dissertation research, Ebenezer is exploring the strategies that residents of Makoko, a large government-marginalized informal settlement in Lagos State, Nigeria, use to build infrastructure (like makeshift hospitals, waste disposal

systems, etc.) to manage malaria, the most prominent health issue in their community. Ebenezer recently received a doctoral dissertation fieldwork grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and the T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the University of Iowa Graduate College to support his ongoing dissertation research. Additionally, in 2022, Ebenezer was recognized as an outstanding researcher during the 2022 series of the UI Office of the Vice President For Research Downtown Banner Campaign intended to showcase the creative work of researchers at the University of Iowa.



## Brittany Anderson

Brittany Anderson is a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology, jointly advised by Dr. Elana Buch and Dr. Ted Powers. Brittany received her BA in Anthropology and Biology from Luther College in 2016 and her MA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa in 2018. She is currently working on her dissertation on housekeeping and laundry staff in Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the Midwest United States. Her research is focused on the relationships between materiality, labor, and care work. Brittany received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissertation Writing Fellowship to fund the completion of this work.



## Kyle Bikowski

Kyle Bikowski is a PhD candidate entering his 5th year in the department, co-advised by Dr. Laura Graham and Dr. Brady G'Sell. His dissertation project involves investigating the way that Gaymers (gay-gamers) in Mexico form and perform their identities and communities through play, both virtually and in-person, both within games and in daily interactions, with particular focus on fun and joy. In the 2022-23 school year, Kyle participated in a colloquium series on role-playing games as agents of social change with Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Azcapotzalco in Mexico City and is now working with the group on publishing an anthology on the topic. Kyle received a T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the graduate college and June Helm Graduate Student



Scholarship and spent the Spring semester conducting fieldwork in Querétaro, Mexico. He was awarded a Wenner-Gren grant in April and will return to Querétaro in August to conduct a year of dissertation fieldwork.



## Mackenzie Cross

Mack Cross is a 3rd year graduate student in Biological Anthropology under the advisement of Dr. Andrew Kitchen. She received her B.A. in Anthropology and B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies: Animal Biology from University of Iowa. Currently, Mack is refining her master’s research on umami taste perception for publication. She is also preparing the theoretical background for her dissertation research which will explore the animals most closely related to primates, tree shrews and colugos, to better understand the adaptive shifts leading to the emergence of primates. She received the Graduate Engagement Core grant from University of Iowa, which will fund a community engaged science project in rural Iowa where Mack teaches students about local biodiversity and the theoretical concepts underlying this diversity, such as speciation and evolution. Mack was awarded the NSF GRFP in Spring 2024 and will be on fellowship.

## Binit Gurung

I have successfully completed my coursework requirement this year and am heading to the third year with more promising and challenging avenues for being a PhD Student. This year, I received the Stanley International Research Award and the June Helm Summer funding from the Department of Anthropology to conduct six weeks of field research in New Delhi, India, from June 1st to July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I have been awarded the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Travel Fundings to support my research endeavors further. My preliminary research aims to delve into the processes of racialization and everyday racism experienced by Northeastern Indian migrants in Delhi. Other than my research, I am excited to be the GSS representative for the Anthropology department for the academic year 2024-2025.



## Danielle Johnson



Danielle is in her 3rd year of the program under Dr. Andrew Kitchen, passing her MA portfolio last Spring. She received her BA in English from the University of Dubuque in 2022. She studies gene selection for autism and other cognitive disorders in social and antisocial primates. This school year, she hopes to finish a draft of her prospectus and continue building phylogenetic trees, among other things.

## Derick Juptner



Over the past year, I have finished my prospectus for my dissertation project, and have finished one of my two comprehensive exam questions. I have also been working on a side project analyzing the dog remains from the Blood Run NHP in Northwest Iowa. I have also just finished an Editing Graduate Assistantship with Margaret Beck and Valentine Roux for the Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory. I plan to finish my second comprehensive exam and have All but my Dissertation status by October of this year.

## Steven Keehner

Steven Keehner is an archaeology PhD candidate. He earned his BGS and MA degrees at the University of Kansas. Steven is analyzing Woodland period (2500-1000 BP) pottery technology recovered from several sites located in the eastern Central Plains. His research focuses on obtaining reliable radiocarbon dates from charred-food residues directly associated with pottery vessels to identify whether potters were replicating and/or exchanging uniform vessel types throughout the region. By establishing a better understanding of the chronology for when potters made certain types of vessels in the region, Steven aims to address the extent to which regional potters participated in the broader pattern of Hopewell cultural emergence during the Woodland period in eastern North America. He is currently finalizing the writing of his dissertation and plans to defend in the late summer or early fall. During the academic year, Steven was a teaching assistant for Anth:2100 Anthropology & Contemporary World problems and Anth:2165 Native Peoples of North America.



## Caleb Klipowicz

This past year, Caleb has been primarily focused on further developing his skills in the classroom and completing his dissertation project. In the summer of 2023, Caleb conducted his first course as lead instructor, redesigning and implementing an online version Anthropology 2100: Contemporary World Problems. Caleb also taught another semester of IS 2000: Introduction to International Studies, leaving behind his lesson plan designs for future TA's to use and adapt. With support from the Ballard-Seashore Dissertation Fellowship this Spring, Caleb significantly revised his research findings

into his dissertation entitled, *Representing ri-Majel: The Politics and Pragmatics of Marshallese Health Advocacy in Diaspora*, which he completed and successfully defended in June of 2024. Caleb is happy to announce that he, along with his wife Anna and two puggles Daisy and Lola, will be moving back down South later this summer as Caleb has accepted a full-time faculty position at Coastal Carolina University as a Lecturer of Anthropology.

## Max Lieberman

Max Lieberman is completing his dissertation under the guidance of Dr. Scott Schnell. His dissertation research focuses on the conflict concerning the wild bison herds of Yellowstone National Park. Max is also a research assistant for Dr. Erica Carlisle, a pediatric surgeon at the Carver College of Medicine. The research team's most recent publication, on which Max is a coauthor, was recently published in the *Journal of Surgical Research*. In March of 2024, Max was invited to help develop a social science research project with wildlife conservationists in Argentina. He spent a week working with the Andean Cat Alliance, an NGO focused on Andean Cat conservation, in the Andes Mountains.



## Logan Moore

Logan is a biological anthropology PhD Candidate advised by Dr. Robert Franciscus. For his doctoral dissertation work, Logan has been investigating the evolution of the human thorax, an area that has been historically understudied when compared to other regions of the body. His work focuses on the shape differences between modern and archaic human ribcages. In the last academic year, Logan has continued to work on his doctoral work by overcoming methodological hurdles and working with other researchers at the University of Iowa to generate and analyze his data. He has generated over 2000 individual rib models and began laying landmarks to investigate rib shape and form differences at independent rib levels. Additionally, he has been performing analyses of body shape and size variables and pulmonary function (i.e., spirometric variables) to investigate differences such as sexual dimorphism within living humans. His work will continue with an investigation of rib shape and form and how those variables may also relate to pulmonary function.



## Victoria Priola

Victoria is a Ph.D. Candidate in archaeology advised by Dr. Katina Lillios. She is currently writing her dissertation, which explores textile production and regional interactions in southwestern Iberia during the Copper and Early Bronze Age. Her research focuses on ceramic textile tools, called loom weights, used to facilitate weaving cloth. For her dissertation, she is analyzing the loom weights found at two important sites in southwestern Iberia, Perdigões (Alentejo, Portugal) and Valencina de la Concepción (Andalucia, Spain). Her analysis is informed by the experimental weaving research that she conducts with replica loom weights. This summer, she will be teaching the World Archaeology course and preparing to teach the course Issues in Anthropology: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Archaeology, which she is designing for the Fall 2024 semester.





## Andrés Restrepo Sanchez

After successfully defending his comprehensive exams and prospectus, Andrés Restrepo Sánchez will begin a year of ethnographic fieldwork in Medellín, Colombia, to gather the information required to write his dissertation. Under the advice of Dr. Elana D. Buch, Andrés is exploring the experiences of obstetric care in institutional settings and its relation to multiple forms of narco and structural violence in the city. He recently

published an article titled "Birth Rape? A Linguistic Analysis of Obstetric Violence as Sexual Violence" in the peer-reviewed journal *Women & Language* and is working towards the publication of other manuscripts.

## Ariane Thomas

Ariane Thomas successfully defended her dissertation in April 2024. Ariane moved to Maryland in May for a postdoc position at the National Institutes of Health. She will investigate the genetic architecture that controls for body size variation in modern dog populations. She is currently collaborating with the Pamunkey and Chickahominy Indian Tribes and the Pawnee Nation to study their relationships with their dogs.

As a final note, Ariane is grateful to the department for being a part of her graduate career, especially the graduate students, the Evolutionary Anthropology Lab, her committee, Matt, and Drew.





## Corinne Watts

Corinne is an archaeology PhD candidate advised by Dr. Katina Lillios. Her research focuses on the provenance of lithic materials during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic in central Iberia, examining how ground stone tools made from unique materials were sourced and used in the Madrid region of Spain. This year, Corinne was awarded an Outstanding Teaching Assistant award from the University of Iowa's Council on Teaching. She presented her ongoing work with the megaliths of Harvest Preserve, Iowa City at the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Victoria Priola guides fellow graduate students Andres Restrepo Sanchez, Kyle Bikowski and Derick Juptner in a workshop on ancient textile techniques.

# Faculty Updates

## Margaret Beck



Margaret Beck is continuing her work with natural pigments in the Great Plains and Midwest, using chemical and mineralogical analyses to distinguish pigments used by different groups and investigate possible geological sources. In addition to her research with red-slipped pottery in the Great Plains and the Middle Mississippi valley, she contributed to the *The Future is Indigenous* project throughout the 2023-2024 year. This project was funded with a UI OVPR Community Engaged Scholars Grant to Kay Ramey (Assistant Professor, Learning Sciences and Educational Psychology at UI), community partners

Alicia Velasquez (House of Dotl'izhi; dotlizhi.com) and Kirk Cheyney (Iowa City Fab Lab; icfablab.org), and Beck. The team developed and led a series of hands-on STEAM workshops for Indigenous participants, culminating in a fashion show to display final projects at the Englert on April 27, 2024. Beck shared pigments and clays from her library of geological samples in the North American Archaeological Laboratory so that participants could make and paint beads and other small objects with raw materials from the Midwest.



I continue to develop new ethnographic research that investigates later life as a time of social experimentation and population aging as a driver of social change and innovation.

## Elana Buch

One of my projects investigates how USian older adults and their kin experience dating, romance, intimacy and new marriages to understand how new love in later life might be reworking ideas of family relations and relatedness. Another project investigates older adults' experiments with housing in the United States, as families and communities respond to the combined pressures of housing shortages, economic inequality, and need for care. I continue to contribute to the anthropology of care via collaborations with colleagues. The first of these develops an anthropological approach to care as a category for comparative analysis. The second of these projects is a multidisciplinary, mixed methods collaboration to develop efficient tools for understanding and grouping the holistic experiences of caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Our hope is that this tool will facilitate systems that better match caregivers with supportive interventions that reflect their diverse experiences. Last summer, I collaborated with Drs. Erica Prussing and Brady G'Sell, and doctoral students Andrés Restrepo Sanchez and Osamamen Oba Eduviereto revamp our graduate methods course to become an Engaged Humanities Lab funded through the Obermann Center's Humanities for the Public Good program. Dr. Prussing will lead/teach the inaugural lab in Spring 2025, training graduate students to use ethnographic methods through a collaborative project focused on understanding and improving the experiences of international graduate students on our campus.

## Cynthia Chou

In the academic year of 2023-2024, Cynthia was invited to give keynote addresses at two international conferences about her work with the sea nomads in Indonesia. At the invitation of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, she delivered a keynote address entitled, "Climate Change, Cultural Loss and People of the Sea" at the international conference, "Climate Change and Cultural Loss." At the invitation of the National University of Singapore, she presented a keynote speech entitled, "The Watery World" at the international conference, "Reclaiming Singapura Island(s): Reconstructing the Nation's Maritime Heritages." While on leave in the Spring semester, she worked with Maxime Boutry, Jacques Ivanoff (both of the French National Center for Scientific Research) and Clifford Sather (University of Helsinki) to co-edit a special issue on "Seeing Southeast Asia through a Sea-Nomadic Lens" for *SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*. Across the university, Cynthia continued to serve as the Director of the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies. She also continued to serve as a member of the UI International Programs Advisory Council, the UI Fulbright program, the UI Center for Human Rights Advisory Board, and the International Studies Academic Advisory Board.

## John Doershuk

John Doershuk, State Archaeologist of Iowa, was promoted to adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology. He once again organized and taught a summer archaeological field school in 2023. As in previous years, the course was based at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, a facility in northwest Iowa. The 2023 excavation was undertaken at 13DK9, the Abbie Gardner Sharp Historic Cabin, owned by the State Historical Society of Iowa as one of seven state-owned historic sites that were of particular significance in Iowa history. Site 13DK9, on the shores of West Okoboji Lake, was the location where the infamous conflict began between Inkpaduta's Wahpekute (Dakota) band and six white families that attempted settlement in the area in 1857. While the 2023 field investigation (as in 2022) encountered plentiful artifacts associated with the post-1857 historic era, unlike in 2022 when only one item likely associated with Native American usage of the area was found, the 2023 excavation revealed a buried complex of introduced rock (some heat altered) that may represent a series of abandoned cooking facilities. Unfortunately, no preserved charcoal was detected, but much remains of the deposit and it will be further sampled in 2024. During the academic year Doershuk taught one online course for the department, "Archaeology of the American Midcontinent," which enrolled 22 students. Please remember 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, and personnel to enhance their UI learning and research experiences!

## Robert Franciscus

Bob was on leave in fall 2023 in his first year of phased retirement, but he remained busy with his current project comparing extant human cranial and postcranial skeletal robusticity measures to evaluate behavioral and androgenic factors related to the global spread of modern humans from Africa and the Levant after 80,000 years ago. This work, involving both graduate and undergraduate students, tests hypotheses deriving from a model of increased social tolerance and prosocial behavior in *Homo sapiens* argued to be reflected in key anatomical craniofacial traits. As such, the work has strong ties to a more general model of human "self-domestication" in Late Pleistocene *Homo sapiens* and its ramifications for understanding the emergence and rapid global spread of our species along with the extinction of all pre-modern forms of humanity. This past fall, Bob also hosted Emma Pomeroy, Associate Professor and Director of the Duckworth Laboratory in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, UK, who spent time in his lab scanning a number of high-resolution fossil hominin casts. Professor Pomeroy currently leads the excavation, conservation and analysis of the new hominin remains from the well-known Shanidar Cave Neanderthal site in Iraqi Kurdistan where renewed excavations and recent discoveries of skeletal remains are offering new

understand Neanderthal behavior at this iconic site. Emma and Bob are part of a small group of researchers who have each had the opportunity to work on original Neanderthal material from the Shanidar Cave assemblage, and it proved to be a delightful and productive few weeks spent poring over the Shanidar casts, as well as sharing notes, photos, scans, and discussing various archival materials from the site.

## Brady G'sell

This past year was dramatically shaped by three late-spring 2023 awards. I was humbled to receive a Collegiate Teaching Award from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and am grateful to the colleagues and students who wrote letters in support of my nomination. I was also granted an American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship by the American Academy of University Women (AAUW) which works to promote equity for women in higher education and increase the number of women in tenure-track faculty position. This fellowship enabled me to step away from teaching to focus on finishing my book, due out with Stanford in August, and to pursue new research. Part of the work I took on this year was a collaborative project with colleagues in Chemistry, Engineering, and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to build a Midwest Studies and Stories Institute that brings together University researchers using narrative based methods to study the Midwest. This work was supported by an interdisciplinary grant from the OVPR Interdisciplinary Research Program at the University of Iowa. Both as part of the Midwest Studies and Stories initiative and as part of my new research program, I have been able to collaborate with Dr. Sunday Goshit, a faculty member in International Studies, and graduate student Osamamen Oba Eduviere on a community engaged research project with members of Iowa City's large and growing African immigrant community. We have conducted listening sessions with different community groups to learn what issues are important to them and to collectively shape a research program that serves community needs. It has been a delight to work with Sunday and Osamamen and to get to know more of my African neighbors. I look forward to returning to teaching in the fall.

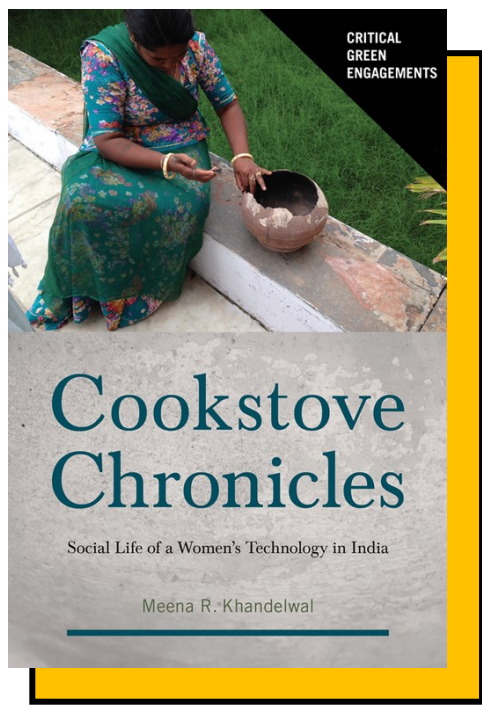


# Matthew Hill

In the last year Matt continued to focus on his 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 human-dog relationship in colonial Virginia. He was also very fortunate to work with undergraduate and graduate students this summer in Western Kansas.

# Meena Khandelwal

Meena Khandelwal has completed final proofs for her monograph *Cookstove Chronicles: Social Life of a Women's Technology in India*, which focuses on India's traditional mud stove (*chulha* in Hindi), women who use it, and those trying to improve it. Although this book is sole-authored, the broader project has based on several years of multidisciplinary collaboration with colleagues on campus, including archaeologists Matthew E. Hill and Margaret Beck. *Cookstove Chronicles* is part of Arizona University Press's Critical Green Engagements series, edited by Jim Igoe, four additional anthropologists, and a geographer. Meena is thrilled that her book (to be released in October 2024) was selected to become an open-access e-book as part of [Path to Open](#), a multi-year pilot program designed to increase access to diverse ideas and research, in partnership with ACLS, University of Michigan Press, University of North Carolina Press, and JSTOR "to provide libraries with affordable access to diverse, high-quality frontlist titles; support small and medium university presses in open access publishing; help authors reach a global audience; and advance equity of access to underserved researchers around the world". This means that after a three year delay, *Cookstove Chronicles* will become freely available to academics, students, and development practitioners in India – under a Creative Commons license. Meena also completed a paper – not part of the book – titled "Politics of Domestic Technologies: How Can US-based Feminist STS Research Illuminate Cookstove Improvement in India?" forthcoming for a special issue on "Social Inequality and Social Exclusion" of the *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, edited by Ajailiu Niumai, of University of Hyderabad.



## Katina Lillios

This year, Katina continued to carry out research on the engraved plaques of Neolithic/Copper Age Iberia, a subject she has been fascinated by for over 20 years. She coauthored a paper with Zhuo Tang and Jay Bowen (from the University of Iowa) that applies statistical and geospatial approaches to the plaques and provides new evidence that they served as genealogical records; the article is forthcoming in the *European Journal of Archaeology*. Over the summer of 2023, she traveled to Portugal to collaborate with Marta Díaz-Guardamino (Durham University) on conducting high-resolution (RTI) imaging of plaques from recently excavated sites to better understand how they were created. While in Portugal, she revisited the material she excavated at the Bronze Age/Medieval site of Agroal to prepare a museum exhibition on the site and explore possibilities for new research projects, and gave a tour of Agroal to members of a local natural history association. She also gave lectures at the Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa and at the Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Cooperação em Arqueologia Peninsular (the Association for the Development of Cooperation in Peninsular Archaeology). After Portugal, she traveled to Tübingen, Germany to give another lecture and visit some of the Paleolithic caves in the region. Closer to home, she gave papers at the meetings of American School of Overseas Research, in Chicago, and the Society for American Archaeology, in New Orleans.



**Katina with António Pardal, the landowner where Agroal is located. António's father, José, owned the land at the time she carried out excavations at the site in the 1980s.**



**Katina with Portuguese colleagues after her lecture at the Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa.**

## Andrew Kitchen

The academic year was, again, productive and exciting for the Evolutionary Anthropology group. Four graduate students (Mackenzie Cross - M.A., Danielle Johnsen - M.A., Tristan Szymanski - M.A., and Ariane Thomas - Ph.D.) and two undergraduates (Gabriella Snyder - B.S., and Chelsea Bouslog - B.S.) in the group received Anthropology degrees this year, and Zsigi celebrated his high school graduation. Whilst Gabriella, Chelsea, Tristan, Zsigi, and Ariane have moved on to new and exciting positions, we remaining members of the group (Mackenzie Cross, Danielle Johnsen, Mary Wilson, Seren Castellano, Rachel Ford, and Krishna Bharadwaj, with Lilly Spade visiting us from Luther College) are busy working on lost crops, North American dogs, SARS-CoV-2, polyomaviruses, and selection pressures acting on primate genes. It was truly a banner year for the group, and we hope to keep the ball rolling in the 2024-2025 academic year.

## Theodore Powers

During the 2023/24 academic year, I continued to develop my research while also maintaining a high level of service to the department and discipline. Relative to research, I published a peer-reviewed article titled "On Power and Policy in Post-Colonial Africa: An Introduction" in *the Journal of Contemporary African Studies*. In addition, I was invited to contribute a blog post for the Firoz Lalji Institute at the London School of Economics that detailed key findings from my 2021 peer-reviewed publication "People, policy, history: citizenship and black urban communities in South Africa," also published in the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*. My ongoing research on the COVID-19 pandemic served as the basis for a paper presented at the 2023 AAA Conference titled "Precursors to Pandemic Normalization: COVID-19, Re-Opening Policy, and Scalar Politics in the US." Relative to service, I continued to serve within the American Anthropological Association as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for the Anthropology of Policy. Across the university, I continue to serve as a member of the Graduate Education Policy Committee (GEPC), as a program committee member of the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, and as an executive board member of the Iowa Global Health Network.

## Erica Prussing

Erica's research continues to integrate medical anthropology and science & technology studies, by ethnographically examining how epidemiologists incorporate equity and justice priorities into their highly technical field. Her forthcoming book, based on work in the 2010's with epidemiologists who have developed decolonial approaches to statistically analyzing Indigenous population health, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2025. Since this project's findings highlighted needs for more structural and institutional support for decolonial and other pro-equity approaches in epidemiology, Erica's current project takes a close look at the complex cultural, social and political dynamics involved in incorporating pro-equity, anti-racist and other critical perspectives into epidemiological research and teaching. Erica's own teaching continues to include a variety undergraduate and graduate courses. She will launch the department's newly revised graduate seminar in "Ethnographic Field Methods" in spring 2025, redeveloped by multiple faculty (with generous support from the Obermann Center) to focus on a community-engaged collective project to better understand international student experiences.

## Glenn Storey

I started teaching a new course, Ancient Worlds, Modern Problems, in Classics for which I have written a textbook (published by Cognella). The course, approved for Diversity and Inclusion General Education, sets out how many of our modern world problems were also faced by people in the ancient Mediterranean world. I translate a host of classical sources with themes such as inequality, disease, gender and climate change. The students produced posters for their final projects which were displayed at the final exam. I will teach the course again in the Spring of 2025. I completed the revisions for a chapter on collapse for a University of Utah volume edited by Justine Shaw and Jordi Rivera Prince. I also signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to contribute to their Elements series with a short volume on Ancient Urban Economies. I am also co-authoring the commentary for Peter Green's translation and commentary of Herodotus' Histories for the University of California Press. That project will have the translation in one volume with my edit of the commentary for a more popular audience, and the second volume will be the detailed historical commentary. I have also just completed a manuscript on ground-penetrating radar at the site of Gangivecchio in Sicily, where we hope to send another field school in the Summer of 2025.

# CELEBRATING 20 Years

In 2023, Shari Knight was recognized by CLAS for her 20 years as the Administrative Services Coordinator for Anthropology.

Shari is the backbone of the department, both as the primary point of contact for anyone entering the main office and behind the scenes keeping faculty and students organized during the chaos of each semester. She is also an integral source of institutional

knowledge for the department, especially during the transition to a new Departmental Administrator when Beverly Poduska retired in 2019 after 30 years.

Thank you, Shari, for your over 20 years of enthusiasm and support for Anthropology!

with UI Anthropology!

*Thank you,*

*Shari!*

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