



# ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Undergraduate Research Projects

*Each year, a number of our undergraduate majors work on independent research projects under the supervision of faculty. Three Anthropology majors, featured in the following pages, describe their research projects and future plans.*



### **McCall Ransom**

*McCall is a graduating senior who received her B.A. in Anthropology in*

#### **Tell us about your research project.**

I have just finished working on my undergraduate research examining women's participation and perceptions of agroforestry and watershed conservation in Santa Fe, Panama.

#### **How did you become interested in this particular topic?**

After taking a course in Biodiversity Conservation Research, I realized my interest in Human-environment interaction. My professor, Dr. Leslie Ruyle, suggested that I work with Ph.D. student Katherine Dennis. I was interest-

ed in seeing what factors could play a role in the long-term success of agroforestry projects that have been established in the Santa Fe district.

#### **What does your research contribute to the field of anthropology?**

I believe that my research demonstrates how anthropology can be used in interdisciplinary fields to help projects aimed at conservation and development meet the specific needs of the community they serve to better their lives.

#### **What do you hope to do next?**

I plan on taking a year off to work in Austin, Texas before I enter the Peace Corps. After my service in the Peace Corps, I plan on pursuing a Ph.D.



*During spring break, McCall travelled to Panama where she observed conservation practices and interviewed local women about their participation in agroforestry projects.*

#### **HEADLINE NEWS:**

- *Two anthropology Ph.D. students (Liliana Campana and Keely Carlson) receive Post-Doctoral Fellowships from the College of Liberal Arts*
- *Dr. Darryl de Ruiter is awarded a Cornerstone Faculty Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts*
- *Ali Mendha, a graduating Anthropology major, receives the 2014 Rainbow Award from the Aggie Allies*
- *Cindy Hurt receives the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award for Staff from the Association of Former Students*

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**Judith "Annie" Melton**

*Annie Melton will be entering her senior year this fall.*

**Tell us about your current and/or upcoming research projects?**

I've been working with graduate student Jesse Tune on a paleoecological study of the Cumberland River Basin during the late Pleistocene through the Holocene periods. We conducted a preliminary study this semester, comparing two sites in the region, hoping to determine whether the local environment of archaeological sites impacted site function. Next semester, I am going to continue working with Jesse on this project, expanding the sample size with new data collected this summer. It will be interesting to see whether the results support the trend seen in our preliminary study or

if new patterns are visible. The final product will hopefully be publishable!

**How did you become interested in this particular topic?**

I came to Texas A&M knowing I wanted to do archaeology. However, I had no experience with any archaeological field. So, I began work with the CSFA [the Center for the Study of the First Americans], starting off washing samples in the lab (loving every second of it), hoping to gain as much experience as possible. It was through the CSFA that I began to work with Jesse, beginning in my freshman year. I quickly learned that I loved to work with these projects, particularly the lithic analyses! I have realized I really enjoy working with lithics!!!

**What does your research contribute to the field of anthropology?**

With regards to this specific project, our research may provide a better understanding of the relationship between the environment in the region and humans. This area is so rich in cultural material. It would be interesting to see if any patterns materialize, providing us with more data from

which we can get a step closer to understanding the people and life during the Late Pleistocene/Holocene. And, our data could in turn be useful to another researcher in the future. Essentially, research facilitates research.

**What do you hope to do next?**

As of right now, I am trying to experience as much as possible in as many areas as possible, with the hope that I will figure out what I want to do by the time I graduate!! I plan on attending graduate school but am I am unsure about the area of focus. In this upcoming year I hope to narrow down my options! This summer I am going on two field projects hoping my experiences will allow me to get closer to deciding upon an area of study.

*Annie Melton has participated in a number of archaeological excavations, including the 2013 field school in Alaska with Dr. Kelly Graf.*

*Annie presented a poster, "The Tale of Two Sites: Interpreting Human Occupations in the Cumberland River Basin through Archaeological and Paleoecological Data," at three separate conferences this spring: the Ecological Integration Symposium, Texas A&M Student Research Week, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Anthropology Conference.*

*She was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Ecological Integration Symposium, 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Anthropology Conference. She also won the departmental Undergraduate Student Research Prize.*





### Susannah "Susie" Barr

*Susie Barr will be a senior this fall. She was recently elected as the President of the Anthropological Society.*

#### **Tell us about your current research projects.**

This summer I am evaluating a community development project some friends and I started last summer in a rural community in the Dominican Republic. Our intentions were to implement a Junior Master Gardener Program curriculum in the community to educate school-aged children about health, nutrition, and gardening. We particularly focused on the gardening aspect, as it is a skill children can use at home to supplement their own nutrition. The project has had several issues since we first got it started, but the program director, a teacher who stayed beyond the summer last year, has kept it going in the community and expanded it further. My goal this summer is to make sure our efforts have been effective and that they are also sustainable.

#### **How did you become interested in this particular topic?**

My interest in the location of the project stems from an initial visit for a week after I graduated from high school. I went

there to do mission work with a local church group, which was led by a professor in the health and kinesiology department at Texas A&M. She invited me back to help her do research the following summer. My initial involvement in the gardening project itself was minimal. I mostly just helped my friends when they needed it, usually with translations and collecting supplies. As the summer progressed, the majority of the research plans fell through, and I got roped into helping with the gardening project more and more. When I left with two of my friends for the states at the end of last summer, we were pretty sure we had done something, we just weren't sure what. Part of my interest in evaluating the project is helping to answer the question of what we actually accomplished last summer. I've had an interest in applied anthropology for a while now, and this project allows me to practice being an applied anthropologist.

#### **What does your research contribute to the field of anthropology?**

My research contributes to the field of anthropology by adding another project evaluation to the general pool of knowledge about community develop-

ment projects. It's about what we did right, what we did wrong, and hopefully how we're going to fix it. I think every project needs an analysis like this.

#### **What do you hope to do next?**

I plan to go on to graduate school and pursue other applied projects. I'm interested in the tools used to do development work. I'm especially interested in how NGOs recruit volunteers and how they target certain groups for recruitment. I'm also curious about the networking of NGOs and why there isn't a master list somewhere that the public has access to. I'm not sure how I would spin those interests to work in the context of PhD, but I'll figure something out. I'm not sure if the project in the Dominican Republic will continue or for how long, but I hope to maintain a certain level of involvement with that as well.

*After visiting the Dominican Republic several times, Susie Barr developed an independent research project to study the impact of a development project.*





## Distinguished Grad Delivers 2014 Women's Week Lecture

*By Dr. Lori Wright*

Dr. Kristin Sobolik spoke to approximately 50 members of the department on February 24th as part of the department's annual Women's Week event. Each year, the department invites a prominent female scholar to describe her research, and the impact of gender on her career.

Dr. Sobolik described her career trajectory beginning as a graduate student at Texas A&M (working with Dr. Vaughn Bryant), a faculty member, center director, and associate Dean at the University of Maine, and culminating in her current position as Dean of Liberal Arts at Wright State University.

She emphasized that she has tried throughout her career to foster academic development of "big ideas" such as spearheading the development of the Climate Change Institute at U Maine. Currently, Dr. Sobolik is focused on accessibility to educational opportunities for all students, which she sees as critical to America's future.

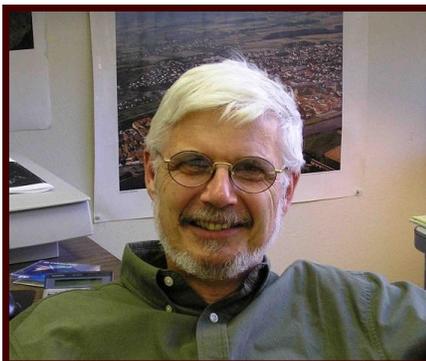
It was an exciting and inspiring talk. Faculty and graduate students enjoyed several opportunities to visit with Dr. Sobolik over the course of her short visit to campus.



*Dr. Kristin Sobolik received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Texas A&M in 1991, and is currently the Dean of Liberal Arts at Wright State University.*

## Celebrating the Career of Dr. Norbert Dannhaeuser

*By Dr. Vaughn Bryant*



*Dr. Norbert Dannhaeuser joined the department in 1981. After 33 years of distinguished service, he retired this May.*

As anthropology nears its Golden Anniversary on the A&M campus, it is important to look back at the beginning years and champion those who helped anthropology become a reality at Texas A&M. The first new faculty member, after Dr. Bryant, was Norman Thomas, a cultural anthropologist noted for his ability to build great university anthropology libraries. He did this

at Northern Arizona University, and then played an important role in building the anthropology library holdings in the Evans Library. Cynthia Gillette was the next cultural anthropologist, but she was only here for a few years.

To fill the void, we called upon Norbert, who was then a professor at Case Western Reserve University. Norbert brought us new areas of study in applied anthropology, economic anthropology, cultural ecology, study of peasants, and much more. When Norman Thomas retired, Norbert was the senior cultural anthropologist and over the years played a major role in helping to shape our graduate program and current emphasis in cultural anthropology. Along the way, he was one of only four members in the department to be awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award at the University level. His many grants, books, publications, and graduates have helped raise the image and standing

of the Department of Anthropology. His retirement will be a blow to our cultural program, but the strengths he helped build during his tenure will enable us to move forward and continue our strong cultural program.

Thank you, Norbert, for the many years of service; we all sincerely hope you have an enjoyable retirement!

*Dr. Dannhaeuser is best known for his research on markets and trade networks. During his career, he conducted ethnographic research in the Philippines, Germany, India, and Texas. His publications include: Contemporary Trade Strategies in the Philippines: A Study in Marketing Anthropology (1983); Two Towns in Germany: Commerce and the Urban Transformation (1996); and Chinese Traders in a Philippine Provincial Town: From Daily Competition to Urban Transformation (2004).*





# New Developments in the Department of Anthropology

By Dr. Cynthia Werner

This has been a busy year for the Department of Anthropology. In an effort to better serve our students, faculty have developed the following new programs:

- **M.S. in Maritime Archaeology and Conservation.** This program will prepare students for jobs in maritime museums, cultural resource management firms, and a variety of government agencies. The department will be accepting applications for this new degree program in the Fall of 2014.
- **Interdisciplinary Minor in Museum Studies.** This minor will be housed in anthropology, and will include courses from several other departments as well. Beginning this fall, students in any major will have the opportunity to add this minor to their degree program. To complete the minor, students will need to complete 15 hours of coursework, including a 3-hour internship and one other required class.
- **Undergraduate Honors Program.** This program is targeted for the academically motivated students who are interested in gaining advanced instruction in the field of anthropology and participating directly in research.

Students who participate in the departmental honors program will need to complete 18 hours of Honors-designated classes, and complete at least two high-impact learning activities, such as participating in a field school or presenting a paper at a conference. Interested students are encouraged to contact **Dr. Jeff Winking**, the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

In addition to developing these new programs, faculty have identified four “bridging themes” or concentrations that cut across the four different programs in the department:

- **Dispersals, Diasporas, and Migration**
- **Ecology and Evolution**
- **Material Culture and Technology**
- **Food, Nutrition, and Subsistence**

These themes have served as the basis for discussions about new curricular offerings, future faculty hires, and department events. Faculty have established working groups for each theme. Beginning in 2014, the department will offer a lecture series that features one outside speaker on each theme. In



*Studies of Mongolian Kazakh migrations contribute to the bridging theme on Dispersals, Diasporas, and Migration. Photo by Cynthia Werner*

the spring of 2015, the department will start to offer an annual team-taught seminar for graduate students that builds off of one of the themes.



*Studies of human evolution contribute to the bridging theme on Ecology and Evolution. Photo by Danielle Huerta.*





# Department of Anthropology Fifth Annual Conference

By *Elanor Sonderman*



*The conference took place in one of the newly renovated classrooms in the Anthropology Building. Each session was well attended.*

The Fifth Annual Department of Anthropology Conference, held on Friday, April 4, 2014, was a huge success! Keeping in step with last year's revamped conference concept, presentations and posters this year included contributions from faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. The conference gave students, professors, and other attendees the opportunity to present and learn about the diverse and interesting research that goes on within the department. From bells on ships, prehistoric utilization of manatee ribs, testing honey pollen, fishing patterns in the Caribbean to new crowdsourcing tools, the presentations really captured the diversity of anthropology.

Structured slightly less formally than professional conferences, each presenter was given feedback from the attendees regarding the strengths of the presentation as well as possible ways to improve. The first session featured presentations from Sam Cueller, a graduate student in the Nautical Ar-

chaeology Program; Crystal Dozier and Morgan Smith, both graduate students in the Archaeology Program; and Dr. Cynthia Werner, who presented a paper based on her research project on Kazakh migration. Dr. Filipe Castro

chaired the second session, which featured a presentation on his own research on the Gnalíć Shipwreck, as well as presentations from Jessica Raterman on her collaborative work researching cultural norms on campus and Dr. Vaughn Bryant investigations into 'Mad' honey. The day's final session was chaired by Dr. Jeff Winking, who presented his own research on crowdsourcing with Amazon's Mechanical Turk. Other presenters included Nautical Archaeology graduate student Kotaro Yamafune, Dr. Michael Alvard, and McCall Ransom, an undergraduate student who discussed women's roles in protecting the watershed in Panama.

During the lunch break, participants had an opportunity to attend the poster session. Three faculty members served as judges for the student poster competition – Drs. David Carlson, Sheela Athreya, Travis Du Bry, and Filipe Castro. Poster session winners included: Katie Bailey, a graduate student in Biological Anthropology, who



*During the conference, attendees had the opportunity to view several displays located on the second floor hallway. Above is the display table from the Center for the Study of the First Americans.*



*Nine students presented posters during the conference. In this photo, graduate student Rosanna Paredes explains her research project on pollen samples at a Peruvian archaeological site.*

presented a population density survey of the Gray Shanked Douc Langur from a nature reserved in Vietnam; Rosanna Peredes, a graduate student in Terrestrial Archaeology examining the pollen record at the Las Shicras site in Peru; and Annie Melton, an undergraduate student focused on Terrestrial Archaeology and her exploration of human occupations in the Cumberland River Basin.

Because we are back in the building this year, each sub-discipline was well represented through several information tables which were set up during the poster session. Tony Taylor and Chase Beck showed microscope images of pollen from numerous commonly and not-so commonly found species of plants that palynologists come across. Kersten Bergstrom displayed a wide array of primate skeletons and casts, including several skulls of extinct hominid species, tarsiers and marmosets, as well as a few examples of human pathology. Rarely viewed artifact casts from the CSFA collections were also on display thanks to Lauren Cook and Dr. Michael Waters.

Seeing the interactions between students and professors from each of the subdisciplines during the presentations, poster session and at the information tables really highlighted the importance of continuing the tradition of collaboration that this conference fosters. It was really great to see so many interested people packing the hallway

on the second floor, sharing their research and really getting to know all of the things this department has to offer.

The department would like to thank the many people and sponsors who helped make the conference a success. First, thanks to Dr. Catharina Laporte and our wonderful volunteers from the Texas A&M Anthropological Society for their help organizing the event. Additional thanks to faculty members for their enduring support, and to those who presented their research and manned the information tables. Finally many thanks to our generous sponsors: Paleo-Tech concepts who donated t-shirts and calipers; MaxQDA who provided conference pens and pads; Occoquan Paleotechnics who donated Paleoinidian point casts; W.W. Norton who donated numerous books; and to Pearson and McGraw-Hill Higher Education who provided breakfast and lunch for conference participants.

*All photos courtesy of Danielle Huerta.*



*Above, graduate student Tony Taylor demonstrates the methods used to identify pollen samples found in the archaeological record.*





## Perishable Technologies Workshop with Edward Jolie

By Marion Coe



Marion Coe talks with expert in perishable technologies, Edward Jolie.

The workshop began with an open lecture on the basics of perishables in an archaeological setting. The workshop was well-attended by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students. Anthropology students Marion Coe, John Blong, Josh Keene, Casey Wayne Riggs, Tim DeSmet, Angie Perrotti, Tony Taylor, Chase Beck, Caroline Ketron, and Danielle Huerta all spent the rest of the weekend learning about cordage, netting, and twined, coiled, and plaited basketry.

Ed brought along ethnographic examples of baskets from around the country. The workshop utilized archaeological artifacts from CSFA labs and the Department of Anthropology Collections. Participants had the opportunity to work with baskets, mats, cordage, and sandals from Bonneville Estates Rockshelter, Hinds Cave, and Granado Cave. Participants were also given a quick tour of the department's collections facilities.

By the end of the workshop, everyone felt capable of conducting basic analysis of the common perishable artifacts they may run across in the field, lab, or in a museum setting.

The Department of Anthropology was pleased to host a "Perishable Technologies" workshop on March 27-29, led by expert Edward Jolie from Mercyhurst University. The workshop was organized by Marion Coe (a graduate student affiliated with the Center for the Study of the First Americans) and

funded by the College of Liberal Arts.

Archaeologists frequently encounter "perishable technologies" such as baskets, sandals, and textiles. This workshop provided students with basic skills for working with and analyzing perishable technologies.

## Remote Sensing Survey Workshop with J. B. Pelletier

By Sam Cuellar

J.B. Pelletier is a Senior Nautical Archaeologist and Remote Sensing Specialist from URS Corporation. From 12 to 16 May 2014, seven graduate students from the Nautical Archaeology Program teamed with two Maritime Studies undergraduate students from Texas A&M Galveston (TAMUG) to participate in a weeklong Remote Sensing workshop held on the TAMUG campus in Galveston. Remote sensing

techniques are becoming increasingly important in archaeology, and allow archaeologists to uncover data that is not available through traditional excavation techniques.

During the workshop, Instructor J.B. Pelletier disseminated decades of technical knowledge and experience to teach students shipboard safety and remote sensing techniques. Students spent the first three days in the classroom, followed by the fourth day in the field collecting data, and used the final

day to process and interpret the collected data.

A significant amount of time was spent learning vessel safety, risk mitigation, and navigation in preparation for boat operations in the field. Safety topics included awareness of motion, energized systems, chemical risks, and environmental factors. These topics were taught through lecture, discussion, and demonstrations designed to have the students evaluate images from past projects and identify potential safety





## Remote Sensing Survey Workshop, Continued



*Karl Krussell and José Luis Casaban discuss the ongoing survey with J.B. Pelletier aboard TAMUG's R/V Earl Milan.*

hazards. Other essential skills covered included maritime radio protocol, rope and knot work, weather patterns, and navigation lighting.

Following the first day focusing on safety and boat operations, attention shifted to learning software and hardware common to underwater archaeologists in the field. Students worked with Hypack and SeaScan PC software programs for use with a Marine Sonic single frequency side-scan sonar and a Geometrics G-882 magnetometer, and a Trimble GPS system. Mr. Pelletier taught students how to plan a survey, safely set up equipment, run the survey, and interpret the resulting data. The main point reiterated by Mr. Pelletier was an emphasis of safety over data collection. State Underwater Archaeologist Amy Borgens was on hand from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to lend her expertise.

On the third day, students had the opportunity to visit TAMUG's R/V Earl L. Milan, measuring and assessing the boat for the fourth day's outing to collect data. Several problems were identified and solved by the students, with direction

from Mr. Pelletier, such as electricity sources, wire routing, and placement of equipment to provide an effective and safe working environment for crew and students.

On the fourth day, equipment was loaded and connected, and after a few minor hiccups, all sensors were running properly. Students examined two targets, collecting

excellent data on an unidentified wreck off of Pelican Island with both side-scan sonar and the magnetometer.

The final day was spent learning to interpret and organize the data collected the previous day. Students cleaned and packaged the data in a readable form to forward to the THC and Amy Borgens to supplement their file on the target inspected and to fulfill stipulations for Texas archaeological permits.

In addition to the URS Corporation and the THC, several other organizations and sponsors helped make the workshop possible, including the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation (CMAC) and the Texas A&M Anthropology

Department. CMAC provided funding which proved critical to the success of the workshop and the Anthropology Department facilitated logistics and travel. Hypack, Inc. provided the use of 20 software licenses for use during the course, allowing students to individually learn the software. The Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) donated the use of the side-scan sonar, magnetometer, GPS, and field laptop computer—all essential to fieldwork. Tom Oertling, an instructor in Maritime Studies at TAMUG, provided invaluable support in facilitating lodging, boat use, and logistics in Galveston. PepsiCo donated refreshments.

A final special thank you to Mr. Pelletier who donated his time in-kind. He selflessly imparted his secrets to producing high-quality data and years of experience safely undertaking surveys to all of the participants.



*José Casaban examines a side-scan sonar image during an exercise to become more familiar with how side-scan data imaged different objects underwater.*





## Two Anthropology Graduate Students Receive Post-Doctoral Fellowships from the College of Liberal Arts

This year, the College of Liberal Arts launched a new Post-Doctoral Fellowship program for graduate students at Texas A&M University. These \$30,000 fellowships provides recent Ph.D. students with an additional year to strengthen their research and teaching profiles before entering the academic job market. Recipients are expected to teach one course per semester, while focusing most of their time on publishing their research. Ten fellowships were awarded this year, including two to anthropology graduate students who are scheduled to graduate in August 2014: Liliana Campana and Keely Carlson.



**Liliana Campana**

Broadly speaking, my research interests lie in the history of the Mediterranean from Antiquity until the eighteenth century. More precisely, my investigations focus on Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern written sources centering on maritime history and the history of science and technology, which includes navigation, seaman-ship, commerce, trade, maritime law, cartography, naval architecture and

warfare, mechanics, and geography, among others. Framed within a global prospective of maritime history, my research examines the complex dynamics that shaped the Mediterranean world and the way in which many diverse cultures interacted with one another. I also investigate the modalities involving the possession and transmission of knowledge from the Mediterranean maritime milieu and beyond.

My research draws from extensive documentation I have uncovered over a decade of research in Italian and European archives and libraries, including Classical sources, medieval and Humanistic Latin, Greek, and Italian writings, as well as vernacular manuscripts. I aim to delineate the cultural and historical circumstances that shaped the Mediterranean as an open and dynamic space, and contributed to create a climate of acceptance for “the other,” regardless the different socio-economic background, religion, race, gender, age, ethnicity, and national origin.

In my dissertation, I investigate the role of the Venetian humanist and naval architect Vettor Fausto (1490-1546) and his contributions to naval architecture and Venetian Humanism. Fausto’s most outstanding work is undoubtedly his *Mechanica* (Paris, 1517), the first Latin translation of the Aristotelian treatise on mechanics made available to the Western World. This translation eventually would pave the way for the Scientific Revolution initiated by Galileo Galilei. Fausto’s technological innovations were copied and adopted in France, Spain, England, and the Ottoman Empire, the most powerful maritime countries in the complex geo-politics of the Mediterranean at the time.

During my post-doctoral tenure, I will expand the topic of my dissertation and work toward a final publication in order to make the results of my interdisciplinary research available to the scholarly community. In addition, I will also teach two new courses, which are open to both undergraduate and graduate students: *History of the Mediterranean, 1400-1700* (Fall 2014) and *Global Perspectives in Maritime History* (Spring 2015).



**Keely Carlson**

Keely Carlson is a paleoanthropologist with a focus on hominin cranio-facial morphology and variation. Only a single juvenile cranium, designated MH1, has yet been recovered for the recently announced species, *Australopithecus sediba*, from the Malapa fossil site located in South Africa. Outside commentators have questioned whether the degree and nature of change expected to occur between MH1’s current stage of development and full adulthood might be substantial enough to alter current interpretations of this species. In particular, the Malapa research

*(Continued on page 10)*





### *Post-Docs, continued*

team has faced two diametrically opposed criticisms related to the sub-adult status of MH1. First, critics have questioned the status of *Au. sediba* as a distinct species, separate from *Au. africanus*. Second, critics have suggested that *Au. sediba* should be placed within the genus *Homo* rather than *Australopithecus*.

Keely's dissertation, entitled "Developmental simulation of the adult cranial morphology of *Australopithecus sediba*," addresses this concern using geometric morphometric techniques. By applying landmark-based developmental vectors derived from chimpanzees, gorillas, and modern humans, Keely was able to generate 3D virtual renderings of the adult cranial morphology of MH1. These simulated adults were then com-

pared with other hominin species from southern and East Africa through multivariate statistics. The results indicate that the total amount of variation present within the sample of simulated adult *Au. sediba* crania does not exceed that of other extant hominoid species. Further, all simulated adults were shown to be more similar to one another than to other hominin species included in the comparative sample. Therefore, the results of this study indicate that any future developmental change in the MH1 cranium would be unlikely to influence current interpretations of *Au. sediba* as a distinct species. Further, these results do not suggest a need to reassign the Malapa hominins to the genus *Homo*.

During her tenure as a post-doctoral fellow, Keely hopes to publish her results and expand her dissertation research to include a broader comparative sample of hominin crania from East Africa and Asia. She also plans to investigate questions beyond *Au. sediba*, studying transitional forms within the *H. erectus* taxon, with a particular focus on the Daka cranium from East Africa. This fall, Keely will be teaching ANTH 314, Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution.

## Milo E. Carlson Dissertation Award in Biological Anthropology

This spring, the department was fortunate to receive a generous donation from Gene Carlson in order to establish the Milo E. Carlson Graduate Student Dissertation Award in Biological Anthropology. This annual award provides \$5,000 to a Texas A&M graduate student in support of their fieldwork in biological anthropology.

**Willa Trask** has been designated as the first recipient of this award for her dissertation, entitled "Colonial period diaspora to the southern Maya Frontier: Investigating immigration to Tipu, Belize through the use of radiogenic strontium and stable oxygen isotopes."

Willa's project utilizes stable and radiogenic isotopes to investigate the geographic origin of individuals interred at the early Colonial *visita*

mission, Tipu. After the Spanish conquest of the Yucatan peninsula in the 16th century, many Maya are believed to have sought refuge from the oppressive Spanish colonial administration by migrating to remote forest communities, such as Tipu. This project will provide a means to identify the homelands of individuals interred at Tipu, and thus provide a means to scientifically test whether the community at Tipu grew as a result of a diaspora of indigenous Maya fleeing Spanish control, or as a result of local endogenous growth.

Funding from the Milo E. Carlson Dissertation Award will support travel to analyze Tipu skeletal assemblages located at the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Vermont.



**Willa Trask**



## Recent Grants and Awards

Four graduate students received the Vision 2020 Dissertation Enhancement Award from the College of Liberal Arts. Congratulations to **Rachael Bible, José Casaban, Josh Keene, and Staci Willis**. These awards provide \$5,000 towards dissertation research expenses.

Thirteen graduate students received Professional Development Awards from the College of Liberal Arts this spring: **John Albertson, Kersten Bergstrom, Tim Campbell, Bonny Christy, Lauren Cook, Caroline Ketron, Ali Krzton, Josh Lynch, Jared Miracle, Melissa Mueller, Rosana Paredes, Neil Puckett, Heather Smith, Grace Tsai, and Sunshine Thomas**. These awards allow students to pursue programs, certificates, and other courses.



**Lori Fields** was awarded a 2014-2015 Fulbright U.S. Student Award for research in the Philippines. Her dissertation project examines local attitudes towards two non-human primates in the Philippines: the Philippine tarsier and the Philippine long-tailed macaque. This project will help implement sustainable conservation practices.

**Shannon Hodges** earned an Explorers Club Grant for \$2,000 to study the effects of habitat destruction on the parental care patterns of the Rio Beni Titi Monkey in Bolivia. The Explorers Club is an international multidisciplinary society that provides grants in support of exploration and field research.



**Cindy Hurt** received the *Distinguished Achievement Award for Staff from the Texas A&M Association of Former Students*. This honor is given to professionals who have exhibited the highest standards of excellence at Texas A&M University. Cindy has been with the university for almost 25 years. She joined the Department of Anthropology in 2004 as the Assistant to the Department Head.

**Drs. Darryl de Ruiter and Sheela Athreya** both received a Seed Grant from the College of Liberal Arts. These \$15,000 awards support preliminary research.

**Dr. Darryl de Ruiter** also received a Cornerstone Faculty Fellowship from the



**Ali Mendha** (BA 2014) was recently presented with the 2014 Texas A&M Rainbow Award from Aggie Allies. The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to diversity by serving as a role model and by contributing to the education of the TAMU community regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people and issues. Ali has been a leader in two campus groups devoted to GLBT issues – *Shades of Queer* and the *Rainbow Initiative*.

College of Liberal Arts. The college awards four fellowships annually to full or advanced associate professors who have developed outstanding professional records. The awards provide \$30,000 over a four-year period.

**Anne Arundel Locker-Thaddeus and Jared Miracle**, graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program, have been awarded a Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship for 2014-2015. Jared also received a Research Award for his project, "Come a Good Punch-Up: Robert W. Smith and the American Invention of Asian Martial Arts."

**Judith "Annie" Melton** was awarded





## Awards, continued

the 2014 Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Research Prize for her poster, "The Tale of Two Sites: Interpreting Human Occupation in the Cumberland River Basin through Archaeological and Paleoecological Data."

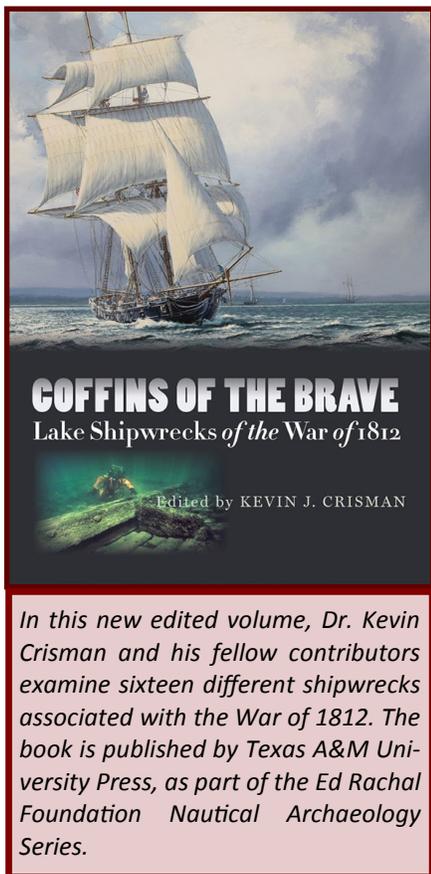
This spring, the following anthropology majors received Undergraduate Research and Travel Grants from the

Department of Anthropology: **Susanah Barr, Danielle Huerta, Jude Magaro, Judith Melton, Ali Mendha, Fanny Turcios, and Meghan Watt.** These awards are intended to fund independent research or participation in an archaeological field school.

**Tyler Laughlin** was designated as the 2014 recipient of the Erkut Arcak Graduate Scholarship. This \$1,000 award is

presented annually to a Ph.D. student in nautical archaeology with research interests in Turkey. The award is supported by donations from the friends and family of Erkut Arcak. This summer, Tyler is participating in the Burgaz Harbor project in Turkey, as part of his dissertation research on the relocation of harbors in antiquity.

## Other Departmental News



*In this new edited volume, Dr. Kevin Crisman and his fellow contributors examine sixteen different shipwrecks associated with the War of 1812. The book is published by Texas A&M University Press, as part of the Ed Rachal Foundation Nautical Archaeology Series.*

**Jared Miracle**, a PhD candidate in the Cultural Anthropology Program, created and uploaded the finding guide for the Robert W. Smith Collection to the Archon database. Finally, Jared's paper, "Supernatural Sources of Martial Power: A Cross-Cultural Investigation," was just published in the *Revista de Artes Marciales Asiaticas*, an interdisci-

plinary journal based at the University of Leon.

*National Geographic* author Jane Lee cited interviews with **Drs. Cemal Pulak and Shelley Wachsmann** in her March 2014 article entitled "Five Shipwrecks Lost to Time That Archaeologists Would Love to Get Their Hands On."

**Jenny Riebenspies** (BA 2012) is currently working as a Library Specialist at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives. She has been accepted to Drexel University's MA program in Library Science with an emphasis in Archival Studies.

**Michael Waters** recently co-authored an article in *Nature* magazine that applies genome sequencing to the Ice Age skeletal remains of a young boy to determine that the child descended from people living in Asia, not Europe. These findings were reported in national media outlets, including the *NY Times*.

**John Littlefield** will be spending the 2014-15 year at the Texas A&M University-Qatar campus as a Dissertation Fellow. John will be working closely with Trinidad Rico who was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the TAMU-Q campus.

**Georgia Fox** (PhD 1998) has been selected as Lantis Endowed University Chair at the to continue her excavations in the Caribbean. Georgia is cur-

at the California State University-Chico where she is a Professor of Anthropology. This award provides \$40,000 in support of her archaeological research in Antigua on European colonization and the Atlantic slave trade.



This spring, members of the Department of Anthropology were actively involved with projects at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. In January, **Dr. Wayne Smith** presented a lecture "Ironclad Mystery: Faces in History" in conjunction with an exhibit on "Monitor and Virginia: Ironclads at War."

In February, **Justin Parkoff** and **Jessika Stika** (MA 2013) presented a lecture "Reconstructing the USS Westfield, A Civil War Gunboat." The USS Westfield was destroyed in the Battle of Galveston during the Civil War. Justin and Jessika have been working to conserve the shipwreck remains at the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M, under the supervision of **Dr. Donny Hamilton**.

And, finally, in May, **Dr. Kelly Graf** presented the opening lecture for a new exhibit entitled "Ice Age: Brazos Valley and Beyond."





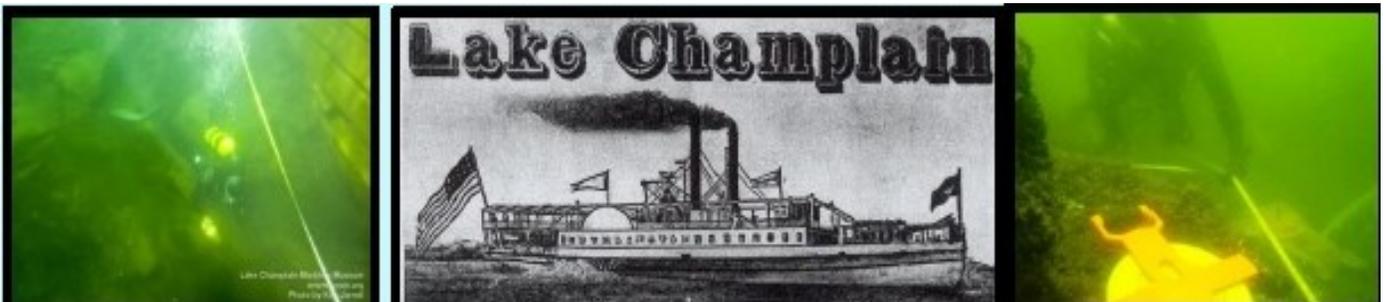
## Department of Anthropology Summer Field Schools

### Field School in Beringian Archaeology in Alaska



During Summer 2014, Dr. Ted Goebel will lead an archaeological field school in central Alaska, investigating late Pleistocene/early Holocene paleoecology and prehistory. Using the beautiful Alaska Range and Tanana basin as outdoor laboratories, students will explore the landscapes traversed by the earliest people of Beringia, participating in excavations of buried and stratified archaeological sites dating as early as 13,000 years ago, and they will assist in a survey for new sites. During the field school, students will learn skills in paleoenvironmental analysis, artifact identification, mapping with a total station EDM, survey strategies, as well as excavation and conservation of artifacts, faunal remains, floral remains, and features. Students will register for 6 hours of credit through ANTH 330.

### Field School on Steamboat Shipwrecks at Lake Champlain



During Summer 2014, Dr. Kevin Crisman will lead an underwater archaeology field school at Lake Champlain. This field school will survey four pre-1850 steamboat wrecks in an attempt to identify and document them. Students will learn how to record and measure ship timbers underwater, gain hands on experience on wreck sites, and learn nautical archaeology from Texas A&M University and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum professionals. This field school is co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, the Institute for Nautical Archaeology, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Students will register for 6 hours of credit through ANTH 330 or ANTH 660.





## Featured Anthropology Courses in Fall 2014



### **ANTH 489-500 — History of the Mediterranean, 1400-1700**

*(Instructor: Lilia Campana)*

Come aboard and sail with us around the Mediterranean! Learn about the different cultures and societies of the Mediterranean from 1400 to 1700, the political intrigues, espionage, the rise and fall of maritime Empires, trade, commerce, plagues, pilgrimages and voyages, explorers, sailors and mariners, pirates, cannons, ships, naval battles, nautical charts and tools, art, architecture, and much more!

### **ANTH 489-502 — The Australopiths**

*(Instructor: Darryl de Ruiter)*

This new course is an introduction to the australopiths of Africa, and to the methods used in the reconstruction of paleoecology and paleoenvironment in human evolutionary studies. Debates regarding the origin and evolution of humans and their australopith ancestors often revolve around differing interpretations of morphology, taxonomy, phylogeny, as well as environmental stasis/change in the past. We will be examining how these diverse variables interacted to influence not only the evolution of the australopiths in the past, but also, our modern interpretation of their evolution. This course is intended to provide students with a detailed understanding of the evolution of the early hominin lineage, from our earliest ape ancestors more than 5 million years ago to the appearance of our own genus, Homo, sometime around 2 million years ago.



### **ANTH 689-602 — Ancient Foodways and Cooking Technology**

*(Instructor: Alston Thoms)*

This seminar addresses worldwide development and proliferation of cooking technologies in contexts of human evolution, subsistence and settlement behavior, social organization, and especially ethnographic and archaeological manifestations thereof. Lectures focus on hunter-gatherer populations and wild food resources. Learning outcomes include understanding: (1) ecology of important plants, terrestrial animals, and aquatic foods, and their nutrients and cooking requirements; (2) fire-based cooking, fermentation, and other techniques; (3) underlying theoretical and methodological issues and critiques thereof; and (4) as per individual research interests, a detailed perspective on a selected cooking topic or method, via a review/synthetic paper and presenting/discussing aspects thereof in class.





## Fall 2014 Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

<i>Course Number (ANTH)</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Bldg/Room</i>	<i>Days/Time</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
201	Introduction to Anthropology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
202	Introduction to Archaeology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
205	Peoples and Cultures of the World	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple sections
210	Social and Cultural Anthropology	Multiple sections	Multiple sections	Multiple Sections
225	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	HECC 108	TR 11:10-12:25	Sharon Gursky-Doyen
305	Fundamentals of Anthropological Writing	ANTH 237	W 12:40-1:30	Brittany Staff
312	Fossil Evidence of Human Evolution	ANTH 130	TR 2:20-3:35	Keely Carlson
313	Historical Archaeology	ANTH 130	TR 9:35-10:50	Donny Hamilton
316	Nautical Archaeology	RICH 101	TR 11:10-12:25	Wayne Smith
324	Music in World Cultures	Multiple Sections	Multiple Sections	Multiple Sections
335	Cultures of Central Asia	ANTH 130	TR 12:45-2:20	Cynthia Werner
340	Folklore and the Supernatural	ANTH 237	TR 8:00-9:15	Tom Green
353	Archaeology of Ancient Greece	MILS 214	TR 3:55-5:10	Deborah Carlson
360	Ancient Civilizations	ANTH 130	TR 12:45-2:00	David Carlson
412	Archaeological Theory	ANTH 237	TR 12:45-2:00	Suzanne Eckert
415	Anthropological Writing	ANTH 130	TR 3:55-5:10	Staci Willis
423	Bioarchaeology	ANTH 300B	MW 10:20-11:35	Lori Wright
425	Human Osteology	ANTH 300	MW 3:45-5:00	Lori Wright
427	Human Variation	ANTH 300B	TR 11:10-12:25	Sheela Athreya
489	History of the Mediterranean, 1400-1700	ANTH 237	TR 9:35-10:50	Lilia Campana
489	The Australopiths	ANTH 130	TR 2:20-3:35	Darryl de Ruiter
601	Biological Anthropology	ANTH 130	TR 11:10-12:25	Darryl de Ruiter
604	Cultural Method and Theory	ANTH 236	TR 12:45-2:00	Mike Alvard
605	Conservation of Archaeological Resources I	ANTH 101	TR 2:00-5:00	Donny Hamilton
610	Outfitting and Sailing the Wooden Ship, 1400-1900	ANTH 236	R 9:00-12:00	Kevin Crisman
614	Books—Treatises on Ships	ANTH 105	W 9:00-12:00	Filipe Castro
623	Folk Narrative	ANTH 300B	TR 9:35-10:50	Tom Green
638	Proposal Writing in Anthropology	ANTH 236	T 9:00-12:00	Suzanne Eckert
649	Origin and Evolution of the Genus <i>Homo</i>	ANTH 300B	T 2:20-5:20	Sheela Athreya
654	Archaeological Photography	ANTH 108	W 1:00-4:00	Wayne Smith
667	Human Variation	ANTH 300B	TR 11:10-12:25	Sheela Athreya
689	Great Basin Prehistory and Paleoecology	ANTH 236	W 2:00-5:00	Ted Goebel
689	Ancient Foodways and Cooking Technology	ANTH 236	TR 2:20-3:35	Alston Thoms





# Congratulations to our Recent Graduates!



## **BA Graduates**

### **December 2013**

Crystal Brooks  
 Laura Domeracki  
 Richard Field  
 David Garcia Sanchez  
 Stephanie Gongora  
 Tawnya Heilman  
 Jennifer Muench  
 Caleb Mullins  
 Sarah Petta  
 Danielle San Miguel  
 Michael Smith

### **May 2014**

Ian Babowicz  
 Clinton Brooks  
 Chelsea Caunt  
 Anthony Clay  
 Celeste Cleveland  
 Isabelle Erickson  
 Kimberlyl Pito-An Evans  
 Claire Faetche  
 Stephanie Foster  
 Alma Garcia  
 Caitlin Gilmore  
 Crystal Gonzales

Francisco Gonzalez  
 Jacqueline Harman  
 Katherine Hogaboom  
 Analicia Leiva  
 Jude Magaro  
 Chelsea Martinez  
 Tiffani McGee  
 Ali Mendha  
 Evan Merritt  
 DaLisa Owens  
 Greg Owens  
 McCall Ransom  
 Sara Reichert

Steven Richards  
 Shelby Sharp  
 Adrian Siller  
 Adriana Simmons  
 Wilson Spreier  
 Laura Trevisani  
 Elizabeth Vilchez  
 Marisol Villanueva  
 Amanda Whiteside  
 Alyssa Wright  
 Alexander Yarnell  
 Nicole Yzaguirre

## **M.A. Graduates**

### **December 2013**

Megan Collier  
 Michael Gilbert  
 Laura Gongaware

### **May 2014**

Shannon Bowman Camacho  
 Jessica Dangott

Casey Wayne Riggs  
 Evan Stewart

## **Ph.D. Graduates**



**Maria Parks Crouch**

“Testing the Subsistence Model for the Adoption of Ceramic Technology Among Coastal Foragers of Southern Brazil”

*Advisor: Lori Wright*



**Catharina Laporte**

“The Evolution of Variability in Magic, Divination and Religion: A Multi-Level Selection Analysis”

*Advisor: Mike Alvard*



**Daniel Welch**

“Reconsidering Lapita Ancestry: Evidence of Material Change and Migration on Tutuila Island, American Samoa”

*Advisor: Suzanne Eckert*



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*The Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Anthropology. The department has 24 faculty members in four different programs—Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, and Nautical Archaeology. The department has over 200 undergraduate majors and over 100 graduate students working on MA and PhD degrees.*

*For questions about the department, please contact our Department Head, **Dr. Cynthia Werner** ([werner@tamu.edu](mailto:werner@tamu.edu)).*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:**

**[ANTHROPOLOGY.TAMU.EDU](http://ANTHROPOLOGY.TAMU.EDU)**

*Thank you to **Jessica Dangott, McCall Ransom, Judith "Annie" Melton, Susie Barr, Dr. Lori Wright, Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Dr. Cynthia Werner, Elanor Sonderman, Marion Coe, Lilia Campana, Keely Carlson, Sam Cuellar, Tim de Smet, Danielle Huerta, Drs. Darryl de Ruiter, Ted Goebel, and Alston Thoms** for contributing to parts of this newsletter issue! Your assistance is greatly appreciated.*

*If you have information for upcoming issues of our newsletter, please contact **Jared Miracle** ([jaredmiracle@neo.tamu.edu](mailto:jaredmiracle@neo.tamu.edu)).*



## Gifts to the Department of Anthropology



The Department of Anthropology benefits from the generosity of friends, alumni, and patrons who share in our commitment to excellence in educating the next generation of anthropologists. Please consider a gift to the Department of Anthropology today. With your support, we will continue to transform the lives of our students. Donations can be made [online](#).

Tax-deductible contributions to the "Department of Anthropology Excellence Fund" are used to support recurrent research-related experiences, including undergraduate research, graduate student research and conference travel, the department's lecture series, faculty conference travel, and other things that contribute to the scholarly mission of the department.

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