

FIELD NOTES

2008-09

Department of Anthropology at Purdue University

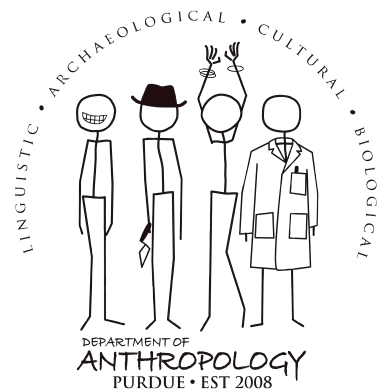
FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Our separate Department of Anthropology was launched in Fall 2008, building on a long history of anthropology teaching and degrees from within the former Department of Sociology and Anthropology. We are pleased to offer a wide array of specializations, as you will see from the faculty profiles and the course descriptions.

Please visit our website at www.cla.purdue.edu/anthropology.

Our faculty and staff are happy to help you find the courses and information you need. And we are always pleased to hear from our Alumni!

Best wishes
Ellen Gruenbaum, Head



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ANTHROPOLOGY OPEN HOUSE - EXPLORE ANTHROPOLOGY!



At noon on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, the Department of Anthropology held a ribbon cutting to officially open our new suite of offices in Stone Hall. There were demonstrations and interesting displays in the hallway, labs and offices on the west end of the second floor. Visitors talked with archaeologists and biological anthropologists in their labs, observed cultural anthropologists demonstrating their specializations, took in the posters and displays about on-going research and courses. Following a sage burning ceremony around Stone Hall conducted by Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum earlier in the day, everyone gathered at the main entrance of the new office suite for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Along with Ellen, the “village elders” include Viktor Gecas, Head of Sociology, Rich Blanton, professor of Anthropology, Randy Woodson, Provost, John Contreni, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and O. Michael Watson, emeritus professor of Anthropology, who cut the ribbon at ceremony’s end.

SPONSORED SPEAKERS

The Department of Anthropology was pleased to co-sponsor a couple of campus events that linked us with other colleges. One of these was the 2nd annual symposium of the Purdue Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) program, on "Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature for a Sustainable World," held on December 5, 2008. The second talk in the Spring 2009 Anthropology Colloquium Series was entitled "Globalization Begins at Home: A Household Perspective on the Expansion of the Wage Labor Economy" presented by Dr. Crawford, Associate Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and International Studies at Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT.



We are proud and delighted to feature some of our students who have made great strides in their work during the past academic year.



ANTHROPOLOGY'S 2009 HONOR THESIS UNDERGRAD SENIOR

Morgan Devlin is graduating this spring with Honors in Anthropology. In collaboration with Dr. Michele Buzon, Morgan has completed an Honors Thesis entitled, "Parasitic Pathology in Mummified Remains: An overview of mummification methods, research methods, what can be learned about past disease, and implications for modern populations." Morgan plans to pursue graduate studies in bioarchaeology this fall at the University of Southern Mississippi.

AAPA PRESENTER—GRAD STUDENT KATIE SMITH

Katie Smith is currently developing her dissertation project on the health and welfare of captive western lowland gorillas. She has recently received Honorable Mention at the Sigma Xi poster competition and will present a poster entitled, "Observing Stress in Captive Western Lowland Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) Through Behavioral Observations and Fecal Cortisol" at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting in Chicago on April 2.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—GRAD STUDENT LESLEY DASPIT

Lesley Daspit returned from the field with her family at the end of fall semester 2008. She spent 11 months in the Central African Republic conducting her dissertation research on the role of women in the commerce and conservation of wildlife. Her research received support from the National Science Foundation, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and Purdue University. Lesley is currently at home in Texas analyzing data and writing her dissertation.

JOURNAL DEVELOPER—GRAD STUDENT BRAD CODR

Brad Codr, a Ph.D. student in anthropology, received a Bilsland Strategic Initiative Fellowship for 2008-09. The fellowship supports the development of an open-access academic journal, *Journal of Contemporary Anthropology*. The goals of the journal are to provide an on-line outlet for innovative research and increase professionalization opportunities for graduate students in anthropology. The project is supervised by Professors Richard Blanton and Andrew Buckser. The first volume will be published in the summer of 2009.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA-GRAD STUDENT CAROLYN JOST



Grad student **Carolyn Jost** is off doing her Ph.D. field research in the Central African Republic on the topic of “Sustainability of Wildlife Use and Conservation in a Central African Forest: Primate and ungulate responses.” Her work involves integrating ecological data on primate and ungulate abundance in various remote forest locations with ethnographic interviews with hunters on changes in their practices and use of these species over time in the protected area. She spends many long day and nighttime hours walking in remote parts of the forest looking for several species of animals and their signs. Colleagues and friends have enjoyed keeping up with her through her postings on her “travelblog.” Here’s a sample:

“I still haven't seen any gorillas. However my first sighting of chimpanzees at Mabae was one of the greatest days in the forest. In the early morning, I usually spend the time trying to look for monkeys. Upon noticing the familiar black blobs in the tree that indicate a backlit primate in the morning, I stopped immediately, as I knew this was no monkey. There is no mistaking the movements and the shape that you have spent all of your life looking at in books, in zoos, and on TV, not to mention the countless hours spent studying them in school. There were three chimpanzees, and it was spectacular! Most of the BaAka people couldn't help but laugh at how excited I was about it.”

Carolyn’s research is supported by her Purdue Doctoral Fellowship and a small grant from Primate Conservation, the American Society of Primatologists, Inc., and the Andrews Environmental Fund at Purdue. We were pleased to be able to assist her in the costs with a small allocation from the Department of Anthropology Gift Fund. More on Carolyn's research can be found at her travelblog: <http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog-entries/cjost/1/1217262240/tpod.html>



Brandi Wren is currently conducting her PhD field research on primates and parasites in South Africa. She has funding from the Wenner Gren and the LSB Leakey Foundations for Anthropological Research. Clip from Brandi's Field Blog:

I am very happy to report I had good monkey time this week. I've followed The River Group for almost 5 hours at a time, and they keep letting me get closer and closer. It really takes getting close to be able to learn to identify each individual in the group. Today I was able to name 3 more members of the River Group, which was very exciting. This week I finally ventured onto the island in the river that the River Group spends a good deal of time on. Between the shallow water and the large rocks, it is possible to cross to the island from one side at a couple of spots. But, there are crocodiles in the river, and the riverbanks and the island are covered in really tall grasses — above waist-high. So, it's not exactly the safest thing. Crocodiles are one of the few predators that naturally view humans as prey, so I'm a little uncomfortable with that!

You can read more of Brandi's field blog, and more about her research, at: http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~bwren/Field_Blog/Field_Blog.html

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHER FOR 2009—DIANA HOWELL

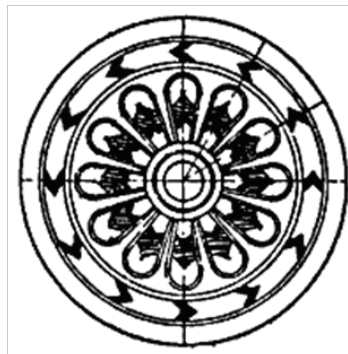
Diana Howell was recently honored by the Committee on the Education of Teaching Assistants and the Provost for her excellence in graduate student teaching. Diana's teaching philosophy gives a great deal of thought to the best approaches to use for conveying anthropological knowledge to our students. Her commitment to being approachable, respectful, and helpful is the foundation for successful teaching. This is particularly so when dealing with the challenges of addressing such topics as human evolution and other cultures with a broad spectrum of students, most of whom are not anthropology majors. Congratulations, Diana!

REGIONAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE PAPER—SARAH CROSS

Congratulations to **Sarah Cross**! Her paper on "*Egyptian Strategies of Imperial Control: The Biological Identity of a Periphery Population*" has been accepted to the Regional Graduate Conference, to be hosted by the University of Notre Dame, October 11-13, 2009. The paper will be part of a panel on "Forging Identity in Empire." The conference is able to offer support to the graduate student participants, including travel, accommodation, and subsistence allowance. We are very pleased to see our graduate students engaging in professional activities and getting recognition!

ISO-CAMP 2009—SARAH SCHRADER

This summer Master's student **Sarah Schrader** will represent Purdue at the annual Stable Isotopes in Ecology Short Course at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The short course is an intense, two-week laboratory and lecture program designed to train graduate students from an array of disciplines. Sarah can utilize stable isotope analysis within her own subfield, bioarchaeology, the study of human remains from archaeological contexts. By comparing stable isotopes to chemical elements an isotopic signature can be created and trophic levels, subsistence and migration patterns can be determined. With this training, in association with the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences department, Sarah will be able to conduct her own stable isotope analysis for her dissertation research at Purdue. The isotope short course will put Sarah in contact with other departments and universities from around the world, linking Purdue to a broader academic network.



IN MEMORIAM



Jack O'Brien Waddell, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology: 1934-2009

The year began with a sad note for Anthropology at Purdue when we learned of the death of Jack Waddell, who died in Corvallis, Oregon in January 2009 after undergoing heart surgery.

After receiving his PhD from the University of Arizona in 1966 Jack joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology at Purdue as the only anthropologist, and was instrumental in building the anthropology program here. In 1970, when a joint Department of Sociology and Anthropology was created, Jack became the Chair of the Anthropology Section, and served in that capacity until 1977. Jack continued to be an important figure in the growth of anthropology at Purdue until his retirement in 1995, after which he moved to the Pacific Northwest. At the time of his retirement the Anthropology Section had reached eight faculty members and, fortunately, he lived to receive news of the creation of a separate Department of Anthropology with 14 faculty in 2008.

Jack was a serious scholar, a mentor and teacher who gave generously of his time and wisdom, and a valued colleague who possessed a playful personality. After completing his dissertation fieldwork with the Papago of the American Southwest, his research interests continued to focus on Native Americans and alcohol use. He was the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of numerous books, monographs, and journal articles reflecting these interests. In the 1970's Jack added as one of his interests the contact between French traders and trappers and Native Americans in the Great Lakes area. A reflection of the interests was that he was an enthusiastic member of a group of French *voyageur* re-enactors and a veteran of many canoe trips and re-enactments on and around the Great Lakes, and these adventures became an important part of his life.

Jack Waddell served as major professor on the dissertation committees of the first two students to be granted the PhD in anthropology at Purdue, in 1974. Following those, he served as major professor for six more PhD students, as well as numerous students who were awarded the MS under his tutelage.

Those of us here who knew Jack miss him, and we remember him with great admiration, respect, and affection.

--O. Michael Watson



Our Faculty for 2008-09



Row 1 — Richard Blanton, Myrdene Anderson, Ellen Gruenbaum, Michele Buzon
Row 2 — Kory Cooper, Kevin Vaughn, Evelyn Blackwood, Melissa Remis, Sharon Williams
Row 3 — Jay O'Brien, Ian Lindsay
Row 4 — Andrew Buckser, Brian Kelly, O. Michael Watson

Faculty News

Myrdene Anderson continues to travel widely, engaging in research, teaching and conferences on a variety of topics, including violence, semiotics, ecology, community garden associations, and the international and interdisciplinary movement of artificial life in biology. She continues her research on the Saami reindeer-breeders of Norwegian Lapland. Dr. Anderson was on sabbatical during the Spring semester.

Evelyn Blackwood won the Martin Duberman Fellowship 2008, awarded by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at City University of New York, a prestigious interdisciplinary and nationally competitive award given to scholars with an established record and current research on LGBT topics. The award was for Dr. Blackwood's work on her upcoming book on *tombois*, entitled *Falling into the Lesbi World: Desire and Difference in Indonesia*. The book is scheduled to come out from the University of Hawaii Press early next year. Dr. Blackwood formerly held a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Anthropology, but we are pleased to announce that she will be moving full-time status in the Department of Anthropology this coming fall.

Richard Blanton and Lane Fargher recently published (2008) *Collective Action in the Formation of Pre-Modern States* (Springer). This book synthesizes a large amount of information on pre-modern state formation to question many of the assumptions of Western social science concerning the relative autocracy and despotism of pre-modern states, and to evaluate the degree to which collective action was a social and cultural force that shaped states prior to the advent of the participatory democracy that has become an important part of the political process in many modern polities.

Faculty News continued

Andrew Buckser's current research focuses on the cultural dimensions of the neurological disorder Tourette Syndrome. Based on interviewing and participant observation among people with Tourette, he has written about the ways that illness is constructed and understood in American culture, and on the ways that individual strategies for managing symptoms interact with cultural and institutional settings. His work on this subject has recently appeared in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* and *Ethnology*, and an article in *Human Organization* is forthcoming. He also continues to be active in the anthropology of religion, and is chair of the Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion. Professor Buckser's courses have included Human Cultural Diversity, Culture and Personality, and The Anthropology of Religion. He currently serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Anthropology. Congratulations are in order for Andy's promotion to Full Professor, Fall 2009!

Michele Buzon is currently pursuing her ongoing research examining identity and health in the ancient Nile Valley and will be excavating at her field site, Tombos, during the winter of 2010. Dr. Buzon has been awarded a grant from the National Geographic Society to fund her fieldwork and recently published her research in the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, and *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.

Kory Cooper will be traveling to Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia in June to examine copper artifacts in museum and university collections. This research is part of his ongoing investigation into the prehistoric use of copper by Native People in northwestern North America.

Ellen Gruenbaum is a culturally-oriented medical anthropologist who has done ethnographic research with a special focus on women's health issues, gender, religious practices, and development in Africa and the Middle East. She has conducted research in Sudan and Sierra Leone on the practice of female genital cutting and the social movements against "harmful traditional practices." This year she taught the Gender Across Cultures course. Ellen serves as secretary of the Society of Medical Anthropology and recently helped to plan the fall conference to be held at Yale University.

Brian Kelly joined the faculty at Purdue University in 2006, and holds a joint appointment with Sociology. His current research projects include work on drug use among NYC-area youth, drug dealing among suburban youth, and the integration of the concepts of social capital and class.

Ian Lindsay has expanded his archaeological field research into Late Bronze Age fortress communities in Armenia to include non-invasive geophysical techniques. He has been invited to present the results of a recent magnetometry survey at a conference this September in Yerevan, Armenia, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography.

Riall Nolan, Professor of Anthropology is an applied anthropologist and a specialist in international development. He is joining the department full time as professor in the Fall after serving several years as Dean and Associate Provost of International Programs.

Faculty News continued

Jay O'Brien researches agricultural labor and economic development in Sudan and the dynamics of ethnicity and power relations in Sudan and Botswana. A current project on the legacy of British indirect rule and contemporary tribal politics in Botswana continues his interest in the intersection between historical and cultural analysis. Dr. O'Brien also returned to Sudan this year for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Khartoum.

Melissa Remis has done research in the Central African Republic focusing on the behavioral ecology of western gorillas and integrating biological and cultural anthropological approaches to the human-animal dynamic, especially with regard to human impacts on mammals and conservation. She also conducts field and zoo research on the evolution of feeding strategies among the African apes, including experimental work on diet, digestion and behavioral, nutritional and physiological aspects of welfare among apes. She serves the department as our Director of Graduate Studies. Congratulations are in order for Melissa's promotion to Full Professor, Fall 2008!

Kevin Vaughn is an archaeologist whose active field and lab research focuses on the emergence of pre-state complexity, craft production, households, mining, and archaeometry in Nasca, Peru. His most recent project is focused on the anthropology of ancient mining communities in Peru. His book *The Ancient Andean Village: Marcaya in Prehispanic Nasca* was just released by the University of Arizona Press.

Sharon Williams is a biological anthropologist who examines the intersection between behavior, ecology, biology and health. She is currently working to measure this interaction in older adults through projects in the United States (NSHAP) and across countries in the developing world with the World Health Organization (SAGE). She also maintains active field work in NE India and a working laboratory to develop new field-friendly methods of biological data collection and analysis. She plans to travel to India with two students this summer for further research.

O. Michael Watson, although retired, continues to teach courses in the Department. This spring Dr. Watson taught "Native American Images" which focuses on issues of Native American portrayal through images.

Laura C. Zanotti. Last but not least, we are proud to announce the hiring of our newest Assistant Professor! Laura completed her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 2008. She specializes in cultural anthropology, political ecology and ethnoecology. Her research in Brazil focused on the Kayapo Indians living in a conservation area.



October 25-26, 2008, Drs. Jay O'Brien and Ellen Gruenbaum participated in the conference *Anthropology in the Sudan: Past, Present and Future*, held in Khartoum to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Khartoum, where he worked from 1974 to 1978. Dr. O'Brien presented a paper, *Identity Conflicts and Culture Concepts: Insights from Sudan*, and participated in a roundtable discussion. Dr. Gruenbaum presented her paper *From 'Harmful Traditions' to 'Pathologies of Power': Re-Vamping the Anthropology of Health in Sudan.*

The Department wishes to thank Beryl Ouimette for designing our fanciful t-shirt logo. We enjoy its fun representation of anthropology's traditional four fields.



How can I support the Department of Anthropology?

Tax-deductible donations to Purdue's Department of Anthropology are always appreciated. Your gifts enable us to enrich the experiences of our students through such things as research support, teaching materials, and recognition of students' accomplishments. We'd like to be able to support student trips to museums and help support other projects. Someday, we may even be able to offer Anthropology Scholarships!

With the rise in educational costs and the decrease in state funding during the current economic recession, we are particularly appreciative of the generosity of our friends and alumni to our department.

Visit Purdue's giving Web site at awc.alumni.purdue.edu and look on the left hand column for "Make a Gift" to click into the web page to make your donation. When you click on "**Make a New Gift**" use the drop-down arrow on the right to open the list and scroll down to click on "Anthropology" under **College of Liberal Arts**.

Thank you!

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