



Department  
of Anthropology

# Anthropology Newsletter

Transforming Lives Through Discovery!

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## Welcome

The Anthropology students and alumni profiled here are just a few of those who have received funding and recognition for their research.

Thanks to new funding from Dean Christa Slaton, contributions from alumni and friends to the Dean's Fund for Excellence and the to the "Friends of Anthropology", we offer grants of up to \$500 for graduate research.

We have funded students working both internationally and locally, on projects as diverse as primate behavior, stewardship of archaeological resources, human responses to environmental change, Native American art and material culture, and medical anthropology. We invite you to share in our Department's success and our students' accomplishments. Your support matters!

Rani T. Alexander  
Department Head

## Sowing the Seeds of Change Through Community Engagement

One of Dr. Lois Stanford's favorite community projects has been blooming—literally—for the last five years. She serves on the board of La Semilla Food Center, a non-profit organization that works with youth and families to create community gardens, construct greenhouses, and launch educational projects and community food assessments in the El Paso del Norte region on the U.S.-Mexico border. La Semilla's goal is to build a healthy, self-reliant, fair, and sustainable food system in southern New Mexico.

La Semilla is run by three co-directors (former students of NMSU and UTEP), Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard, Aaron Sharratt, and Cristina Dominguez-Eshelman, with the help of an incredible team of employees and volunteers. Their work has been featured in the New York Times, and co-director Aaron Sharratt has testified to the U.S. Congress with the Union of Concerned Scientists on policy affecting local foods and farms. This national recognition stems from the food center's extensive involvement in the community including its edible education program with local school children, a Farm-to-School Program featuring a school garden, involvement with local farmer's markets, local food policy, and the development of local events.



Dr. Lois Stanford, Rebecca Muñoz, and Olga Pedroza at La Semilla Farm

Dr. Lois Stanford has served as president of La Semilla's board and has supported the co-directors in planning, goal setting, and strategizing, although she is very confident that they are capable and will remain engaged even without her assistance. Dr. Stanford will be working with La Semilla on their new grant project, Cultivando La Cosecha in the Paso del Norte Region, funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Community Food Projects Grant Program.

Dr. Lois Stanford joined the Anthropology faculty in 1990 and has conducted research on agricultural production, small farmers, food studies, and food security ever since. Her early work on food production and food systems has developed into concerns about traditional foodways and traditional knowledge. In spring 2013, Dr. Stanford taught a special topics

(Continued on p. 2)

## For More Information:

[lasemillafoodcenter.org/](http://lasemillafoodcenter.org/)

Read about La Semilla at:  
[opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/food-blooms-in-the-desert](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/25/food-blooms-in-the-desert)

Also, visit the FoodCorps website for volunteer positions:  
[foodcorps.org/become-a-service-member](http://foodcorps.org/become-a-service-member)

Find food jobs on the Com Food Jobs listserv:  
[elist.tufts.edu/www/subscribe/comfoodjobs](http://elist.tufts.edu/www/subscribe/comfoodjobs)

## Department Contact Information

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"NMSU Department of Anthropology"

service learning class that focused on food security issues in the colonias of Doña Ana County. This work and these classes have instilled a deep commitment to local food systems, food security, and food traditions in a number of her students. Daniel Valverde, a former student who conducted thesis research on the *matanza* in New Mexico, now heads the El Paso office of the Texas Hunger Commission. Krysten Aguilar, who developed a farm to preschool curriculum for her MA project, now heads the Food Policy component of La Semilla Food Center.

For students who envision careers in organizations such as La Semilla, Dr. Stanford suggests obtaining as much hands-on experience as possible while pursuing a degree. Attend field schools and volunteer with local organizations. Because many non-profit organizations have limited employment opportunities, becoming involved as an intern or volunteer while conducting graduate research is an excellent way to network and develop new career opportunities. Students should also be aware of opportunities advertised through listservs (such as the Com Food Jobs listserv) and organization newsletters. Also, make yourself familiar with organizations in your own area and in other regions throughout the U.S. through FoodCorps. (See sidebar for additional resources.)

## Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Susan Ryan



New Mexico State University is an important part of Dr. Susan Ryan's (MA 1998) academic and career success. Dr. Ryan studied southwestern archaeology at NMSU. Her interest in humans and culture first led her to undergraduate study in Anthropology and Geology at Illinois State University. After that, she completed her MA in Anthropology (including an entomology minor) at NMSU and went on to pursue her PhD in Anthropology at the University of Arizona. She feels that NMSU gave her "a solid foundation in anthropological theory and methodology" as well as "hands-on opportunities for field work at both historic and prehispanic sites in New Mexico and Arizona" which prepared her for the PhD.

Presently, Dr. Ryan is the Director of Archaeology at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, a not-for-profit research and education institution in Cortez, Colorado. As Director, she oversees the Center's field projects, laboratory analyses, and report publications.

She states that she has a "diverse and engaging job that allows me to engage in research, public education and outreach, and to collaborate with descendant communities." For students, she advises gaining as much experience in the field and/or laboratory as possible, and she states, "The experiential work will be the foundation upon which you can apply the theoretical and methodological coursework that you will need to comprehend in order to graduate and become successful in the discipline."

She would like to thank Dr. William Walker for the mentorship that he provided to her as an NMSU student. She states that "his perspectives on the past still resonate in my research 17 years later." For her work and community involvement, Dr. Susan Ryan is an important part of the Anthropology Department's legacy. Her success as an influential researcher and archaeological center director is an inspiration to the department's current students.

## Spring Conference Calendar

Faculty and students made numerous professional research presentations at local, regional, national, and international conferences in spring of 2015.

*Association for Anthropology and Gerontology Workshop Conference 2015: Health Disparities in Aging, February 5-7, 2015, Miami*

Megan Stamey McAlvain:  
Evaluation of Cultural Competency in Graduate Geriatric Medicine Programs in the Western United States.

*New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Cultural Properties Review Committee, February 20, 2015, Santa Fe*

Norma Hartell and Addison Warner:  
Nomination of Chope's Town Café and Bar (Doña Ana County), approved for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



Cortney Platero and Dr. Mary Alice Scott

## Undergraduates Rising



Peer Learning Assistants, Katie Jackson and Danielle Soza

Association's Outstanding Senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. Karina Forseca received the Dean's Academic Excellence Award in the College of Education. Anthropology undergraduates are flourishing.

Anthropology's undergraduate majors have placed themselves at the forefront of new research programs launched by Dean Christa Slaton in the College of Arts and Sciences this year. Our undergraduates are reshaping the teaching, research, and outreach activities of the Department through their work as peer learning assistants, Discovery Scholars, interns, and volunteers. Anthropology major Cole Tobin received university-wide recognition for his academic achievements as the NMSU Alumni

### Peer Learning Assistant Program

Katie Jackson and Danielle Soza served as peer learning assistants in Anth 301 Cultural Anthropology and Anth 315 Introduction to Archaeology with the guidance of Drs. Lois Stanford and William Walker. The Peer Learning Assistant Program selects undergraduate students who support student learning in challenging courses and help their peers to succeed by providing opportunities for deeper engagement, hands-on practice, deeper learning, and informal mentoring. Danielle and Katie mentor undergraduates, run in-class laboratory exercises and discussions, hold review sessions before tests, and help students with their papers. Teaching has helped Danielle learn the material more deeply. She feels more confident and prepared for her summer research at Rock Art Ranch, funded by the National Science Foundation-Research Experiences for Undergraduates program through the University of Arizona. Katie will attend a summer workshop at the Forensic Anthropology Center, Texas State University.

### Undergraduate Anthropology Organization

Katie Jackson and fellow anthropology major Katie Holmes recently established the Undergraduate Anthropology Organization (UAO). The two students met while attending a forensics field school in Poland last summer. They were inspired by discussions with other undergraduates who were active in anthropology clubs at their institutions. These students attended conferences, took field trips, and were involved in research on their campuses. The UAO was born in December 2014 and now has approximately 15 regular members. Dr. Mary Alice Scott serves as the UAO's faculty advisor. In April several members took a field trip to the Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center in San Marcos, TX.



*NMSU Graduate Research and Arts Symposium, March 18, 2015, Las Cruces*

Sara Blahut:  
Poster: Examination of Clavicle Variation within the NMSU Skeletal Collection

Dylan Clark:  
Get Your Grind On: Ground Stone Artifact Interpretations of Subsistence and Mobility at Cottonwood Spring Pueblo

Erin Coward:  
Poster: Cranial Deformation in Romania?

Erica Davis, Brenda R. Benefit, & Monte L. McCrossin:  
Poster: Incisor variation at middle Miocene Maboko indicates the possible presence of at least two small-bodied ape species

Scott Hays-Strom:  
School House Rock: Lake Valley Mining District School House Archaeology

Jacquelyn Heuer:  
Applied Anthropology & Traditional Food Systems: How Anthropologists Can Aid in Indigenous Food & Nutrition Movements

Kate Moore:  
Poster: National Register of Historic Places Nomination of the Tortugas Pilgrimage Trail

David Morales Andrade:  
Iconography of Gods and Warriors of Tenochtitlan

Sunnie Sartin, Winona Patterson, Kristen Corl, and Todd Scarbrough:  
Poster: Twin Pines Village: Looking Beyond the Mimbres Valley

Megan Stamey McAlvain:  
Assessing for Culturally Competent Older Adult Care

## Discovery Scholars Program



**Jared Van Natta**

In addition, the anthropology Department launched the first pilot for the College of Arts and Sciences Discovery Scholars program. Dean Christa Slaton started this multidisciplinary program with the purpose of engaging undergraduate students in research with faculty mentors. Two anthropology majors, Jared Van Natta and Devin Grider, worked under Dr. Mary Alice Scott's mentorship on her medical anthropology research projects. Jared investigated "Learning Culture in Medical Residency." Devin's project was entitled "Free Clinic Patients' Perceptions of Health Care under the Affordable Care Act."

They both presented their results at the Society for the Anthropology of North America in New York City. Jared states:

“Being a part of Dr. Scott's research team at Memorial Medical Center has been a challenging and rewarding experience. As a Medical Anthropologist and honorary faculty member of the Memorial Medical Center Family Care Clinic Dr. Scott is actively trying to make our community better through initializing a cultural competency program in the residency program at the clinic. Her work has allowed us to go into the hospital and clinic as researchers and develop meaningful relationships within our community and help make a difference.”

Two additional anthropology undergraduates, Cortney Platero and Katie Holmes, are also working as interns and volunteers on Dr. Scott's projects.

## Research and Community Engagement

Several more Anthropology undergraduates seized opportunities for research and outreach within our community through for-credit internships, supervised by Dr. Rani Alexander. Antoinette Reyes is the City of Las Cruces Sustainability Intern working under the direction of Sustainability Program Manager Lisa LaRoque. Her most recent project assessed the state of food security in Las Cruces and promotes community and school gardens. Andrea Gutierrez, an English major with an Anthropology minor, completed an internship at White Sands National Monument under the direction of Rebecca Burghart, Chief of Interpretation. Science writing for the public was new to Andrea, and her abilities improved in leaps and bounds. Vanessa Carrillo recently started an internship for the City of Las Cruces Museum of Science and Nature, and she was awarded an internship in heritage interpretation through the National Park Service's Student Conservation Association at Grand Teton National Park this summer. Ellisar Pape interned at the University Museum. She developed and facilitated new curricular modules for the Museum's K-12 outreach programs and helped identify potential research projects using the Museum's archaeological lithic collections under the supervision of Dr. Fumi Arakawa. Anthropology undergraduate volunteers Keighley Hastings and Katie Jackson also assisted with K-12 outreach and public programming at the Museum.

For students who want to become more involved in the Anthropology Department, Katie Jackson recommends joining the UAO. Additionally, students should attend a professor's office hours and develop relationships with university faculty, which will lead to broader opportunities for research and community engagement.

*75th Annual Meeting for  
the Society for Applied  
Anthropology, March 24-28,  
2015, Pittsburgh*

Miriam Chaiken:  
Panel Organizer: Understanding  
Vulnerability—Building Resilience  
(with Michele Companion, U  
Colorado—Colorado Springs),  
triple session  
Presenter: Compensating for  
Food Shortage: Strategies  
Employed in Rural Mozambique

Lois Stanford:  
Board of Directors of the SfAA,  
2011-2015  
Presenter: Memorias de la Cocina:  
Constructing Cuisine in Mesilla  
Presenter: Resisting Privatization  
of Seeds: The Growth of Seed  
Libraries, Seed Saving, and the  
Open Source Seed Initiative  
Discussant: Sustainable Food  
Systems in Cross-Cultural  
Perspective

Megan Stamey McAlvain and  
Mary Alice Scott:  
Learning "Culture" in Medical  
Education: An Exploratory Study  
of Residents' Experiences in a  
Borderlands Family Practice  
Residency

Kristin Morehead: Negotiating  
Multicultural Identity in France

## Undergraduate Spotlight: Cole Tobin



Cole Tobin

The Anthropology Faculty and students wish to congratulate Cole Tobin, who graduated in May of 2015 having won two prestigious awards. He is the recipient of the NMSU Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior for the College of Arts and Sciences and also of the Dean's Undergraduate Award for Excellence, College of Arts and Sciences. Cole is a double major in Anthropology and Biology who has pursued studies in evolutionary behavior and ecology across two academic disciplines.

In addition to excelling in his coursework and independent studies, Cole has consistently sought out research opportunities with faculty. He has participated in several research projects, including one focused on parrot vocalization with Biology's Dr. Tim Wright that the team is currently writing up for publication. In 2013, he helped Giselle Hurtado trap mice in the desert around Las Cruces, and assisted Dr. Karen Mabry with similar work at the Quail Ridge Wildlife Reserve in California. Most recently, he worked with Dr. Brenda Benefit on documenting interpersonal relationships within a family of four siamangs at the El Paso Zoo. He presented his research results with Dr. Benefit's research team at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

Cole plans to pursue graduate work at the University of Missouri in evolutionary and cultural anthropology, and he would like to investigate aspects of South American populations. For students who are interested in pursuing academic excellence as Cole has, he suggests that you set yourself apart from other students by participating in research and learning as much as possible about funding opportunities.

## Alumni Spotlight: Karina Johnson

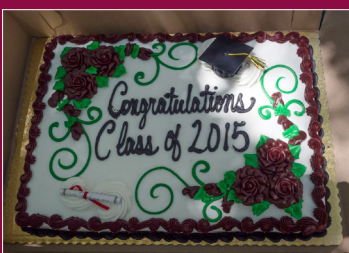
Karina Johnson graduated with a BA in Anthropology in 2009. She states,

“ Since then, I have done one year of AmeriCorps volunteering followed by a couple years of non-profit work in the USA. I also worked for two years in South Korea as an ESL instructor and one year in Australia, leading study tours.



Karina with some of her South Korean students.

Teaching has been a really rewarding experience and I never would have thought I'd enjoy it so much. Living abroad has made it easy and affordable to travel so I have been able to spend time in Japan, Norway, the UK, Costa Rica, and New Zealand. These experience have left me wanting to continue to teach and live abroad. My next step will be to move to the UK with my husband and take a postgraduate program to become a qualified teacher.



84th Annual Meeting of the  
American Association of  
Physical Anthropologists,  
March 25-28, 2015, St. Louis

Irisa Arney, Brenda Benefit, and  
Monte McCrossin:  
Poster: The Body Mass of  
*Victoriapithecus macinnesi*  
Revisited Using Foot Remains

Erica Davis, Brenda R. Benefit,  
and Monte L. McCrossin:  
Incisor variation at middle  
Miocene Maboko indicates the  
possible presence of at least two  
small-bodied ape species

Alexander V. Georgie, Michael  
P. Muehlenbein, Sean P. Prall,  
Melissa Emery Thompson, Dario  
Maestriperi:  
Innate immune function and  
oxidative stress as measures of  
male quality in Cayo Santiago  
rhesus macaques

Fiona G. McCrossin, Brenda R.  
Benefit, Donica Spence, and Cole  
Tobin:  
Does the strength of adult  
relationships in pair bonded  
monogamous siamangs fluctuate  
over the long term in response to  
female reproductive status and/  
or the presence of offspring?

Sean P. Prall and Michael P.  
Muehlenbein:  
Adrenal development and  
androgen-immune interactions  
in orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*  
*morio*)

Karen R. Rosenberg and Wenda R.  
Trevathan:  
Are human infants altricial?

Donica Spence and Brenda  
Benefit Poster: Are terrestrial  
siamangs left or right handed?

## Beth O'Leary's Legacy of Historic Preservation



Dr. Beth O'Leary

It's been a banner year for historic preservation in the Department of Anthropology. Graduate students have developed nominations for five cultural properties to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division's Cultural Properties Review Committee for placement on the State Register of Historic Places. Their stunning track record is part of the legacy of Dr. Beth O'Leary, College Professor Emerita, who retired from teaching anthropology in July of 2014. Since then, she has been extraordinarily busy with her favorite historic preservation projects and has encouraged our Anthropology students to follow in her footsteps. Over the course of her career at NMSU, Dr. O'Leary's research has revolved around three projects: the Lunar Legacy project about the history, heritage, and archaeology of the human exploration of space, the restoration of the Phillips Chapel, Las Cruces' first African American church built in 1911, and documenting the art and ethnohistory of Marge Jackson, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations elder in Yukon, Canada.

Long before Dr. O'Leary came to New Mexico State University, she discovered her international, cultural, archeological, and linguistic interests in Bergen, Norway. There, she attended a year of *gymnasium* (college preparatory high school), and lived with a host family. Her exposure to language and archaeology through this year of study had a great impact on her future education and career. Dr. O'Leary's involvement with New Mexico State University has been extensive. She designed the curriculum for the graduate certificate in cultural resources management. Dozens of her students have volunteered to help on her historic preservation projects, and some have developed their own nominations of historic properties with her guidance. Since she retired, her book *The Archaeology and Heritage of Human Space Exploration* with P.J. Capelotti (2014 Springer) has appeared in print, and she is completing a second book entitled *In the Shadows of Saturn V: Reflections of Apollo*, with Lisa Westwood and M. Wayne Donaldson, (UFL Press), which is due to appear later this year. Her collaboration with Marge Jackson was celebrated with the 2006 publication of *My Country is Alive: A Southern Tutchone Life*, and she is now completing a second book on the topic.

Beth received two Heritage Preservation awards from the NM Historic Preservation Division. The first was for the 2007 creation of the Summerford Mountain Archaeological District, part of NMSU's Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center, and the second in 2013, with NMSU history professor emeritus Clarence Fielder and colleagues, was for the Phillips Chapel restoration.

The Phillips Chapel restoration project was undertaken for its historical significance. The church was built in 1911, and as the oldest CME Church in southern New Mexico, it provided a focal point for the African American population. From 1924-1925 during segregation, Phillips Chapel functioned as a school for African Americans. After three and a half years of adobe restoration, fundraising, and community involvement, it is again a functioning church, community center and an important historical marker. Beth's approach to historic preservation is distinctively grassroots; she enlists the talents of



*4th Annual Cultural Competency Conference, March 27, 2015, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso*

Mary Alice Scott, Megan Stamey McAlvain, Reanna Messer, John Andazola, and Cortney Platero: Cultural Competency is Not Enough: Family Medicine Residency Faculty Perspectives

*80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 15-19, 2015, San Francisco*

Rani Alexander:  
Committee member: Award Committee for Excellence in Latin American and Caribbean Archaeology  
Advisory Committee for the Comité de las Américas/  
Committee on the Americas Symposium Organizer and Chair: Capital, Craft, and Consumption in Mesoamerica after the Spanish Invasion  
Presenter: The Gilded Age in Eastern Yucatán, Mexico: The Age of Betrayal or the Rise of the Middle Class?

Fumiyasu Arakawa:  
Committee member: Cheryl L. Wase Scholarship Taskforce  
Presenter: Unraveling Sociopolitical Organization Using Lithic Data: A Case Study from an Agricultural Society in the American Southwest

Dylan Clark:  
Believing is Seeing

Kristin Corl:  
Faunal Evidence for Subsistence Strategies at Cottonwood Spring Pueblo

Sarah McCormick:  
Manufacturing Basketmaker III Bone Objects

Lydia Pittman:  
Poster: A Study of Miniature Pottery Vessels in the Mimbres Region

professional archaeologists and historians, students, faculty, and community volunteers to get the job done. She is very thankful to Muddy Hound Blues Gang for their fundraising performances, all of the volunteers from the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization and her NMSU courses, the community volunteers, the faculty at NMSU, Mr. Fielder, and Terry Moody for the work at Phillips Chapel.



**Brittany Porter stands in front of the gate at Hurd House, a property she nominated for inclusion in the New Mexico's State Register of Cultural Properties.**

Richards is working on the nomination of Van Patten's Camp and the Boyd Sanatorium at Dripping Springs.

Dr. O'Leary has continued to inspire her students and provide guidance in nominating historic properties for consideration by the NM Historic Preservation Division's Cultural Property Review Committee. This year, Brittany Porter's nomination of the Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth Hurd House and Studios in San Patricio, NM, was one of only three artist residences on the State Register of Historic Places, and it has since been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Frannie Cochran's nomination of the Mesilla Park Elementary School, designed by architect Henry Trost and built in 1907, was also accepted for the State Register. Just last February, Norma Hartell and Addison Warner presented the nomination of Chope's Town Café and Bar to the Cultural Properties Review Committee in recognition of the Benavides family's legacy of preserving Hispanic foodways, traditional architecture, and the agricultural history of southern New Mexico. Two additional nominations of historic properties are in progress. Kate Moore will nominate the Tortugas Pueblo Pilgrimage Trail for consideration as a traditional cultural property, and Kari

Dr. O'Leary feels that these collaborations with NMSU students have been among the all-time highlights of her extensive career. When asked what advice she would like to give Anthropology students, she replied that she recommends they apply for grants, do as many things as possible, explore varied fields of study, leave your hometown and travel, attend field schools, and develop language skills. For more on Beth's work and our students' recent historic property nominations, please see the following:

**Chope's Town Café and Bar**

[http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci\\_27692692](http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_27692692)

**Hurd Family Property**

[http://www.lcsun-news.com/las\\_cruces-news/ci\\_27083763/nmsu-anthropology-graduate-earns-state-recognition-hurd-family](http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_27083763/nmsu-anthropology-graduate-earns-state-recognition-hurd-family)

**Space Heritage and Exploration**

<http://www.sfreporter.com/santafe/article-9763-3-questions-with-bet.html>

**Clarence Fielder and the Phillips Chapel**

<http://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/11051/nmsu-history-professor-leaves-mark-as-educator-preserving-african-american-heritage>

Sunnie Sartin, Winona Patterson,  
Kristen Corl, Todd Scarbrough  
and Angel Peña:  
Poster: Twin Pines: Looking  
Beyond the Mimbres Valley

Todd Scarbrough, Kristin Corl,  
Dylan Clark and Sunnie Sartin:  
Poster: Burning as Ritual in the  
Jornada Mogollon

William Walker:  
Discussant: Homol'ovi: A  
Gathering Place

*Society for the Anthropology  
of North America (SANA) 2015  
Conference, April 16-18, 2015,  
New York*

Mary Alice Scott:  
Committee Member: SANA  
Nominations Committee

Mary Alice Scott, Devin Grider,  
Amanda Poole, Jared Van  
Natta, Ragnhild Utheim, Lisa  
Borodovsky, Michelle Ronda,  
Elizabeth Bauer:  
Roundtable Discussion:  
Anthropology on the Ground,  
Engaging Students in an  
Anthropology of (In)equality, for  
Justice

*Step into the Past, White  
Sands National Monument,  
May 2, 2015*

Katelyn McCollum:  
More than a Sandbox: The  
Agencies and Missions that  
Manage the World's Largest  
Gypsum Dunefield, Historic  
Photograph Exhibition and  
Talk, White Sands Visitor Center  
Theatre.

## Graduate Spotlight: Megan Stamey-McAlvain

Aging is an inevitable part of life, and the way in which people respond to it—whether by prevention, medication, spirituality—is highly influenced by culture. In the United States, biomedicine is a big part of our cultural system, and it has its own subculture. Megan Stamey-McAlvain is conducting collaborative research with Dr. Mary Alice Scott to investigate this culture by examining biomedical resident training methods and their effects on geriatric patients.



Megan Stamey-McAlvain

A current RISE fellow and Graduate Student in the MA program, Megan became interested in Anthropology through her love of art and museums when she studied at the University of Hawaii. Megan is a Native American student and a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Through Dr. Scott's encouragement, Megan became increasingly interested in medical anthropology and was introduced to the RISE Fellowship opportunity. The RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) program supports student research in the natural and behavioral sciences, and is funded through an National Institutes of Health grant to Dr. Elba Serrano.

Megan's work as a RISE fellow focuses on the graduate training at Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency Program. Her work focuses on cultural competency training in geriatrics in medical residency. The motivation to investigate the role of training in culturally sensitive patient care for geriatric patients stemmed from Megan's interest in healthy aging. Her personal experiences and work with hospice care inspired her to learn more about healthy aging.

As part of the RISE program, Megan has worked closely with Dr. Mary Alice Scott, attended workshops, finished her research proposal, begun to collect data through interviews, and presented her work at the 2015 Association for Anthropology and Gerontology Workshop Conference on Health Disparities in Aging in Miami. This summer, Megan will conduct a Graduate Field Research Internship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, as part the RISE externship and NMSU's Partnership for the Advancement of Cancer Research. Her research will provide a springboard for her continued doctoral education, as well as research and future applied work in gerontology and healthy aging.

In addition to her RISE fellowship, Megan is also active on campus as an Anthropology Graduate Student Organization officer, and she is the founder of a club focusing on gerontology and healthy aging. She is employed as a RISE Research Assistant, and works very closely with Dr. Scott and many others, both on and off-campus, who are part of the interdisciplinary project.

For anyone interested in obtaining a RISE fellowship, Megan advises that it is a very intensive program. For those attracted to a highly structured project, RISE is an opportunity for underserved students in the natural and behavioral sciences focused on biomedical research.



## Spring 2015 Awards: Faculty

Rani T. Alexander:  
College of Arts and Sciences  
International Engagement  
Award

W. Thomas Conelly:  
College of Arts and Sciences  
5-year Service Award

Mary Alice Scott:  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Course Release Award

Lois Stanford:  
College of Arts and Sciences  
25-year Service Award

Anna Strankman:  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Exempt Staff Award



Commencement Ceremony, May 2015. Patrick Martine, Cortney Platero (top), Karina Fonseca (bottom)

## Spring 2015 Museum News

Support for exhibit development and collections care at the University Museum comes from NMSU's Southwest Border Cultures Institute, established by a 1998 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, gifts to the NMSU Foundation, and Friends of the Museum.

An outstanding collection of ceramic wedding vases was generously donated to the University Museum by Mr. Larry Boucher. Museum staff and students are accessioning the collection, working on collections care, management, and storage, and making plans for exhibit development.

The Friends of the University Museum have played an important role in making the acquisition possible, and additional donations will be gladly accepted! The Faculty, Staff, and Students extend their sincerest appreciation to the Friends, whose generous donations support their work with this exciting new collection.



Interns Haley Luster and Laci Paul accessioning the group of wedding vases from Acoma Pueblo

## The Larry and Marijean Boucher Collection of Native American Pottery By Larry Boucher, April 2014



Frances P. Torivio (1905-2001) Acoma Wedding Vase, Accession # 2015.4.108

This collection consists of 488 pottery vessels created within the past one hundred years by North American Indian artists.

The majority of the pots are from the Southwest with an emphasis on the nineteen pueblos along the Rio Grande in New Mexico.

Our collection began with a wedding present of a Santa Clara wedding vase by Teresa V. Gutierrez from a friend at our wedding on February 14, 1983. At the time we knew very little about Indian pottery.

Our collection is now too big for only personal enjoyment. It is now more than one pot that sang to me, or even a whole choir. Now it is more like a "Battle of the Bands" and needs the curatorial direction that the New Mexico State University Museum can provide.

## Permanent Exhibit: "Pottery from the Americas"

The University Museum is home to a unique and comprehensive collection of both prehistoric and historical pottery. This collection includes almost 600 pottery vessels that reflect the vibrant artistry and beauty of Southwestern and Mesoamerican ceramics.



The University Museum also holds an extensive type collection of sherds from New Mexico and Chihuahua, as well as other research and educational materials.

## Spring 2015 Exhibits at the University Museum

### The Songs Endure, They Carry the Stories: Music and Dance of the Native Southwest



Music, dance and ceremony remain essential to the complex and dynamic cultural life of the Native Southwest. This exhibition celebrates the instruments and regalia used in ongoing music and dance traditions among the Apache, Pueblo, Hopi, Navajo, Yoeme (Yaqui) and Raramuri (Tarahumara) people.

Audio and visual elements accompany the over 70 historic and contemporary treasures from the University Museum collection. "The Songs Endure, They Carry the Stories: Music and Dance of the Native Southwest" is funded by a grant from the Southwest and Border Cultures Institute of NMSU received by Anthropology graduate student Erica Davis.

### Edward Curtis Photo Exhibit, in collaboration with American Indian Program students of NMSU

In conjunction with American Indian Week 2015, an exhibit of selected Edward Curtis photos alongside written responses from students affiliated with the American Indian Program, was celebrated with an opening reception.

It is hoped that this collaborative exhibit will lead to future museum projects with the American Indian Program students.



Edward Curtis, Taos children, ca. 1905, LC-USZ62-112230.

### O'odham *Himdag*: Weaving a Way of Life



This exhibit features forty baskets from the University Museum collection representing works created by historic and contemporary Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Tohono O'odham (Papago) weavers of central and southern Arizona and northern Mexico. The O'odham *Himdag*, or desert people's way of life, encompasses cultural knowledge, values, and beliefs, all which are woven into each basket. This exhibit showcases the materials, techniques, designs, functions and several identified individual artists behind this innovative and rich ongoing tradition.



## Spring 2015 Awards: Students

Sara Blahut:  
Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology

Alyssa Colan:  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Kristin Corl:  
Sigma Xi, Grant-in-Aid of  
Research

Tara del Fierro:  
Diversity Graduate  
Assistantship and Tuition  
Fellowship, NMSU Graduate  
School

Candice Disque:  
Outstanding Graduate  
Assistantship Award, NMSU  
Graduate School  
  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Brittany Fisher:  
Tuition Fellowship, NMSU  
Graduate School

Karina Fonseca:  
Dean's Academic Excellence  
Award, College of Education

Devin Grider:  
Discovery Scholar, College of  
Arts and Sciences

Norma Hartell:  
Outstanding Service Award,  
College of Arts and Sciences  
  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Scott Hays-Strom:  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Jacquelyn Heuer:  
Outstanding Graduate  
Assistantship Award, NMSU  
Graduate School

## Spring 2015 Exhibits continued

### Harmonious Beauty—Through the Eyes of Diné Artists

This exhibition includes works by renowned artists including R.C. Gorman, Gerald Nailor, and Harrison Begay. These pieces from the permanent collection will be on display to the public for the first time. They provide a unique opportunity to look into the world of the Diné (Navajo), as seen and created by Diné artists.

The creative works in this exhibit exemplify *hozho*, which embodies the Diné philosophy of striving to achieve balance and retain harmony, beauty and order in life.



Trading Woman, 1985. R.C. Gorman. Lithograph, Edition 87/200. University Museum 2014.44.01

### Outstanding Student Service Award: Norma Hartell

The College of Arts and Sciences awarded Norma Hartell the Outstanding Student Service Award in Spring of 2015. Norma is completing the MA Program in Anthropology with a certificate in Museum Studies. Her thesis focuses on the community of working artists in the Mesilla Valley and seeks to identify the themes, influences, and images that are common among the region's artists. Just as the light, the desert vegetation, and Native American cultural influences inspired the prominent artists who put the arts communities of Taos and Santa Fe on the map, Norma's research seeks to understand how being situated in the borderlands shapes local artists and their work. Ultimately she envisions that a more comprehensive understanding of the Doña Ana School will make the arts economy more viable.



Maria Elena Chairez, Daniel Hartell, Norma Hartell, and Rani Alexander at the College of Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony

Addison Warner. Norma's work for the nomination involved research into Hispanic foodways, traditional architecture, and the agricultural history of southern New Mexico.

Norma is a well-recognized artist and activist. With her husband, Daniel Hartell, she runs the sustainable Chico Farm in Mesquite, which supplies quality local produce, eggs and goat milk soap to the community. The March 22, 2015 edition of the *Las Cruces Sun News* featured her as one of five artists under 30 years of age to watch. Her latest success was to nominate Chope's Town Café and Bar to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, with the guidance of Dr. Beth O'Leary and collaboration of fellow graduate student,



Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology  
Southwest Border Cultures  
Institute Grant

James Hill:  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Katie Jackson:  
Peer Learning Assistant,  
College of Arts and Sciences  
President's Associates Scholar

Hailey Jung:  
Preparing Future Faculty  
Graduate Assistantship, NMSU  
Graduate School

Karmon Kuhn:  
Outstanding Graduate  
Assistantship Award, NMSU  
Graduate School

Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Michelle Lanteri:  
Southwest Border Cultures  
Institute Grant (with Anna  
Strankman)

Garrett Leitermann:  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship  
Southwest Border Cultures  
Institute Grant

Damaris Lewis:  
Fulbright Finalist, English  
Language Program, Cote  
d'Ivoire, West Africa

Judy Marquez:  
Indigenous Nations  
for Community Action  
Scholarship

Patrick Martine:  
Indigenous Nations  
for Community Action  
Scholarship

## Visiting Assistant Professor: Sean Prall



Dr. Sean Prall is the new enthusiastic Visiting Assistant Professor in the Anthropology Department for spring 2015. He is teaching three courses in biological anthropology while Dr. Brenda Benefit is on sabbatical. The courses are Anth 130G/130GL Human's Place in Nature, ANTH 474/574 Human Osteology, and Anth 497/506 Advanced Studies in Physical Anthropology-Reproductive Ecology. With his team of teaching assistants, he has quickly become an integral part of the NMSU faculty.

Dr. Prall was born in Albuquerque, NM, and raised in Boise, ID. His undergraduate work focused on Anthropology with a minor in Biology at Boise State University, where he also completed research on bone histology. He finished his PhD in Biological Anthropology in 2014 at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where his research focused on androgen-immune interactions in human and non-human primates.

During his time at NMSU, Dr. Prall has gained solid skills in course development and further refined his teaching skills. He feels that his position as Visiting Assistant Professor will make him more marketable for future academic positions and that his engagement with the University is providing him with valuable networking and professional opportunities. During the spring 2015 semester, Dr. Prall has demonstrated astounding research productivity on top of all of his teaching duties. He has published four articles in biological anthropology in top peer-reviewed journals and submitted two more for review. This summer he will assist in a field school in South Africa focused on evaluating human-wildlife interactions at ecotourist locations, to better appreciate the risks and benefits ecotourism poses for wildlife, including the potential for anthrozoönotic disease transmission.

He states that his experience has been very positive, but moving from a PhD program in December, where he taught only one course at a time, to a full-time Visiting Assistant Professorship was initially overwhelming. He proved a quick study, rapidly acquiring the balance and patience needed to handle a heavy teaching load. Dr. Prall would like to thank department head Dr. Rani Alexander, Dr. Brenda Benefit, and the four Teaching Assistants—Donica Spence, Erin Coward, Sara Blahut, and Erica Davis—who have helped him with his transition in the department.

For students who are interested in graduate work and academic careers, Dr. Prall provides the following advice. "Define your interests as early as possible and pursue them throughout your education. By choosing a focus early on, you can easily tailor your coursework and research toward your interests. In doing so, you can work on research projects and even publish in your field when given the opportunity. Use course assignments to make up portions of final projects or thesis chapters, and in the end you will have a body of experience and work that shows an expertise in your area of interest."

Sarah McCormick:  
Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology

Kate Moore:  
Poster Honorable Mention,  
NMSU Graduate Research and  
Arts Symposium

Archival Research Grant,  
Office of the State Historian

Meraz Rahman:  
Merit-Based Enhancement  
Award, NMSU Graduate  
School

Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology

Danielle Soza:  
Peer Learning Assistant,  
College of Arts and Sciences  
  
Archaeological Society of New  
Mexico Scholarship

Sunnie Sartin, Winona  
Patterson, Kristin Corl and  
Todd Scarborough:  
Poster Prize, NMSU Graduate  
Research and Arts Symposium

Donica Spence:  
Graduate Research Award,  
Department of Anthropology

Cole Tobin:  
NMSU Alumni Association  
Outstanding Senior for the  
College of Arts and Sciences  
  
Dean's Undergraduate Award  
for Excellence, College of Arts  
and Sciences

Jimmy Toddy:  
Indigenous Nations  
for Community Action  
Scholarship

Jared Van Natta:  
Discovery Scholar, College of  
Arts and Sciences

## New Museum Director: Fumi Arakawa



Dr. Fumi Arakawa is the new Director of the University Museum located in Kent Hall. Dr. Arakawa is very excited to increase opportunities for internships and hands-on research experiences for students at the University Museum. Hands-on learning is a hallmark of Dr. Arakawa's teaching style. Currently, the museum staff is undertaking projects to catalog and re-analyze archaeological collections from past excavations and to make them available for student and faculty research and exhibit development.

Dr. Arakawa joined the faculty in 2011 as an assistant professor who specializes in the archaeology of the American Southwest. After completing his PhD at Washington State University, he held a position at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, a non-profit organization in Colorado, where he conducted research on the material composition of ceramic and lithic artifacts and taught the Center's visitors about archaeological methods. He is currently working on two field projects. He will teach field school this summer at the Twin Pines Village in the Gila National Forest, and he will continue to conduct archaeological settlement survey in Alkali Ridge, Utah, in collaboration with the National Park Service.

Dr. Arakawa thanks Dr. Monte McCrossin (former Director of the University Museum), Anna Strankman (Museum Curator), Erica Davis (public programs coordinator), and Katie Jackson and Kate Gomolak (visitor reception) for assisting him with the Museum's many exhibits, Saturday family workshops, outreach programs, and collections management tasks in progress.

Also, Dr. Arakawa would like to recognize the many volunteers who have helped during the move and reorganized the office spaces, conference room, exhibit preparation, and collections storage areas on the second floor. These same student volunteers have assisted in providing outreach programs to scores of local elementary and middle school children since his arrival. The efforts of Kristin Corl, Josh Hill, Candice Disque, Judy Berryman, Kevin Conti, Mary Brown, Ellie Pape, Keighley Hastings, Steve Needle, Garrett Leitermann, Scott Hays-Strom, Judy Marquez, Erin Coward, Kiely Martinez, Dylan Clark, and Sarah McCormick have been invaluable during the last four months.

For students and community members alike, Dr. Arakawa's future work at the University Museum is something to look forward to!



Dr. Arakawa is committed to continuing the museum's strong legacy of public programs for the University community and the people in southern New Mexico. Photographs are of a Jemez Dance Performance for American Indian Week (photo by Tom Conelly) and Hermosa Heights Elementary Second Graders learning about Southwestern Rock Art.

## Department of Anthropology Faculty

### *Archaeology*

Rani T. Alexander, Dept. Head  
Fumi Arakawa, Director of the University Museum  
William Walker

### *Biological Anthropology*

Brenda Benefit  
Monte McCrossin  
Sean Prall

### *Cultural Anthropology*

Miriam Chaiken  
W. Thomas Conelly  
Don Pepion  
Scott Rushforth  
Mary Alice Scott  
M. Lois Stanford

### *Emeritus*

Christine Eber  
Beth O'Leary  
Edward Staski  
Wenda Trevathan

## Staff

Barbara Burrell,  
Department Administrator  
Anna Strankman, Museum Curator

## New Department Head: Rani Alexander



**D**r. Rani Alexander is the new Department Head of Anthropology. “Fortunately, I was sitting down,” she says, when former Anthropology Department Head Dr. Miriam Chaiken called to say she had accepted the position as Dean of the NMSU Honors College. Since August 2014, the Anthropology department has undergone constant transition. The department has welcomed Dr. Sean Prall as a visiting assistant professor in biological anthropology, facilitated Dr. Fumi Arakawa’s appointment as the new Director of the University Museum, and hired Dr. Kelly Jenks as assistant professor of North American archaeology who will arrive this fall. She will develop new research programs in cultural resource management and historical archaeology.

Dr. Alexander joined the Faculty in 1996 after completing her PhD at the University of New Mexico. She is a Mesoamerican archaeologist and ethnohistorian who specializes in the Late Postclassic and historic period archaeology of Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula.

Managing the transition to Department Head has been a whirlwind experience. Dr. Alexander extends her thanks to Departmental Administrator Barb Burrell, Graduate Director Dr. Lois Stanford, and Dr. Miriam Chaiken. She says, “Because of everyone’s willingness to pitch in, the department is moving forward in research, teaching, and community engagement as strongly as ever.” She is impressed by the graduate and undergraduate students’ enthusiasm and involvement in departmental and professional activities. Keep up the good work!

## MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS AND SEND US YOUR UPDATES

### Supporting Anthropology or the University Museum

**BY CHECK.** Please send your charitable gifts to the NMSU Foundation, PO Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM 88003 and indicate on the memo line if you would like to support the “Friends of Anthropology” or the “Friends of the University Museum.”

**BY CREDIT CARD.** Gifts can be made on our secure giving page, [giving.nmsu.edu/anthro.html](http://giving.nmsu.edu/anthro.html), to either the Friends of Anthropology or the program of your choice.

We are grateful for all gifts. They help hardworking students succeed in their chosen field of study. Thank you!

### Send Us Your Updates

Where are you working? How are you using your Anthropology degree? You’ve moved and don’t think we have your current address? Send your updates to [raalexan@nmsu.edu](mailto:raalexan@nmsu.edu).