

Live, Learn and Thrive.

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Welcome

Greetings to all our alumni, students, and friends of anthropology!

On behalf of all of the Anthropology faculty, I want to welcome you to our first edition of the departmental newsletter. For some of you the news that we have been an autonomous Department of Anthropology, separate from the joint Sociology/Anthropology program may come as news. For us this was the next step in the evolution of our program, as we have grown and our productivity has become recognized across the campus community. We believe that as an independent department we have more visibility within our discipline, and within the university. In addition to becoming an independent department in 2009, we have had many important transitions, or as we anthropologists might term them, rites of passage, over the past two years.

The hardest transitions have been the retirements of key and valued faculty members. Wenda Trevathan, Ed Staski, and Christine Eber have all retired within the past couple years, but we have been very fortunate that they have maintained connections with the department and continued to play a role in the training of our students. Wenda spent the year following her retirement as a Resident Scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, where she produced the manuscript for her newest book, *Ancient Bodies, Modern Lives: How Evolution has Shaped Women's Health*. Her book from Oxford University Press has received rave reviews, including one who noted that we should "run, don't walk (or stroll bipedally) to give this important and elegantly written book to your favorite bride-to-be, mother-to-be, mother, grandmother, or great grandmother! Inquisitive men will also find this book engaging." She currently divides her time spending part of the year in Las Cruces where she is engaged in many scholarly and productive activities. Ed Staski retired and escaped the summer heat by moving to Ruidoso in the mountains east of Las Cruces. Fortunately for our graduate students Ed has continued to teach the introductory anthropological theory course and serves on several graduate thesis committees, while he tries to carve out time to work on his book on the Camino Real. Christine Eber retired in December 2010 and has been busy in the meantime completing her book on the life history of the woman who has long been her collaborator in Chiapas. Christine's book, entitled *The Journey of a Tzotzil-Maya Woman: Pass Well Over the Earth*, from University of Texas Press will appear in 2011. The collective energy, productivity, and engagement of our retired faculty continues to serve as an inspiration for us all.



While we feel the loss of these seasoned colleagues, we are excited to welcome two new faculty who will join us in fall 2011. Dr. Fumiyasu Arakawa completed his Ph.D. at Washington State University and has spent the past several years as a scientist at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Research Center in Cortez, Colorado. Fumi's particular expertise on the archaeology of northern New Mexico

will be a welcome complement to Bill Walker's focus on southern New Mexico, Rani Alexander's Mesoamerica focus, and Beth O'Leary's expertise in CRM. We anticipate very fruitful collaborations between our archaeology faculty in the future. We will also welcome Dr. Mary Alice Scott, a recent Ph.D. from University of Kentucky. Her research has focused on the health care system and the national insurance plan of Mexico, specifically in Veracruz. This timely research will be an excellent complement to the border issues/Mexico focus that has long been a strength of our program, especially linking to the work of Lois Stanford and Don Pepion. We are very happy to have the talents and energy that Fumi and Mary Alice will be bringing to the program.

The university as a whole continues to go through transitions, from changes in leadership to the challenges of perpetual belt-tightening in this tough fiscal climate, but we have tried to remain focused on what is important – being the best anthropologists that we can, and teaching and mentoring our students so they are



productive and competitive in this difficult time. As this newsletter shows, many of our students are doing remarkable things, from engaging in critical scholarship,

to important volunteer work, to mentoring the next generation to find fascination with anthropology. This will ultimately be the legacy of our collective efforts, and something that we can take great pride in facilitating. We all take great pride when we see our students make their first professional presentation at a conference, when they are accepted to a high quality program, when they conduct meaningful and interesting research, or when they share our passion for our discipline. We hope you will find this first newsletter interesting, and will contribute information or articles for future issues, as we want to maintain our community of NMSU Anthropologists beyond the boundaries of the campus.

I invite you to write or email me (mchaiken@nmsu.edu) if you have ideas for a future article, or if you'd just like to chat about your days as an Aggie. In order to make the future publications of newsletters possible, we would like to distribute these electronically through email addresses, so I would be very, very grateful if you could send me an email address where we might contact you – I promise, we won't share this with others who will spam you, this is just to maintain our networks through anthropology. We hope this will be the first of many regular newsletters, and a new way to strengthen our networks and our links with each other as members of the NMSU Anthropology team.

With best wishes,

Miriam Chaiken, Department Head

Anth 389/523 Archaeological Mapping

Faculty and students are always looking for ways to escape the classroom and get into the field. Spring 2011 was no exception, as nine students headed to Ft. Selden State Monument each Saturday morning with Dr. Rani Alexander to conduct archaeological survey and produce the first digital map of the adobe structures which housed units of the US Infantry and Cavalry from 1865 to 1891. Rangers at the State monument shared their knowledge of the site's history and even hosted a living history cooking demonstration. During the week the students were back in the lab, compiling data and drawing maps using Surfer software.

Andrea Einck, a graduate student in Anthropology, will continue research started in the mapping class. Her master's thesis will link the excavations conducted at Ft. Selden in the 1970s with the digital map and compare the spatial patterns to information from other forts in southern New Mexico.

The three-credit course provides hands-on experience in archaeological field techniques. Instrument mapping using standard theodolites and total stations is a basic skill that all archaeologists

must learn. Students who have these skills often are first picks for archaeological research projects or employment in cultural resources management and with state and federal agencies that manage public lands. The Anthropology department will offer the course again next spring. We hope to continue our collaboration with NM State Parks and Monuments in Southern New Mexico.



Mapping Class 2011: Dr. Rani Alexander, Erin Schmidt, and Sahra Bliss

Archaeological Field School

The 2011 NMSU Summer Archaeological field school will be returning to the Kipp Ruin for a fourth season. The Kipp Ruin is located on the lower Mimbres River just east of Deming. It is a wonderful location for NMSU anthropology students to learn about the southern Mogollon Culture tradition and gain fieldwork skills. Artifacts and architecture at this multi-component site track approximately 1300 years of culture change. These materials include early and late pit house periods (A.D. 100-1000) as well as the pueblo period (A.D. 1000-1450).

In addition to learning field techniques and Mogollon archaeology a number of graduate students are conducting original research at the site. Their topics include studies of feasting in the Salado pueblo component, the uses of bedrock mortars and ground stone technology,

the ritual landscape of the Kipp ruin complex, obsidian exchange in southwest New Mexico, and development of spatial analysis for surface studies of multi-component Mogollon sites.

This summer we plan to continue to explore the early pit house period component at the site. We are expecting a large crew of almost 18 students. This fall many of the students will continue working with our summer collections in a follow up archaeological analysis class.



Dr. William Walker giving a tour of Kipp Ruin

Student Spotlight



Sean G. Dolan has been involved with various projects while pursuing his master's degree in anthropology. This spring, Sean successfully defended his thesis entitled "A critical examination of the bone pathology on KNM-ER 1808, a 1.6 million year old Homo erectus from Koobi Fora, Kenya."

Despite extensive study of the bone

pathology on the 1.6 million year old Homo erectus partial skeleton from Kenya, KNM-ER 1808, there is still no consensus on the cause of pathogenesis. Sean's thesis utilized multiple lines of evidence from Plio-Pleistocene archaeology, paleoenvironmental studies, and genetics to infer the cause of bone pathology in KNM-ER 1808. By synthesizing the literature about the proposed diseases, gross analysis of casts, radiographs, and photographs of KNM-ER 1808, this research provides ample evidence to refute the yaws and sickle cell anemia diagnoses. However, the hypervitaminosis A diagnosis cannot be excluded nor corroborated based on this research. This research was also presented at the 2011 New Mexico State University Graduate Research and Arts Symposium (GRAS), where it took a first place award, and as a poster at the 2011 American Association of Physical Anthropologists conference.

Sean also presented a paper entitled "Evidence for Obsidian Source Variation Through Time at Kipp Ruin" at the 2010 Mogollon conference, the 2011 New Mexico State University Graduate Research and Arts Symposium, and as a poster at the 2011 Society for American Archaeology conference. The source provenance of thirty obsidian artifacts from Kipp Ruin (LA 153465), a multi-component Mogollon site on the lower Mimbres River near Deming, New Mexico was analyzed by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) to determine the procurement patterns. Analysis shows that during the Pithouse period (A.D. 200-1000), the primary source was Sierra Fresnal in northern Mexico. However, during the Pueblo period (A.D. 1000-1450), the occupants change to procuring obsidian from a broader range of locations in New Mexico, most notably Mule Creek. Following graduation in May 2011, Sean will be working at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, CO.



Joshua Foster, Co-President of the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization, presented at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Conference on April 2, 2011. Joshua's paper was entitled "Mimbres Mortar Holes, What Were Their Purpose?" During the summer of 2010, Joshua partici-

pated in the archaeological field school, directed by Dr. William Walker, at Kipp Ruin, a Mimbres site located near Deming, New Mexico. During excavation, several mortar hole features were uncovered. Bedrock grinding features are commonly associated with sites in the Mimbres Valley of southwest New Mexico. Most known clusters are associated with hard bedrock substrates and archaeologists assume they were used to grind seeds, such as mesquite beans, into flour. However, the recent excavations at the Kipp Ruin have revealed dozens of these features excavated into softer bedrock caliche. Joshua's paper presented a functional analysis of these features. Following graduation, Joshua plans to enter a PhD program in order to continue his research.



Stephanie Hawkins presented at the 3rd Annual Southwest New Mexico Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Conference on April 2, 2011. Stephanie's presentation was entitled, "What's That Sound? The Science Behind the Music." As part of her museum education internship, Stephanie developed a hands on lesson plan for elementary students, which she presented to teachers from New Mexico

schools. In this lesson plan, students create instruments from recycled materials that demonstrate the creation and behavior of sound waves; incorporating music, culture and physics into the science classroom. Stephanie enjoys creating and organizing educational activities in her current position as an Education Intern for the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History and plans on pursuing a career as a museum educator or collections curator.

Drs. Christine Eber and Wenda Trevathan Retire



With heavy hearts the Department of Anthropology wishes Christine Eber a fond farewell. After 15 years as a cultural anthropology faculty member at NMSU, Christine retired in December 2010.

Christine's research is centered in Chiapas, Mexico where she focuses on indigenous women's efforts to resist oppression from men in their home and the society at large and their participation in the Zapatista, weaving cooperative, and Liberation Theology

movements. Christine was inspired by the women's strategies of collectively resisting and their commitment to carrying on ancestral traditions, at the same time adapting to the rapid social change around them. Following the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas on January 1, 1994, Christine founded the Las Cruces-Chiapas Connection (www.lascruceschiapasconnection.com), a volunteer organization that assists weavers in three cooperatives sell their weavings through fair trade markets in the U.S. In addition, the organization strives to educate consumers about issues such as fair trade, the effects of globalization on indigenous artisans, and women's perspectives. Christine is also a board member for the Maya Educational Foundation (www.mayaedufound.org) which has established a scholarship fund to assist Tzotzil students from the Chenalhó region in highland Chiapas, Mexico remain in school.

It is Christine's "lifelong mission to learn." She hopes to spend retirement pursuing humanistic anthropology and experimenting with various writing styles including poetry and creative non-fiction, as well as continuing to write scholarly articles. She plans to remain active in anthropological research and hopes to travel to Chiapas every two years to maintain her involvement with the Las Cruces-Chiapas Connection and the Maya Education Foundation. One of Christine's goals is to continue efforts working with Maya scholarship program recipients, supporting and inspiring them to achieve their dreams. The Department of Anthropology will truly miss Christine's passion for social justice and dedication to student achievement. Christine is an inspiration to everyone she meets and we wish her well in her retirement.

In April 2011 the College of Arts and Sciences sponsored a new event, "Shine On!", that was intended to highlight the diverse accomplishments of the faculty of the college. This unique multi-media event was the brainchild of NMSU's Mark Medoff, the Academy Award nominee, Tony winner, and author of famous plays such as "Children of a Lesser God."

Medoff invited each department to nominate one faculty member (past or present) to be the "star" who was highlighted for the evening. Our Anthropology Department Superstar, Wenda Trevathan, was the obvious choice. Wenda is known by many titles: accomplished researcher, prolific author, Regents Professor Emerita at New Mexico State University, but for those of us who know her, we think of Wenda as one of the nicest, smartest people we have ever met!

In her many years of service at NMSU she molded a generation of undergraduate and graduate students and helped them channel their curiosity about how our biology shapes us as modern humans, through the examination of topics as diverse as the biology of birth, to infant development, and adult sexuality. Her research touches on questions about the fundamental nature of humans, and helps us understand our place in nature. Her books, *Ancient Bodies, Modern Lives: How Evolution Shaped Women's Health* (2010), *Evolutionary Medicine and Health* (coauthored with E.O. Smith and JJ McKenna), and her numerous articles have helped create the new multi-disciplinary field of evolutionary medicine and all have been positively reviewed. This cutting edge research is helping us understand how the biological legacy that our bodies represent provides us with both opportunities and challenges while living in our complex, modern world.

Outside the halls of academia, Wenda can be found working locally to ensure the preservation of our wonderful historic resources, actively participating in environmental causes, traveling the world, hiking the Organ Mountains, and trying to make this world a better place than she found it. In this she is succeeding, as the imprint Wenda is making on our university, our community, and our broader network of Aggies across the globe is indelible. We who are fortunate enough to count Wenda among our friends are so grateful to have this astonishingly talented, elegant, charming, and giving person in our world. Wenda is truly a star, shining brightly.



Archaeology
Rani Alexander
Beth O'Leary
William Walker

Biological Anthropology
Brenda Benefit
Monte McCrossin

Department of Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology
Miriam Chaiken, Dept. Head
W. Thomas Conelly
Don Pepion
Scott Rushforth
M. Lois Stanford

Emeritus
Christine Eber
Edward Staski
Wenda Trevathan

Affiliated
Weldon Lamb
Jennifer Robles
Judy Berryman
Debra LeBeau
Larry Loendorf

Staff
Barbara Burrell

Where Are They Now?



Agnes Castronuevo, graduated with honors from NMSU in 2009 with a MA in Anthropology.

Agnes worked nearly full-time during her graduate studies, gaining invaluable experience as an archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service. Although Agnes has had many mentors throughout her academic career, Dr. Rani

Alexander was always supportive of her endeavors and was crucial in guiding her toward the U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln National Forest, in Alamogordo, NM. After her first year of employment with the U.S. Forest Service, Agnes was converted to a SCEP student-employee, which paved the way for a permanent position with the agency. Upon graduation, Agnes was promoted to the Zone Archaeologist at the Inyo National Forest in Bishop, California. According to Agnes, obtaining hands-on experience by participating in field

schools and volunteering is essential to success following graduation. Agnes encourages current students to “go with your passion, first and foremost, and don’t let anyone change your path... Above all, have the determination to see your degree to the end... If you run short of determination, find an advisor, a mentor, a friend, who can help you stay on task, and help keep things in perspective.”

Currently, Agnes works as the Tribal Archaeologist and recently accepted an appointment as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, & Siuslaw Indians in Coos Bay, Oregon. Her position oversees the Cultural Preservation program for the Tribes within approximately two million acres of their ancestral territory. Agnes’s primary responsibilities include reviewing permits for projects (local, state, and federal); consulting with government agencies; performing site visits and site updates; completing archaeological surveys and testing; and working closely with the Tribes’ cultural director, Chief, and Cultural Committee to manage the Tribes’ cultural resources and address concerns.



Aaron Sharratt, received his MA in Anthropology from NMSU in 2008 with a thesis entitled “Forest Loss, Identity & Tradition: Mushroom Gathering in the Meseta Purepecha.”

Aaron’s research focused on property rights, community forestry, edible plants gathered in the forest, and dietary changes as a result of deforestation in a small indigenous Michoacan community. While completing his thesis,

Aaron “began working as the Project Coordinator for the Colonias Development Council, a Las

Cruces-based nonprofit working to improve the quality of life in colonia communities.” Aaron’s interest in food access challenges grew and following graduation he applied for “funding to establish a food justice/local food system development organization that could continue the work that had been started at the CDC.” In 2010, Aaron received funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and helped establish the La Semilla Food Center, a nonprofit organization serving the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.

Currently, Aaron is directing the efforts of the La Semilla Food Center, working with close friends and colleagues, Cristina Dominguez and Rebecca Wiggins to “address such profound challenges as hunger, obesity, diabetes, and inaccessibility to fresh produce... We live in such a rich fertile valley with a long agricultural history and yet live in one of the most food insecure places in the country.” Please see their website at www.lasemillafoodcenter.org for more information on their efforts within the community to alleviate food insecurity.

Aaron is grateful to Drs. Lois Stanford, Christine Eber, Neil Harvey, and Scott Rushforth for their support and is particularly indebted to them for mentoring him in every aspect of his studies, “providing thoughtful feedback but the space for me to grow on my own... each has motivated, inspired, and supported me through my Master’s and beyond.” Although social change work can be difficult it is utterly rewarding. Aaron believes above all, in order to be successful following graduation, students should follow their passion.



Tabitha Griffith, received her MA in Anthropology from NMSU in 2009 with a thesis entitled “Playas and People: Examining Relationships Between Water Availability and Cultural Behavior in the Tularosa Basin, New Mexico,” which used geoarchaeological methods to ascertain paleo-environmental changes in the Tularosa Basin, and compared her

findings with previous studies in soil geomorphology and archaeology within the region.

While studying at NMSU Tabitha’s committee chair, Dr. Beth O’Leary, was instrumental in supporting her as a working student. According to Tabitha, “Not only were Dr. O’Leary’s Cultural Resources Management (CRM) courses held at a convenient time allowing me to keep my full-time job as a field archaeologist, but

O’Leary also provided me with a fundamental understanding of CRM laws as well as the process of responding to requests for proposals.”

Currently, Tabitha works for Geo-Marine, Inc., as a Principal Investigator for the Cultural Resources Division, in Boise, Idaho. She has experience in Southwest, Great Basin, and Eastern Woodland archaeology with research interests in geoarchaeology, soil geomorphology, and archaeogeophysics. Tabitha enjoys working for a company where hard work is appreciated and encouraged. Tabitha believes that the keys to being a successful archaeologist in today’s competitive job market include: the ability to write well, finding a marketable niche, and obtaining as much hands on experience as possible while going to school. She also suggests using professional social media networking (such as LinkedIn), presenting at conferences, publishing research, participating in public outreach activities, and being involved in local, regional, and national organizations as a way to set you apart from the crowd.

Anthropology GSO

Greetings Alumni! I am proud to report that the Anthropology Graduate Student Organization (GSO) had a very successful academic year. Our members rose to the challenge of increasing our role in the community by raising money for local charities and participating in community service events. The GSO continually strives to meet the goals of its mission and create new ways to enhance the graduate experience.

The Anthropology GSO's mission is to:

1. Further the local community's awareness of anthropology in all sub-disciplines.
2. Foster the academic and professional development of graduate students in anthropology.
3. Facilitate a meaningful academic exchange between faculty and students.
4. Allow graduate students to voice their concerns and opinions in administrative and departmental decision making and policy making matters.

In the fall, the GSO raised over four hundred dollars through an on campus book sale. Books were donated by professors and students and the profit was donated to Casa DePerigrinos (the Food Bank of Las Cruces). All unsold books were taken to Coas and over two hundred dollars in store credit was donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces. In the spring, several GSO members attended a service day at Phillips Chapel. The chapel was recently put on the state's historic register and is undergoing restoration funded by community donations. The students helped make adobe bricks and

lyme putty to support the foundation of the building. The restoration project is ongoing and will continue with the help of students, volunteers and professionals. This year we also had a record number of GSO members apply for and receive funding through the Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU) and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) for conference travel and research.

I am confident that with your help, the GSO will continue to grow in 2011-2012. The GSO welcomes suggestions from alumni for ways in which the GSO could enhance its impact on the lives anthropology graduate students and raise community awareness. Visit us on facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=37314121204>.

2010-2011 Anthropology GSO Officers

Presidents:

Joshua Foster & Jaime Vela

Vice President:

Joel Lennen

Secretary:

Stephanie Hawkins

Treasurer:

Nina Williams

Volunteer Coordinator:

Darrell James Nutima

Faculty Advisor:

Lois Stanford



Phillips Chapel Restoration

In case your perusal of this newsletter has made you inclined to open your wallet and send some green good wishes our way, we want to let you know that there is now a way for you to make tax deductible donations to "Friends of Anthropology" at NMSU, through the Foundation for NMSU. We have our own account (number 102314 in case you need it) and if you donate through the secure web site the funds will come directly to us...not to the football team, not to paving parking lots, not for buying library books...directly to anthropology!

To make a donation select the following web site: <http://fndforms.nmsu.edu/giving.php> and then click on the option to "Find a giving area or fund." If you then type in "Anthropology" you can select the option it will offer for "Friends of Anthropology". Once you have chosen to be our friend you can follow the directions to make a donation. Whether you are inclined to give \$10.00 or \$1,000.00, please know we are very appreciative, and our long-term goal is to use these funds to support future student learning opportunities. We are truly grateful for your support.

We Want to Hear From You!

What have you done since graduation? Do you have any news or an event you would like to contribute to the Department of Anthropology newsletter? Please fill in the information coupon and attach it to your news story. Send it to: New Mexico State University, Department of Anthropology, MSC 3BV, P.O. Box 30001, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001 or email your news to mchaiken@NMSU.edu.

Name _____ Degree and Year Graduated _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

My News _____