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Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Bradley Blake

The Anthropology Department joined friends, family, and former students of Dr. Bradley Blake to celebrate the life and legacy the first anthropologist to serve as an NMSU faculty member.

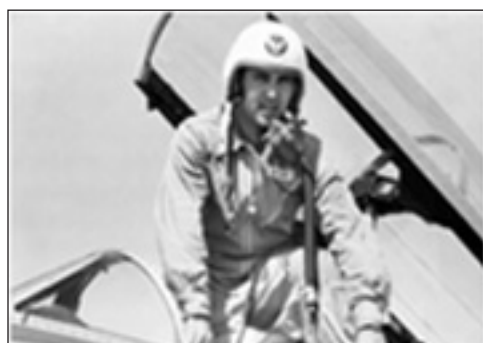
Dr. Blake joined NMSU's Social Science Department in 1965 and was instrumental in establishing the university's anthropology major and master's program. A true renaissance man, Dr. Blake was an accomplished clarinetist, a novelist, an avid fisherman, and a father dedicated to his four children, Laura, Leslie, Eleanor, and Sam.

Born in Abbottsford, Wis., Dr. Blake served in the Air Force during the Korean War as a member of Flying Tigers. His service led to a passion for aviation, which he carried throughout his life, working as a flight trainer and running a flying taxi service.

After leaving the military, Dr. Blake enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he discovered anthropology. He worked as an archaeologist at Effigy Mounds before completing his master's degree in archaeology and his Ph.D in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He traveled widely, conducting fieldwork in India, Ireland, and in the U.S., where he studied several Native American groups. His research interests included environmental issues and cultural change.

"He was what we as anthropologists call a real 'four-fielder' -- he understood archaeology, he understood cultural anthropology, he had curiosity about all things that are subsumed under the title anthropology," department head Dr. Miriam Chaiken said at a memorial service honoring Dr. Blake.

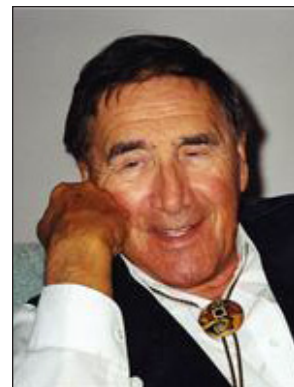


Dr. Blake, who was instrumental in establishing NMSU's anthropology program, had a passion for aviation and served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

unparalleled," Dr. Joe Rogers, a colleague of Dr. Blake's and former head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, said.

Former students recalled how Dr. Blake would incorporate rubber chickens and giant yo-yos into his lectures. Dr. Wenda Trevathan remembered how Dr. Blake "was known as a master teacher, and the department had a good reputation on campus because of the way he could connect with students. When people in the community learned I was an anthropologist they always launched into stories about Brad's classes -- often including gorilla suits and rubber chickens -- and his impact on them."

The fond memories and laughter shared at the memorial service stand as a testament to Dr. Blake's legacy at NMSU and within the Las Cruces community. "He was my very first teacher," his daughter Leslie said. "And if anything, he taught me about life and living it to its fullest [and] accepting everybody you meet."



Dr. Bradley Blake

During his 31 years at NMSU, he started the first archaeological field school, made possible by his acquisition of a Korean War-era surplus ambulance van named the Titanic. He won three excellence in teaching awards, and served as director of the University Museum for nearly a decade, promoting community involvement through a variety of events and field trips. Dr. Blake also was inducted into the Dona Ana County Hall of Fame and volunteered at the Mesilla Archives.

His influence was far reaching: "There wasn't a place that I've ever been to in New Mexico where I didn't run into somebody who knew him," Dr. Lois Stanford said.

However, Dr. Blake is perhaps best remembered for his teaching ability and sense of humor. "His mastery of humor and the clarity of illustration to foster learning was absolutely

Undergrad Spotlight

Madeleine Brown graduated with her bachelor's degree in December 2011, double majoring in anthropology and biology with a minor in chemistry. She was named the Outstanding Senior of the College of Arts & Sciences last year and is planning to continue her education at NMSU as a master's candidate in government studies this fall.

As an undergrad in the biology department, Madeleine worked with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute studying the virus and bacteria that caused Chestnut blight in the Northeastern United States. Her interest in anthropology began to form during a bio class. "We were talking about paleoanthropology and I thought that it would be really cool to study early hominid species," she said.

Eventually, her interests turned more to the cultural aspects of the discipline. A directed reading course with Dr. Miriam Chaiken focusing on human rights and applied anthropology led to her current career goals: After completing her M.A., Madeleine plans to pursue a law degree in a civil rights program, possibly at New York University. However, her hard science background will continue to inform her studies. "I think of anthropology in a very scientific way," she said. "I think like a biologist and I think as an anthropologist. ... They're just so similar to each other. I don't see any disconnect at all."



Zachary Brecheisen is looking forward to completing his bachelor's degree in December 2012 with a dual major in anthropology and biology, a minor in conservation ecology and a supplemental major in sustainable development. His interests took him to Borneo, Indonesia, in the summer of 2011, where he was involved in an Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) project that examined ecological damage caused by the palm oil industry.

"I went there to see how it was impacting people on a local level," he said. He also helped construct walkways through protected peat-swamp rainforests that serve as a rehabilitation center for orphaned orangutans.

The work in Borneo is the basis of his undergraduate honor's thesis, which will examine the effects of globalization on small communities and incorporate his work with OFI. Part of that work is looking at how the local community is involved in providing food for the orangutans. "With community approval and community support, it's made their conservation a lot more effective," he said.

After graduation, Zachary plans to continue his course of study, possibly taking a social science approach to environmental studies that emphasizes politics and people.

Aside from his academic pursuits, Zachary also works at a biodiesel research laboratory; maintains his own bio-diverse garden, which is "based on the principles of agroecology and general ecology as informed by [his] university studies"; and keeps a Cornish game hen named Baña who "lays pretty good eggs."

Undergraduate anthropology major Stacia Fine is focused on studying the cultural aspects of the discipline, but that hasn't stopped her from exploring many opportunities to engage in archaeological research.

Last summer, Stacia volunteered for the Las Cuevas Archaeological Reconnaissance project in Belize, exploring general excavation techniques and working in a ceramics laboratory. Her work there was funded by a scholarship from the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and led to the publication of a paper in the journal *The Artifact* that discussed the history of the site and the Mayan conception of sacred landscape.

In 2010, she also participated in the Belize Minanha Cave Project, where she did cave archaeology, mapping, and excavations.

Locally, Stacia has been active in efforts to restore the historic Phillips Chapel. In May, she presented a paper titled "Phillips Chapel: A Social History" at the New Mexico Historical Preservation Alliance conference in Santa Fe. The paper explores the restoration work, building architecture, and how the chapel has functioned as a social hub for African-Americans in Las Cruces.

Stacia, who will graduate this summer, has also applied for a historic preservation internship this summer with the Faith and John Meem Preservation Trades International. Eventually, Stacia would like to pursue a higher degree at NMSU in anthropology or public history.

Braeden Dimitroff, a junior anthropology major with a minor in geology, is researching ceremonial feasting at an early formative site in Hualcayán, Peru, in the highland Andes. Braeden, who participated in a field school at the site in the summer of 2011, is interested in analyzing the local and nonlocal lithic materials used to make ceramics found on the Perolcoto ceremonial platform.

His senior honor's thesis will use petrographic analysis of ceramics complemented by a regional geologic survey of the Cajellon de Huaylas in the province of Ancash to determine the sources of the lithic materials utilized at different periods.

The Hualcayán project, sponsored by the *Proyecto de Investigación Arqueológico Regional Ancash* in coordination with the *Universidad Nacional "Santiago Antúnez de Mayolo,"* also aims to raise awareness about the importance of the site. Another important goal of the project is to help develop new economic opportunities for residents of the local subsistence farming communities in Hualcayán.

He has received a Gilman Scholarship to continue his work in Peru this summer, and also plans to spend the fall semester abroad in Lima, Peru, to continue his analysis and improve his Spanish language skills. Braeden plans to present his research at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Hawaii next year and perhaps pursue publication opportunities. After graduating, he hopes to work toward his doctorate in Andean archaeology.



Graduate Student Spotlight

Physical anthropology major Evan Simons graduated in May 2012 with a thesis examining the differences in growth patterns between male and female vervet monkeys.

"I've always been interested in evolution and monkeys," he said of his research, adding that he found his thesis topic "by accident" when paging through a book on growth patterns.

"It's my contention that the majority of physical traits of organisms are influenced by growth processes, and so the clearer understanding we can get about the way that things grow, the more we can understand why they look like they do."

Evan found evidence of different growth patterns by examining vervet craniums -- a bone, he says, that has been overlooked by many previous studies. "Females and males will grow at a similar rate for a while, but then females stop -- presumably to enter into the reproductive community. Males will continue to grow," and these patterns are evident in the craniums. While most of his research and analysis involved monkey skulls available on the NMSU campus, he also traveled to examine specimens held at Miami University in Ohio.

He will begin a doctoral program this fall at the University of Oregon, where he plans to shift his focus to paleontology and looking at the differences of species over evolutionary time. He also plans to develop his skills in creating 3-D computerized models of skulls to aid in analysis.



Kristin Corl will begin her graduate studies at NMSU this fall. She completed her bachelor's degree (anthropology major with a biology minor) in the spring with a senior thesis focusing on canine dentition of *Kenyapithecus*, a late Miocene hominid.

Kristin has been actively involved in field school opportunities throughout her undergraduate career.

Last summer, she traveled to South Africa for five-and-a-half weeks as part of a field school with the University of Victoria and University of Johannesburg. The field school allowed her to study *Paranthropus robustus* and early hominin species at Drimolen, a 1.4 million to 2 million year old site. The site "is known for producing really young specimens, so we have some of the youngest early [hominin] specimens ever found" coming from that site, she said. Her travel and research were funded by a Gilman International Scholarship and Aggies Go Global.

She also participated in a 2010 field school at the Kipp Ruins east of Deming, performing various archaeological duties, such as investigating the possible location of a pit house.

In the future Kristin plans to pursue her Ph.D in physical anthropology. She says she likely will continue studying Miocene hominids for her master's thesis. This summer, she will participate in an archaeological field school on the Jornada Range, and hopes to return to Drimolen in 2013 for another field season.

Italian-native Adriano De Santis plans to complete his master's degree in the fall of 2012 with a thesis examining variation in C-shaped structures found among Maya ruins.

"It's not really clear what they were used for, but what is interesting is that they spread out, and during the post-Classic [period] they are found all over the Yucatan Peninsula," he said. Using the technological differentiation approach, Adriano hopes to rule out certain proposed interpretations of the structures' purpose.

In December 2011, Adriano worked in the Yucatan surveying, excavating, and restoring Mayan structures and sites along highway 180. He visited some of the C-shaped structures on weekends to get a first-hand look at their architectural features.

Adriano also participated in the NMSU archaeological field school in the summer of 2011 at the Kipp Ruins near Deming.

Living in New Mexico has provided Adriano with an opportunity to travel to many archaeologically significant areas in the southwest, including Mesa Verde, Canyon de Chelly, and Chaco Canyon. Upon graduation, Adriano hopes to gain hands-on field experience working as an archaeologist and hopes the discipline provides him with a chance to see the world.



Daniel Valverde plans to graduate this summer with his M.A. in anthropology before embarking on a year-long fellowship with the Emerson Hunger Center. The Las Lunas native is the first New Mexican to be awarded the fellowship, now in its 19th year. For the first half of the fellowship, Daniel will work to address food insecurity at the

local level. He will then spend the remainder of the fellowship working with a public policy organization in Washington, D.C.

Daniel started his anthropological career in archaeology and worked for a company in Wyoming, surveying southwestern oil and coal fields, before pursuing his master's at NMSU. He decided to focus on the food and culture aspects of the discipline because of a desire to "give something back" to the community.

His thesis examines the history and current celebration of mantanzas -- a cultural festival related to food and family that is practiced throughout New Mexico, Mexico, and Spain. Specifically, his thesis focuses on his own community's experience with mantanzas. He has also been active in the local food scene as a volunteer for the not-for-profit No Kid Hungry campaign, which focuses on ending childhood hunger, and at soup kitchens.

Daniel hopes the fellowship will help him build the network and skills needed to one day work for the World Health Organization or a national or international campaign to address hunger.

"There is nothing else I can think of that I would want to do with my life right now," he said of his interest in food security issues.

Dr. O'Leary, Students Work To Preserve Lunar Artifacts

Although archaeological preservation generally conjures images of ancient ruins, Dr. Beth O'Leary and a handful of NMSU students have pioneered efforts to preserve more recent historically significant sites on the lunar surface. Dr. O'Leary's interest in space archaeology started in 1999, when a student -- Ralph Gibson (M.A. Anthropology, 2000) -- asked her whether federal preservation law applied to the moon.

Since then, Dr. O'Leary has been exploring what she calls the "grey legal area" pertaining to the protection of scientifically significant sites on the lunar surface. According to Dr. O'Leary, there are about 80 archaeological sites currently on the moon, consisting of robotics, symbolic items left behind by moon landings, and footprints and rover tracks of those who have been on the surface.

Her work has been featured in popular media -- including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, NPR, and the Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) -- and she has been invited to speak about the issue at international conferences.

In 2011, Dr. O'Leary was invited by NASA to participate in a workshop to write guidelines aimed at preserving lunar sites during future space exploration endeavors. She was one of two non-physical scientists involved in the creation of the recommendations and helped draft portions regarding the significance of the sites. "It was a really good-faith effort for NASA to provide recommendations," she said.

However, the guidelines do not cite protection for sites under the U.S. National Historical Preservation Act, leaving Dr. O'Leary and colleagues working through other channels to further strengthen preservation efforts.

Working with NMSU students Jamie Vela, Deneve Sam, Reagan Slocum, Sarah Bliss, Matthew Punke, and Robert De Bry in a cultural resource management class in 2010, Dr. O'Leary was able to get the artifacts and a structure on the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties. She also worked with Gibson in California, which enacted similar protections, and she is working with colleagues to encourage Arizona to do the same.

In addition, Dr. O'Leary is collaborating with the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and a colleague from the Republic of Tonga to establish the moon as an international territory -- one of the next steps in seeking World Heritage Site status from the United Nations.

She expects interest in lunar site preservation will gain momentum again this summer as the 43rd anniversary of the Apollo mission approaches in July.

"We're going at it from a local grass-roots level, and we're going at it

Dr. Stanford Elected to SfAA Board



Dr. Lois Stanford was recently elected to a three-year term on board of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

"I feel a real strong commitment to the SfAA because it's the one association that really brings together cultural anthropologists and applied [anthropologists]; both anthropologists who are in academic positions and anthropologists who are out there working in non-academic positions, such as development or policy work," she said.

As one of six board members, Dr. Stanford will serve as a liaison between the general membership of SfAA and the board, and as well as to all student award committees, including among others, the Valene Smith Travel Award, Edward Spicer Award, and Bea Medicine committees. She will also assist in developing the future themes of SfAA annual meetings. Currently, she serves on the Malinowski Committee, which annually reviews nominations for the Malinowski Award -- a lifetime achievement award for anthropologists who have made significant contributions to the field, as well as to the public.

She hopes her position will help her bring issues of food security, biological and cultural diversity, and conservation of food traditions to the forefront of the discipline.

from above," she said. "I just hope that what I've done in my career is to start the process of making people aware of how important that achievement (moon exploration) is and how symbolic that is of all humanity.

"In reality, humanity owns the moon because every culture has a relationship to the night sky in their cultural narratives and practices. I just want to address the protection of the artifacts we left up there."

Department of Anthropology

Archaeology

Rani Alexander
Beth O'Leary
William Walker
Fumi Arakawa

Biological Anthropology

Brenda Benefit
Monte McCrossin

Cultural Anthropology

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

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?



Angela Orlando completed her master's degree in anthropology at NMSU in 2006 with a thesis focusing on the effects of tourism on aesthetic taste preferences of modern Andean weavers.

After graduation, she began working as a research assistant at the the Center on Everyday Lives of Families (CELf), funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and University of California-Los Angeles.

The 10-year project studied how 32 middle-class, dual-earner families in Los Angeles balanced the challenges of day-to-day living. Specifically, Angela, who was involved with the project for four-and-a-half years, looked at art in family homes as an expression of family identity.

"The point of CELf was not only to document people's lived realities but to change policy for working families. We did that; one of our professors is on Michelle Obama's task force to improve the lives of working moms. We especially recommend telecommuting and paternity benefits," she said.

She also traveled to Lima, Peru, and interviewed "16 very similar families there to draw comparisons about cross-cultural taste preferences and what that says and doesn't say about class belonging, gender, socialization of children, and globalization." Her research in Peru is the basis of her dissertation topic at UCLA.

In addition to her dissertation, Angela is working on several projects involving consumerism, toys, taste, and gender. She is a teaching fellow and lecturer at UCLA, where she has taught Anthropology of Religion, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and, her favorite, Anthropology of Aesthetic Systems and Art. In addition, she is an instructor at West Los Angeles College, where she teaches a course in Human Evolution.

For several years she has also served as copy editor at Anthropology Now! -- a peer reviewed journal focused on making anthropology more accessible and interesting to the general public.

After completing her Ph.D in June, Angela hopes to stay in the Los Angeles area teaching at a liberal arts school and publishing research, or working at a liberal think-tank.



Mark Sechrist completed his bachelor's degree in anthropology at NMSU in 1986 before returning to complete his master's degree in 2008 with a thesis examining historic-era Apache occupation in the Chiricahua Mountains of the Coronado Forest.

After graduation, Mark worked several contract archaeology jobs in the southwest. In 2006, he brought his archaeological expertise to his wife's oral history company, which was then renamed Full Circle Heritage Services. It's a name, Mark says, that "encompasses what we both do."

"My wife had started a little business for doing oral history. ... And then we just added me into the business on the other side doing archaeological contracting," he said. "This year we've worked everywhere from near Portales to west of Lordsburg."

Mark and his colleagues at Full Circle have worked on test excavation at the Bob Johns Site, a prehistoric pueblo site in Santa Teresa; archaeological monitoring at Fort Bayard, a National Register of Historic Places district near Silver City; archaeological survey and tribal consultation visits with Mescalero and White Mountain Apache Tribe members in the Coronado National Forest, Ariz.; archaeological surveys of private ranch lands in Chaves, Lincoln, and Torrance counties for the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts; and archaeological surveys, evaluations, and monitoring in the Guadalupe Mountains and Big Bend national parks in Texas, and Carlsbad Caverns National Park for Aspen CRM Solutions.

He also serves as a board member for the Asombro Institute for Science Education, a nonprofit organization working to increase scientific literacy for students and teachers through hands-on activities in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Of his anthropological studies, Mark says, "In general, I always feel like anthropology ... gave me some perspective on life that I've always looked for. It brought the broad view -- the broad holistic view," he said.



Sandra Andrade-Chumney completed her master's degree in anthropology (minor, geography) in May 2007 with a thesis examining the effects of globalization on the built environment of Silvituc, a small community in the Mexican state of Campeche.

While at NMSU she was the departmental nominee for the Outstanding Graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences and received a Merit Enhancement Fellowship.

After graduation, she worked as a contract archaeologist in Tucson, Ariz. She moved to her home state of Michigan in 2008 to work as outreach coordinator for the Red Cross, where she designed and implemented outreach programs for community disaster education

and created the first English as a Second Language (ESL) program for emergency preparedness. "With my background in anthropology, I also ended up doing a lot for their International Social Services program. I loved that," she said.

Sandra now works as the outreach coordinator for Main Street Ann Arbor, an organization that aims to maintain the vitality of the downtown area of the city. In March 2012, she also became the event coordinator and public relations officer for the University of Michigan's Classical Studies Department. In addition to her career, Sandra, who was recently married, is looking forward to focusing on family.

She says anthropology remains her "passion," even if her current position and location do not provide opportunities for research. Working with Dr. Rani Alexander and the NMSU anthropology program "changed my life and I wouldn't trade my experience in archaeology for anything. It was one of the happiest times of my life," she said.

Fall '12 Museum Exhibit to Explore Gender, Pueblo Pottery



Christina Mandell (left) and Stephanie Riley (right)

Anthropology graduate student Christina Mandell will open an exhibit at the Kent Hall University Museum in September 2012 examining gender influences on historical and contemporary pottery from the Acoma and Laguna Pueblos.

Christina, who is pursuing a women's study minor, received nearly \$13,000 in grants for the exhibit, much of which will be used for museum acquisitions. "We would really like to expand our current collection of Pueblo pottery" and acquire objects such as ollas (water vessels), canteens, wedding vessels, and over-sized pots, she said, adding that the funds may help the museum acquire other cultural items from the Pueblos, as well.

She also emphasized the contemporary aspect of the exhibit: "A lot of exhibits tend to focus on the past and the history of the Pueblos, and we really want to emphasize that this is still a tradition going on today."

Part of the exhibit will focus on the role of two-spirit individuals

within the Pueblo tradition. "These individuals were definitely prominent in the Acoma and Laguna cultures [as] very well known potters," she said. "And I think it's really important for people to see that other cultures adopt and embrace these 'third genders' that are outside of male and female. So that will be a really different part of the exhibit."

Helping her with the exhibit is Stephanie Riley, a senior anthropology undergraduate interested in museum studies. Stephanie serves as the program coordinator at the University Museum and is also a member of the Acoma Pueblo. She has been instrumental in giving Christina advice and information about Acoma, as well as introducing her to people of the Pueblo. Stephanie also will help with exhibit installation and text. "It's an honor to have an exhibit about the place where you are from," she said about the work.

Both Christina and Stephanie plan to complete their degrees in December 2012. After graduation, Christina hopes to gain experience and knowledge through a museum internship. She is also considering applying to a Ph.D program in women's studies. Stephanie is considering pursuing a master's degree in museum studies.



Josie Seymour of Laguna Pueblo demonstrates pottery painting techniques. Her work will be included in the upcoming exhibit.

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 _____

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