

# Department of Anthropology

## Newsletter

### The View from Williams Hall

*UVM Anthropology*

The department of Anthropology at UVM has seen unprecedented growth, with record numbers of majors and minors, new faculty, and new courses. With our focus not only on excellence in the classroom, but also on bringing undergraduate students into the field and the laboratory, it has been a busy and active year. CAP has also continued their vital work, conducting archaeological research throughout Vermont and the Northeast, and in the process providing professional archaeological training for our students and serving the community at large. In the pages of this newsletter, you will find updates on faculty research, student activities, noteworthy events, and more. The faculty, staff, and students are looking forward to an exciting and productive academic year ahead.



Working with students in the field and the lab is an integral part of the UVM Anthro experience. In Arizona, Summer 2008.

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## IN THE FIELD

### Where have we been?

Jeanne Shea traveled to China this summer just before the Beijing Olympics in order to continue her research on women, aging, and Chinese medicine.

Jennifer Dickinson is currently spending the first half of her sabbatical in Lviv, Ukraine, where she is working on advertising and the transformation of public space in the Post-Socialist context.

Deborah Blom spent Summer 2008 completing the last portion of the first stage of her 3-year project, Proyecto Jach'a Marka in Tiwanaku, Bolivia. She was excavating mortuary and residential contexts and doing laboratory research on human bone.

Scott Van Keuren and UVM students Grace Cameron, Colin Lyons, and Shannon Bradley traveled to the American Southwest this summer for archaeological fieldwork. The fieldwork was part of Dr. Van Keuren's research on Ancestral Pueblo villages in east-central Arizona, funded by the National Science Foundation (BCS 0753156). Grace Cameron and Shannon Bradley were supported in part by targeted Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grants from NSF. The crew excavated portions of three rooms, two ritual structures, and two large plazas at Four-mile Ruin, a fourteenth-century Ancestral Pueblo village near Taylor. The resulting data will help answer questions about fourteenth century migrations as well as the sudden appearance of iconographic-style pottery.

Brian Gilley conducted research on attitudes of junior and collegiate cyclists (*espoir*) toward performance enhancing drugs. This research was funded by the World Anti-Doping Agency and took him to collegiate races throughout the United States and *Espoir* races in France, Belgium and Italy. Dr. Gilley conducted surveys and ethnographic interviews. During his fieldwork he got the opportunity to ride along side professional racers in training and actual events. The results of Dr. Gilley's research will be published in the fall of 2009, but his research has already been featured in multiple news outlets including the International Herald Tribune and SI Online after a record number of athletes were caught doping at the 2008 Tour de France.



Shannon Wilson works with Dr. Blom in Bolivia



Colin Lyons and Grace Cameron working with Dr. Van Keuren in Arizona



Dr. Gilley at the end of the Koppenberg, a famously difficult climb in the Tour of Flanders bike race.

**ANTHRO CLUB!***Grace Cameron*

The UVM Anthropology Club has successfully entered its third year as an SGA recognized organization! This fall, we have gained a record number of participants, which is an encouraging reflection of the growing interest in the discipline here at UVM. The Anthro Club is an organization dedicated to enhancing student's experiences within the department, and provides a place for students to explore all aspects of the discipline outside of the classroom.

Some of the highlights from the fall have been from events sponsored by Vermont Archaeology Month. Club members returned once more to the Chimney Point Atlatl Competition for the third year in a row; although we did not take home the gold this time, we are already practicing, and still optimistic about our shot next fall! Other highlights have been watching the construction of, and later dismantling of a sand mandala by Tibetan Buddhist monks at the Fleming Museum. A trip to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum also provided club members with a new outlook on underwater archaeology.

The first departmental-wide Anthropology Social this fall was also a great success, and was an opportunity for students and faculty to socialize in a context outside of coursework. More fun events, activities and trips are being planned for later this semester and the spring semester, keep an eye out for these!

If you have any questions about the Anthro Club, or are interested in learning more, please contact Grace Cameron at [gcameron@uvm.edu](mailto:gcameron@uvm.edu).

**SUMMER AT CAP***James Allen*

As an undergraduate student at UVM pursuing a career in archaeology, I am fortunate to have become acquainted with the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) through laboratory courses, independent research, and volunteering. I spent half of last summer working full-time as a field technician for CAP and the other half of the summer conducting zooarchaeological research in the CAP laboratory.

My study involved the zooarchaeological analysis of animal bone from the Rendezvous Bay site, Anguilla and was under the supervision of, and in conjunction with, John Crock and Nanny Carder (CAP affiliate and UVM adjunct faculty member of Anthropology). The focus of the study was the continuation of research conducted in 2007 by Nanny Carder, Elizabeth Reitz (UGA), and John Crock which investigated possible overexploitation of tropical fishes in the prehistoric Caribbean. The research was funded by an APLE summer stipend which I received

from the College of Arts and Sciences. I carried out most of the lab work myself, which involved identification of skeletal elements, measurement of those elements, and statistical analysis of the sample. Our results supported Carder et al.'s 2007 conclusions that prehistoric overexploitation cannot be demonstrated on the island of Anguilla, unlike findings at other contemporary Caribbean sites. Our paper will hopefully be published in the coming months and the next phase of our research is about to begin. This project was an amazing opportunity and I gained valuable experience which will be helpful not only for my success as an undergraduate at UVM but for graduate school and beyond.

## RESEARCH NOTES

In addition to appearing in the Discovery Channel program *Bone Detectives*, Deborah Blom has presented several invited papers, including *Development of Bioarchaeological Research in the Contisuyo* (with Lozado and Buikstra) at the Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archaeology in Vancouver. She was also invited by *Cultural Anthropology* to comment on: "Diet, Tuberculosis, and the Paleopathological Record" (by Wilbur, Farnbach, Knudsen, and Buikstra). Of course, Dr. Blom was in the field this summer in Tiwanku, Bolivia, completing the last portion of a 3-year excavation.

This year, John Crock has written about cultural resource management (*In Anthropology: The Human Challenge*) as well as Caribbean societies ("Collapse among Amerindian Complex Societies in Amazonia and the Insular Caribbean: Endogenous and/or Exogenous Factors?"). He presented papers and organized sessions at the Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archeology in Vancouver, as well as hosting the successful Eastern States Archeological Meeting here in Burlington.

Rob Gordon authored a number of new articles this year, including "Who Shall Inherit" in the *Anthropology of Southern Africa* and "In plain Sight: the forgotten Bushman Genocide" in *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. In AY 07-08 Dr. Gordon served as a University Scholar, and is looking forward to his Fulbright Fellowship to Germany in 2009. Dr. Gordon also completed a 3-day traverse in the White Mountains with emeritus Bill Mitchell, and a 4-day

paddle from Fort Ticonderoga to the Canadian border on Lake Champlain.

Emily Manetta is looking forward to the publication of her research on question formation in Hindi-Urdu in the journal *Linguistic Inquiry*, as well as revising her work for the Inter-Asian Connections meeting for publication in *Development and Change*. Dr. Manetta gave an invited talk on Kashmiri Causatives in California in September, and will give a paper on Tajik discourses about Afghanistan at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in November. Her most exciting project of the moment, however, is her 4-month-old son, Zacharias.

Jonah Steinberg, in addition to taking care of his newborn son, signed a contract with University of North Carolina Press for his book *Allegiance: Deterritorialized Social Organization and the Ismaili Muslims*. Dr. Steinberg and Dr. Manetta travelled to Dubai to present at the SSRC's Inter-Asian Connections Conference in February and they are preparing this paper for publication. Dr. Steinberg is also currently launching his new research program on runaways and street children in North India.

Scott Van Keuren has published in two volumes this year on Desert Archeology, including his piece *Sunset Crater Archaeology: The History of a Volcanic Landscape - Ceramic Technology, Distribution, and Use*. He also spoke at the Vancouver meeting of the Society of American Archeology, and presented the results of summer fieldwork with his student research assistants at the 2008 Pecos Conference in Flagstaff, AZ.

Luis Vivanco's book *Green Encounters: Contesting and Shaping Environmentalism in Rural Costa Rica* has been released in paperback, and he is currently working on a textbook, entitled *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. This year Dr. Vivanco participated in an invited Wenner-Gren workshop called "After the Handshakes: Rethinking Democracy and Living Transition in Central America", as well as teaching "Introduction to Global Studies" a new course in the UVM Global Studies Program, which he chairs.

Cameron Wesson, UVM Anthropology Department Chair, had his book, *Households and Hegemony: Early Creek Prestige Goods, Symbolic Capital, and Social Power* released by University of Nebraska Press. He also published an article in *Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress*. Dr. Wesson has just begun a new project examining the material manifestations of poverty and social class in the Deep South from Reconstruction until World War II.

## Update: Babies!

As you may have heard, the faculty of the Anthropology Department welcomed several (very small) new additions this year. In December 2007, Jennifer Dickinson and her husband Andrew Kolovos gave birth to Thalia Rose.



In June 2008, Emily Manetta and Jonah Steinberg became the parents of Zacharias Emanuel. Brian Gilley and his wife Caroline expect their second son in early November, and Luis Vivanco and his wife Peggy expect their third child in January. So don't be surprised to hear the pitter-patter of little feet on the fifth floor of Williams!



## Our Staff

### CINDY LONGWELL

Cindy Longwell, the Administrative Assistant to the Anthropology Department is instrumental in our day-to-day operations. Whether she is answering student questions, assisting faculty, or performing her many administrative responsibilities, it is through Cindy's effort that the Department runs smoothly. Please stop in and visit Cindy in the Anthropology office and let her know how much we all appreciate her knowledge and hard work!

## YOUR TURN: CONTACT UVM ANTHROPOLOGY

Name:  
Graduation Year:  
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News:

I would like to know more about:

I would like to support Anthropology with a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to donate to the Anthropology Department, please contact Cindy Longwell at [clongwell@uvm.edu](mailto:clongwell@uvm.edu) or 802-656-3884

Thank you for your Support!

### Alumni news!

We want to hear from all of you! Please get in touch, by phone, mail, or email, and tell us about you and your family, your latest successes, career changes, and travels. We look forward to publishing alumni updates in future issues.

### Mail To:

University of Vermont  
Department of Anthropology  
509 Williams Hall  
72 University Place  
Burlington, Vermont 05405