Fusing the Field and the Classroom: WSU Archaeology Heads Outdoors

Colin Grier

Archaeology at WSU has always emphasized fieldwork. It’s what gets us excited about our work, and why we eagerly await the end of spring semester—to blast off into the field and get our hands dirty once again. From projects like the legendary work at Ozette, which began in the 1960s, to current department field projects in the Northwest, the Southwest, China, and Mesoamerica, “the field” has been central to pursuing our craft.

The challenge in teaching archaeology is to incorporate that fieldwork excitement into classroom training, whether in large undergraduate classes or in a more intimate graduate seminar. There are options, and here I describe two examples of how the field comes to the classroom (and vice versa) in our archaeological instruction.

I have carried on with this exercise since taking over the course several years ago. Mounting this kind of mock excavation gets logistically challenging when working with as many as 75 students. When the course is that big, students are split into two teams and two sites are constructed and excavated sequentially.

The Introduction to Archaeology (Anth 230) course is a staple for undergraduates interested in anthropology degrees. In fact, this course has had a “field” component for decades. Now emeritus Professor Bob Ackerman, working with a modest basement space in the recently demolished McAllister building, regularly set up twelve 1 x 1 meter boxes, filled them with sand, artifacts, and bones, and gave his students direct instruction in field recording methods.

One site is made to look like a hunter-gatherer base camp, complete with teepee ring-style structures, hearths, and obsidian tools. The other resembles a typical “kill site” with animal butchering locations and an assemblage indicative of bone transport and expedient tool resharpening. I have also now added a lab component, where students analyze and report on the materials they “excavate.”

On the graduate side, as part of the Northwest Coast Prehistory course (Anth 540), seven graduate students and I struck out in October to visit two classic archaeological sites associated with WSU research—Hoko River and Ozette, both on the Olympic peninsula.

To Northwest Coast archaeologists these sites need no introduction, and the latter is popularly known as the “Pompeii” of the Northwest Coast for its amazing organic preservation.

We spent four days on the road in a van and were generously accommodated by Adjunct Professor Dale Croes at his Hoko River Mouth Retreat. We explored the two sites, as well as the Makah Museum in Neah Bay where the excavated Ozette materials are housed. In addition to a series of seminar-style discussions and illustrated lectures from both Dale and I, we partook in a mussel and barnacle dinner from the local beach, a traditional-style salmon bake on an open fire, and tried our hand at making fishing line from spruce roots. Coupled with a good dose of rain, a feel for daily existence on the precontact Northwest Coast was most adequately conveyed.

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Clearly students relish the opportunity to get out of the lecture room and into the fresh air (the Anth 230 “dig” now takes place outside) and obtain these hands-on experiences. While such activities are no small amount of work to orchestrate, they give students a chance to really connect with what we do as archaeologists and provide a critical connection with the precontact lifeways that we study in archaeology.

Museum News

Selma Photo Exhibit

January 20 – March 20
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Museum of Anthropology
College Hall

In the spring of 1965, three individuals from Pullman traveled to Selma, Alabama, to participate in a pivotal Civil Rights March. They were James H. Barker, a staff photographer, David L. Warren, ASWSU president, and Robert E. Cole, associate professor of economics. Led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Selma March challenged voting discrimination and led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Barker’s photographs of this pivotal protest will be on display in the Museum of Anthropology until March 20.

In Passing–William Willard

The Department of Anthropology is sad to announce the passing of Emeritus Professor Dr. William “Bill” Willard. William Willard died on January 15, 2016 at the age of 89.

Dr. Willard was born November 29, 1926 in Sanger, California to Thomas O. and Esther Stinnett Willard. He grew up and attended school there, graduating from Sanger High School, class of 1945. He served in Korea for a time in the US Army. Bill began his higher education at Reedley College. He was married to Lauretta Audrey Frank in Reedley, California, on June 28, 1957. He earned his bachelor’s in history from the University of Southern California, and his doctorate in cultural anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1970. His specialty was medical anthropology, with an emphasis on the health problems of urban migration. He also studied the cultural effects of nuclear waste management.

Dr. Willard accepted a professorship at WSU as director of the Native American Studies Program in 1976, and he also taught and directed graduate degrees in anthropology. Upon becoming Professor Emeritus, Bill could be found working in his office in College Hall nearly every day. He was a fount of anthropological knowledge with a lifetime of experience, frequently shared in hallway conversations. At the time of his death, Dr. Willard was completing a biography of Archie Phinney, an anthropologist and Nez Perce tribal member, who worked at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dr. Willard was also working on a study of Indian urbanization.

Lauretta Willard preceded him in death in June of 2005. He is survived by his sons, William T. (Laura Van Houten) Willard of Shoreline, and Peter F. Willard of Pullman. He also leaves his grandchildren, Samuel, Audrey, and Ethan.
Andrea Zanotti is a Ph.D. student at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. He was a visiting scholar in the Department of Anthropology during the fall semester of 2015. Andrea’s thesis consists of the creation of an agent-based model to simulate the first farming expansion in the Balkans.

“The spread of the farming system in the Balkans is a topic of great interest among the archaeologists. It corresponds to the Neolithic Demographic Transition, when an abrupt increase in the size of the population was recorded. However, many things about it are still unknown. The approach uses the archaeological traces to understand the timing and the path of the spread, but does not say much about the elements that cannot be found in the excavations.

Utilizing an agent-based model is a comprehensive approach that permits us to analyze archaeological processes taking into account data from various disciplines, such as ethnography, paleodemography, and paleoenvironmental sciences.

Simulating the behavior of the first farmers, it is possible to formulate new hypotheses about elements that are invisible in the archaeological record: for example their demographic and economic structure, as well as the mechanisms that determined the expansion.”

Andrea came to WSU to meet Professor Tim Kohler, who has considerable experience in the agent-based modeling of past farming societies, having been the principal investigator in the Village Ecodynamics Project (VEP). This lab exchange helped the two projects share ideas and perspectives.

Recent Graduates

**Council, Sarah;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Marsha Quinlan
*Overweight and Obesity Among Women in Rural Dominica: Models of Body Fat, Attitudes, and Social Networks*

**Dolan, Patrick;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Colin Grier
*Economics and Integration in a Marpole Phase Plank House Village*

**Fortin, Louis;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Andrew Duff
*Wari Lithic Networks: An Examination of Stone Tool Use at Cerro Baul and Cerro Mejia*

**Garfield, Melissa;** 2015, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen
*Cross-National Female Smoking Prevalence Versus Total Fertility Rate and Gender Inequality*

**Garfield, Zachary;** 2015, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen
*Leadership in the eHRAF Probability Sample: Testing Three Evolutionary Models Against the Ethnographic Record*

**Hopt, Justin;** 2015, M.A., Chair: Colin Grier
*Fish and Complexity: Faunal Analysis at the Shell Midden Component of Site DGRV-006, Galiano Island, B.C.*

**Marino, Matthew;** 2015, M.A., Chair: Colin Grier
*A Relational Perspective on Dogs and Their Burials from DGRV-006, Coastal Southwestern British Columbia*

**Nakonechny, Lyle;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Bob Ackerman
*Archaeological Survey and Testing in the Willapa River Valley of Southwest Washington*

**Rorabaugh, Adam;** 2015, Ph.D. Chair: Colin Grier
*Investigating Restricted Knowledge in Lithic Craft Traditions Among the Pre-Contact Coast Salish*

**Roulette, Casey;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Ed Hagen
*Behavioral Ecology of Tobacco and Cannabis Use Among Aka Foragers of the Congo Basin*

**Safi, Kristin;** 2015, Ph.D., Chair: Andrew Duff
*Costly Signaling Among Great Houses on the Chaco Periphery*

**Syme, Kristen;** 2015, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen
*Testing Two Strategic Models of Suicidal Behavior Against the Ethnographic Record*
AGO News

This is going to be an awesome year for the AGO! Events last year provided engagement with guest speakers from the Lipe Scholar and the AGO visiting scholar programs for students, the Empty Bowls philanthropic program, and other rewarding programming involving educational outreach. This year we will continue to build on these outreach programs as well asreviving other successful opportunities that support graduate students in their academic endeavors, such as the monthly Brown Bag lectures. This year we also have new officers, some of whom are new faces to the department, and are all the more excited to facilitate new ideas involving educational outreach and fundraising events with the local community.

Here are the 2016 AGO officers:

President: Hannah MacIntyre
Vice President: Emily Whistler
Secretary: Sydney Hanson
Treasurer: William Damitio
Undergraduate Rep: Tiffany Alvarez

Stream Representatives:
Archeology: Tiffany Fulkerson
Cultural: Stephanie Sicard
Evolutionary: Valda Black

Professional development and community engagement are the primary focus of AGO this year. We are actively pursuing more fundraising opportunities to support guest speakers, outreach events, and collaborations with other organizations to create a fun and eventful year. There will be a large emphasis on education programming in order to provide experience in engaging with the local community, especially K-12 schools, by raising awareness about topics in anthropology as well as providing experience in team and individual skill building to better enhance curriculums for future generations.

The AGO is always interested in working with others in support of our mission to foster professional development and engagement in the WSU, local, and global community. Please contact the AGO (wsuago@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting involved.

—Hannah MacIntyre

Graduate Student News

Jennifer Roulette
Since the summer of 2015, I have conducted research with Maasai pastoralists in Tanzania. This involved me conducting ethnographic research as part a larger NSF funded project (#1216040) entitled, “Ecological and Socioeconomic Factors in Dissemination of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem”, led by Dr. Doug Call of the School of Global Animal Health and Dr. Rob Quinlan of the Department of Anthropology. This project found that the Maasai have a high prevalence of antibiotic-resistant Escheria coli. My part of the project involved disseminating the research results back to the Maasai communities and developing health innovations to minimize the spread of bacteria and antibiotic resistance. I also collected data on children’s ethnomedical knowledge, which supplemented the goals of the NSF project and will be used to complete my dissertation.

Due to a lack of cross-cultural research on children’s ethnomedical knowledge we know very little about how children, especially those from indigenous societies in the developing world, think and feel about illnesses. My research, along with data I collected in 2012 among Aka foragers of the Central African Republic, explores ethnomedical knowledge across the lifespan, which will allow me to compare children’s and adult’s medical beliefs and develop theory on the cross-cultural variability in development of illness perceptions. These data also have the potential to challenge conventional theories of children’s medical knowledge, which are based on children in developed countries. Moreover, it provides an important first step in developing and implementing culturally and developmentally appropriate health education material. The research I conducted on Maasai children’s ethnomedical knowledge and health behavior, for example, were used to develop integrative health education material that I, in collaboration with local schoolteachers, disseminated to schoolchildren in one of the research communities.

I am thankful to the aforementioned NSF grant, as well as NSF grant #9055213 awarded to Dr. Courtney Meehan, a WSU Graduate Professional Student Award, and Dr. Ed Hagen for providing funding. I am also thankful to have my husband, Dr. Casey Roulette, and daughter, Emma, with me in Tanzania.

Amy Snively-Martinez
This fall I continued dissertation work in Guatemala that focuses on decision-making and livelihood resilience of smallholder households located in two communities of the Pacific lowlands. I am specifically looking at the decision to use over-the-counter antibiotics on poultry as a response to reoccurring stresses to local livelihood systems. The villages I am working in form part of a series of 10 communities that are located within and around a mangrove ecological system the Guatemalan government dedicated as a multiple use reserve in 1977. The reserve’s purpose is to support local livelihoods while promoting sustainability within the mangrove social-ecological complex. Households in each community are primarily subsistence oriented and the majority are smallholders that participate in several livelihood activities, including fishing, animal husbandry, agriculture, and participation in the tourist economy. While fishing is considered a primary livelihood activity by the majority of households in the area, backyard animals, primarily chickens and ducks, are essential components of a household’s overall livelihood system that firstly functions to assure food security and emergency cash for families.

Work by Guatemalan veterinarians and anthropologists in the area revealed that households are implementing use of over-the-counter antibiotics (for human use) to treat poultry diseases, replacing the use of medicinal plants and other home remedies. My work thus far suggests that households in the study area are experiencing significant stresses to their livelihood system in the form of increasing episodes of poultry diseases such as infectious bronchitis and avian influenza, which can result in 90 – 100% mortality for domestic birds. With increasing episodes of devastating avian diseases and the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) worldwide, inappropriate antibiotic use could represent a risky decision with long-term effects. AMR is now considered a threat to human, animal, and environmental health as it renders disease treatments ineffective.

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Faculty Updates and Recent Publications

Kyle Bocinsky

During 2015, Dr. Kyle Bocinsky was a post-doctoral researcher on the SKOPE project—Synthesized Knowledge of Past Environments—where he joined researchers from WSU, Arizona State University, and the University of Illinois in developing a web-based tool for the exploration of paleoenvironmental reconstructions. As part of that project, Bocinsky and colleagues also created new climate reconstructions encompassing the entire southwest United States at very high spatial and temporal resolution. In January 2016, Kyle will begin a new position as the director of sponsored projects at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, Colorado—but he will continue many of the fruitful collaborations he’s had while here at WSU.

Jade d’Alpoim Guedes, Guiyun Jin, and R. Kyle Bocinsky


Jade d’Alpoim Guedes, R. Kyle Bocinsky, and Ethan E. Butler


Julia Cassaniti

In 2015 Julia Cassaniti published an ethnographic monograph on Buddhist thought and practice in contemporary Thailand based on 13 years of data collection in a small community in the far north of the country. With a focus on the Buddhist concept of impermanence (Pali: anicca), Dr. Cassaniti shows in *Living Buddhism* how people in a small northern Thai community construct mental health and personal agency in a world understood to be in constant flux. Dr. Cassaniti is now in the process of writing a new book on mindfulness practices in the psychiatric hospitals and Buddhist monasteries of Southeast Asia. This book will address how mindfulness is linked to memory, morality, and mental health in the Theravada countries of Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar (Burma), based on research conducted in collaboration with a team of international colleagues, including WSU anthropology students Piyawit Moonkham, Christopher Lanphear, Gina Piehl, Justin Van Elsberg, Laura Johnson, Kristell Pearson, Kelsey Gallegos, and Lora Prosser.


Andrew Duff


Jade d’Alpoim Guedes


Jade d’Alpoim Guedes, Kyle Bocinsky, and Ethan Butler


Jade d’Alpoim Guedes, Lu Hongliang, Anke Hein, and Amanda Schmidt


Colin Grier

Rorbaugh, Adam, Nichole Davenport and Colin Grier


Jeannette Mageo


Luke Premo


Shannon Tushingham

Robert L. Bettinger, Raven Garvey, and Shannon Tushingham


Shannon Tushingham and Colin Christiansen

2015 Native American Fisheries of Northwestern California and Southwestern Oregon: A Synthesis of Fish Bone Data and Implications for Late Holocene Storage and Socio-Economic Organization, *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 35(2).

Elizabeth Bollwerk and Shannon Tushingham, editors

2016 *Perspectives on the Archaeology of Pipes, Tobacco and other Smoke Plants in the Ancient Americas*. Springer Interdisciplinary Series in Archaeology.

Shannon Tushingham and Jelmer Eerkens

I analyze the decision to use antibiotics for poultry health through the conceptual lenses of resilience theory and sustainable livelihoods. Resilience in social-ecological systems refers to the ability of complex human-natural systems to absorb disturbance yet retain function. The sustainable livelihoods framework is important for analyzing how opportunities and constraints associated with access to livelihood capitals are linked to livelihood resilience. Livelihood resilience therefore represents the access that households and communities have to livelihood assets that create buffers against shocks and stresses in livelihood systems. I incorporate theory and methodology from ethnographic decision modeling, an actor-centered approach, to analyze how the cognitive process of decision-making to diversify livelihood resources is impacted by access to livelihood capitals. By combining these approaches, it is possible to analyze how households have adapted to specific stressors in their livelihood portfolios by studying their choice behavior. Thus far I have conducted about 20 key informant interviews, followed by 100 ethnographic and structured interviews along with participant and direct observation. My research is ongoing, however preliminary results suggest that lack of access to basic livelihood capital is leading to increasing use of over-the-counter antibiotics as the primary form of treatment for poultry disease.

For this project I focus on one component of a household’s overall livelihood system, poultry husbandry, and the choice to use over-the-counter antibiotics as representative of the choices that households make regarding other components of their livelihood system. Therefore, although this study focuses on only one aspect of the overall livelihood system, it can shed light on how people’s decisions are influenced by access to livelihood capitals and thus how households are adapting to changes in their livelihood portfolios.

Fish, Water & People in the Northwest: Implementing Collaborative Community-Based Research at the Museum of Anthropology

Shannon Tushingham won a College of Arts and Science Undergraduate Innovator Grant to support the project, Fish, Water & People in the Northwest: Implementing Collaborative Community-Based Research at the Museum of Anthropology (MOA). The project was directed by Tushingham (faculty mentor) and Josiah Pinkham (tribal mentor), and involved museum projects undertaken by seven talented undergrads in collaboration with Nez Perce Cultural Resources staff.

Project products, including a series of creative displays for exhibition at the MOA, help to communicate important themes outlined through community-based interviews, which will increase awareness of cultural history, local Native American communities, and environmental issues. Students drew on resources available at WSU, including research materials at the WSU libraries and Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections, archival material, and collections at the MOA and its Pacific Northwest Library. Students also worked closely with Nez Perce Tribal elders and cultural staff who contributed greatly to the creation of text and exhibits. This work will greatly facilitate future collaborative efforts between WSU and local tribal communities.

NSF Psychoactive Plant Study

Shannon Tushingham is in the second year of the NSF Archaeometry grant funded project, Human Use of Psychoactive Plants in Ancient North America: Experimental Method Development and Applications of Metabolomics Research in Archaeological Residue Analysis.

The research is led by Tushingham, David Gang (WSU Institute for Biological Chemistry), and Jelmer Eerkens (UC Davis Anthropology) and is designed to improve our understanding of human use of psychoactive plants in ancient societies and provide insight into the role of these substances in ceremonial and ritual life. Objectives are to (1) refine extraction methods and chemical identification of psychoactive alkaloid residues in archaeological artifacts (2) develop potential applications of metabolomics research in archaeological residue analysis, and (3) enable and continue investigations focused on human use of psychoactive plants in ancient societies. The project supports Ph.D. student Korey Brownstein (molecular plant sciences) and anthropology graduate students Mario Zimmerman and Paige Hawthorne.

NSF Psychoactive Plant Study Principal Investigators and Graduate Students.
Left to right: Mario Zimmerman, Paige Hawthorne, Shannon Tushingham, David Gang, Jelmer Eerkens, and Korey Brownstein.

Participants in the project, Fish, Water, & People, left to right: Shay Workman (Cowlitz Tribe): senior, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation Science (major), Anthropology (minor)
Grayson Dean Dirk: senior, Anthropology (major)
Laura Victoria Johnson: graduated, Anthropology (major)
Samantha Lagge: graduated, Anthropology (major)
Shannon Tushingham: (Faculty Mentor) assistant director, WSU Museum of Anthropology
Josiah Pinkham: (Tribal Mentor) Nez Perce Cultural Resources program ethnographer
Recent Publications

(In Press) 竞争与(不)平等：对湖南凤凰县苗寨游家庭餐馆经营的个案研究 [Competition and (In)equality: A Case Study of Family Restaurants in a Touristic Miao Village in Fenghuang County, China]. 旅游学刊 [Tourism Tribune].


Painting of original Spokane House–artist unknown

When McCallister Hall was torn down in early 2015, Keith Gunter, a custodian at WSU, rescued this painting from what had been Anthropology Department storage. We asked around and Dr. Ackerman was able to tell us that this is a painting of the original Spokane House, which was painted in the 1960s and hung in the lobby of Pine Manor, the former home of the Anthropology Department. The empty spot in the lower right-hand corner must have held a placard with information about the painting. If you can give us any further information about the painting or the artist, please contact Diane Curewitz (dcurewitz@wsu.edu). This is part of department history and we’d like to give it and its creator the recognition it deserves.