



Anthro News



WINTER 2013
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



New archaeology faculty member Erin Thornton in the field.

Welcome to Three New Archaeologists

This year we are excited to welcome three new archaeologists to the department. Erin Thornton and Jade d'Alpoim Guedes are new faculty members and Shannon Tushingam is our new assistant museum director. All three bring unique interests and exciting research opportunities for students.

Erin Thornton

I am an environmental archaeologist with methodological expertise in zooarchaeology and stable isotope analysis. I received my doctorate in anthropology from the University of Florida in 2011. My dissertation work combined zooarchaeological and strontium isotope ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) analyses to investigate faunal resource exchange among the classic Maya period. This research demonstrated that faunal resource exchange was more extensive than previously recognized in terms of both the quantity and diversity of goods being circulated. Building upon my dissertation work, I have on-going affiliation with two archaeological projects in Petén, Guatemala, where I am researching bone and shell artifact production and how the acquisition and distribution of natural resources intersects with sociopolitical relationships within and between sites.

With funding from the National Science Foundation, I am currently reexamining the timing, process, and practice of ancient turkey husbandry in the Maya lowlands. This research builds upon my recent identification of the non-local Mexican turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) at a Preclassic Maya site, which predates previous known examples by over 1,000 years. The research is

multidisciplinary and integrates zooarchaeological, isotopic, and aDNA analyses. This research is important to interpretations of Mesoamerican animal domestication, subsistence systems, and long-distance exchange connections.

I also remain interested in archaeological research exploring the human-environment relationship. In the Maya area, I have participated in projects employing both zooarchaeological and isotopic datasets to investigate long-term diachronic change in precipitation, forest cover, and animal resource availability within the context of cultural impact and response.

I am currently collaborating with wildlife ecologists to develop a proposal to model ancient Maya hunting impacts and sustainability in the southern Maya lowlands.

At WSU, I will be teaching undergraduate courses in general anthropology, archaeology, and complex New World civilizations, and graduate courses in archaeological chemistry and the origins of food production. In fall 2014, I will use my course release time to establish a new stable isotope prep lab across from my office in College Hall. I am very excited to join the WSU Department of Anthropology, and I hope that the new lab will be put to good use through my own research projects and collaborations with WSU faculty and students.

In this issue

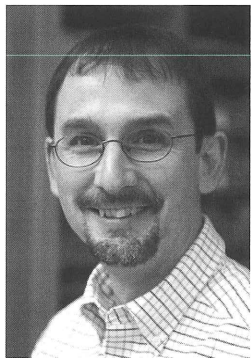
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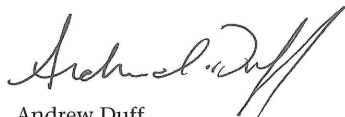
The Department of Anthropology continues to be a hub of active research projects, graduate and undergraduate training, and instruction for our majors and students throughout the university. The

department has also witnessed significant changes and transitions. As you receive this, Dr. John Bodley, Regents Professor, will assume the title of Professor Emeritus. John came to WSU in January 1970 as an assistant professor and retires at the end of 2013 after 44 years. Dr. Mary Collins, director of the Museum of Anthropology, is also retiring at the end of the 2013. Mary (WSU '97 Ph.D.) deftly guided the museum's activities for the past 19 years. We appreciate all they have contributed to anthropology over the years and wish them both an enjoyable retirement.

Dr. William Andrefsky was promoted to dean of the Graduate School at WSU last spring. Bill remains a professor in anthropology, but now has the opportunity to advocate for graduate students and graduate education beyond anthropology, and the institution has welcomed his talents in this new role.

Anthropology has been fortunate to make several recent hires that will help keep us at the forefront of research. Assistant Professor Dr. Erin Thornton joined WSU for the fall 2013 term, as did Dr. Shannon Tushingham, assistant director of the Museum of Anthropology. Assistant Professor Jade d'Alpoim Guedes begins with the spring 2014 term. Dr. Diane Curewitz (WSU '08 Ph.D.) also joined the museum staff in the newly created position of collections manager. We are all excited about the new opportunities and research they bring to anthropology.

Anthropology continues to build on its tradition of excellence and, as always, we appreciate your support.



Andrew Duff
Chair, Department of Anthropology

Three New Archaeologists...

Continued from page 1

Shannon Tushingham

I am an anthropological archaeologist with a specialty in North American hunter-gatherers of the west. I am broadly interested in the relationship between forager decision making and environmental variability across time and space, and understanding how different adaptive strategies may alter these dynamics over the long term historical record. Guided by models from evolutionary ecology, this work involves examining some of the ideas and assumptions of interpretive frameworks that evaluate the productivity and potential of certain resources or environmental zones.

Current research focuses on human-environment interactions during the Holocene in the Pacific Northwest Coast and is developed in collaboration with indigenous communities in the southern Pacific Northwest Coast—primarily with the Athabaskan speaking Tolowa, who live in the extreme northwestern corner of California. This work is designed to better understand changes in subsistence-settlement and human organization, particularly the profound alterations that occurred in the region after the rise of sedentary plank house villages about 1,300 years ago. For example, excavations at coastal and estuarine sites indicate a fundamental restructuring in use of these environments, with a distinct shift to logistical strategies, storage, and intensive shellfish procurement, marine mammal hunting, and fishing of mass harvested species (smelt, salmon) after AD 725. This research is an extension of my dissertation research, where I documented similar changes at a series of inland riverine sites and hypothesized that they were reflective of a region-wide adaptive shift in social systems and residential patterns that crossed linguistic boundaries and ecological zones.



Other research focuses on the application of archaeometric techniques to anthropological questions about the history of human use of psychoactive plants. Contact period peoples throughout the Americas widely used plants with stimulant or hallucinogenic properties (e.g., tobacco, coffee, cacao, *cassia*, *datura*) for medicinal, ceremonial, or recreational purposes, yet surprisingly little is known about their use in the past. Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis offers a direct means to track ancient use of such plants by identifying alkaloid residues in ancient artifacts. Studies include work on smoke plants (in ancient pipes) and medicinal teas (in shell and pottery vessels) through identification of plant biomarkers, experimentation ("smoking" plants in experimental pipes, brewing medicinal beverages), and residue extraction from ancient specimens. A great deal of this work is involved in developing the least destructive methods possible that will have a wide range of future applications. Archaeological applications include studies directed at understanding the cultivation, range extension, and management of tobacco in western North America. For example, nicotine, a biomarker for tobacco (*Nicotiana* sp.), has been identified in ancient pipes from the southern Pacific Northwest Coast dating to as early as the ninth century AD, an area where the antiquity of tobacco smoking was, until now, unknown. In addition to tobacco, method development includes the chemical characterization of a suite of key smoke plants used by ethnographic hunter-gatherers (e.g. *kinnikinnick* or *Arctostaphylos uva ursi*, widely used by Pacific Northwest peoples) so that we may potentially identify prehistoric use of these plants.

In the coming years I would like to gain a more regional understanding of the dynamics I study by extending my research program to the Plateau area. This will be part of my new role at the museum, where I will be fostering scholarly research and developing collaborative studies with local tribes. I will also be teaching courses on the Pacific Northwest, salmon and people, cultural resource management, and residue studies. Finally I would like to say that I am thrilled to be part of the department and am looking forward to working with faculty members and students in the future!

Dr. Shannon Tushingham at the Point St. George site (CA-DNO-11), northwestern California.



Dr. Jade d'Alpoim Guedes

Jade d'Alpoim Guedes

I am a paleoethnobotanist and human osteologist who studies how humans adapted their foraging practices and agricultural strategies to new environments. My primary region of focus is China, where I have carried out collaborative fieldwork and participated in projects for the past seven years. I employ a variety of different methodologies in my research, including archaeobotany, human osteology, paleoclimate reconstruction, and

ecological niche modeling. I received my doctorate from Harvard University, where I wrote a dissertation that focused on understanding how agriculture spread into southwest China. In this dissertation, and the articles that have sprung out of it, I've been interested in understanding how humans adapted their agricultural strategies and invented appropriate technologies to deal with the challenges presented by new environments or climate change. To do so, I incorporated advances from the field of ecological niche modeling to examine the options and constraints associated with practicing different types of agriculture in the myriad of ecological niches that characterize southwest China. The predictions made by these models were then tested against archaeobotanical data that I gathered from a series of sites from across the region, which ranged from sites in the low lying Chengdu Plain of the Sichuan Basin to the foothills of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau.

After earning my degree, I carried out a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at Harvard University, where I worked with researchers to refine models for predicting the effects of ancient climate change on ancient subsistence practices. During this time, I also worked on applying recent advances in sea level modeling research to the study of coastal archaeology.

My latest project uses these methodologies to understand how humans adapted their life-

styles to the challenging environment of the foothills of the Himalayas. Through a collaborative survey and fieldwork project with Peking University and the Chengdu City Institute of Archaeology, I will carry out fieldwork at sites that contain the earliest evidence for the spread of agriculture into this region. In addition, I also aim to identify the traces of hunter-gatherer populations that were likely present in this region, but so far have not yet been identified in the archaeological record. Finally, this project also aims to document the beginnings of pastoralism in this region. This project also involves experimental research and field trials of crop landraces aimed at improving the models used to understand ancient crop distribution and their resistance to climate change.

More broadly, I am interested in improving archaeobotanical methodology across the world, and to this end have worked on developing tools to aid in the identification of archaeobotanical remains (www.paleobot.org).

At WSU, I'll be training undergraduate and graduate students in these methods and will teach regional courses on east Asian archaeology and methodological courses on archaeobotany, climate change, and environmental reconstruction. In spring 2014, I will work on setting up the archaeobotany laboratory at the Pullman campus and will teach introduction to anthropology. I'm excited to join the department and look forward to collaborating with faculty and students at WSU.

Recent Publications

Erin Thornton

Thornton, Erin Kennedy, Kitty F. Emery, Camilla Speller, David Steadman, Ray Matheny, and Dongya Yang

2012 Earliest Mexican Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the Maya Region: Implications for pre-Hispanic Animal Trade and the Timing of Turkey Domestication. *PLoS ONE* 7(8):e42630. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0042630.

Thornton, Erin Kennedy

2012 Animal Resource Use and Exchange at an Inland Maya Port: Zooarchaeological Investigations at Trinidad de Nosotros. In *Motul de San Jose: Politics, History, and Economy in a Maya Polity*, edited by Antonia E. Foias and Kitty F. Emery, pp. 326-356. University of Florida Press.

Shannon Tushingham

Tushingham, Shannon, Dominique Ardura, Jelmer Eerkens, Mine Palazoglu, Sevini Shahbaz, and Oliver Fiehn

2013 Hunter-Gatherer Tobacco Smoking: Earliest Evidence from the Pacific Northwest Coast of North America. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40(2):1397-1407.

Tushingham, Shannon, and Jennifer Bencze

2013 Macro and Micro Scale Signatures of Hunter-Gatherer Organization at the Coastal Sites of Point St. George, Northwestern Alta California. *California Archaeology* 5(1):37-77.

Jade d'Alpoim Guedes

Jade d'Alpoim Guedes, Hongliang Lu, Yongxian Li, Robert Spengler, Wu Xiaohong, and Mark Aldenderfer

2013 Early Agriculture on the Tibetan Plateau: The Archaeobotanical Evidence. *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* doi: 10.1007/s12520-013-0153-4.

Jade d'Alpoim Guedes, Jiang Ming, He Kunyu, Jiang Zhanghua, and Wu Xiaohong

2013 New Evidence for the Spread of Early Rice and Foxtail Millet Agriculture in Southwest China. *Antiquity* 87 (337).

For more publications, please see faculty websites at libarts.wsu.edu/anthro/faculty.html.

AGO Notes

The AGO is off to a great start this academic year with the recent success of the first annual Interdisciplinary Research in Anthropology and the Sciences (IRAS) Conference. The event highlighted interdisciplinary research in the study of humanity and how this research is shaping the future. Twenty graduate and undergraduate students from WSU and surrounding universities participated in the event, which culminated with a keynote address by Dr. E. Christian Wells. Dr. Wells delivered a speech entitled "Five Keys to Systems Thinking" in which he explained how anthropologists are well positioned to work with those in the STEM sciences and policy makers to effect change. The AGO is excited to build upon the success of this year's event and has begun preparing for the second annual IRAS Conference, which is slated for fall 2014.

The AGO is continuing its commitment to community engagement for the 2013-2014 academic year. Last year the AGO, in partnership with the Ceramics Club, raised nearly \$1,000 for the Pullman Community Action Center at the well-received Empty Bowls event, where the goal was to help fight hunger in Whitman County. The AGO is planning to coordinate similar events to benefit local and international communities this academic year. The organization is also working to continue our outreach efforts with the Nez Perce tribe and is currently exploring the possibility of participating in another stream restoration project. In addition to community engagement, another main objective of the AGO is to promote student scholarship and academic enrichment by engaging in activities which include sponsoring the visit of influential scholars to the WSU campus. Last February the AGO collaborated with the WSU Global Campus to sponsor the visit of Dr. Kevin Bales, president of Free the Slaves. Dr. Bales delivered a speech to the university community entitled "Disposable People: The New Slavery" where he explained how it is possible to end slavery in the modern world. The AGO is currently identifying ways to promote similar events and is also exploring ways to help fund student scholarship activities by bringing back AGO travel grants for conferences.

This is a wonderful time to be part of the AGO and we encourage all graduate students to actively participate in the organization and its events. Please contact the AGO if you are interested in getting involved!

Graduate Student News

Tiffany Fulkerson

This summer I began working with Loren Davis from Oregon State University on my dissertation research, which focuses on the paleoethnobotany of the Cooper's Ferry archaeological site. Located in the Lower Salmon River Canyon of Idaho, Cooper's Ferry has a long history of repeated human occupation beginning as early as 13,000 cal BP with Paleoindian/Paleoarchaic peoples associated with the Western Stemmed Tradition. Throughout the summer I had the opportunity to collect macrobotanical, pollen, and phytolith samples from occupation surfaces and more than 15 pit features that were excavated in lithostratigraphic units dated to the Late Pleistocene and early Holocene. Of particular interest this season was the discovery of an unusually large stratified pit feature in glacial loess that contained projectile points and a fire hearth from which intact mussel shells were recovered. Other noteworthy finds include projectile points manufactured from exotic raw materials, levallois cores, and overshot flakes—all of which show the

diversity of lithic manufacture associated with the people who occupied the site. Excavations this season were enhanced by the application of technologies that have yet to be widely employed at archaeological sites, including an Xbox Kinect that was used to create 3D scans of the site, overhead GoPro cameras which provided high-resolution images of excavations, and a 3D scanner and printer that were used to create artifact replicas for research and educational purposes. There are several more seasons of excavation planned at Cooper's Ferry, which Kenneth Ames, archaeologist and former president of the Society for American Archaeology, is calling a "flagship site" for its time period. I am excited to be a part of the site and look forward to enriching our understanding of these early North American inhabitants through my paleoethnobotanical research. If you would like to learn more about Cooper's Ferry, you can view weekly highlight reels and video journals from this and previous excavation seasons at youtube.com/user/CoopersFerrySite.

Recent Graduates

Master of Arts

Judith Card: Your Story is Enough

Douglas Drake: A Spatial Analysis of Phytoliths at Tlacuachero in Chiapas, Mexico

Jordan Jarrett: Ceramic Evidence for Pueblo-Mogollon Cohabitation at Largo Gap in New Mexico

Jean Harmon: The Pacific Coast of Guatemala: A Palynological Investigation of Climate Change and Human Occupation

Kadence Maier: Pacific Islander Cultural Assimilation on the Continental U.S.: A Mixed Methods Approach

Erin McIlraith: Coast Salish Mortuary Practices: An Exploration of Social Representation in Burial Ritual

Sarah Williams: Palynological Investigations during the Colonial Reducciones at Magdalena de Cao Viejo, Peru

Emily Wolfe: Food Sharing and Maternal Time Allocation Among Ngandu Horticulturalists

Doctor of Philosophy

Adam Boyette: Social Learning During Middle Childhood Among Aka Foragers and Ngandu Farmers of the Central African Republic

Kelly Derr: Intensifying with Fire: Floral Resource Use and Landscape Management by the Precontact Coast Salish of Southwestern British Columbia

Susan Ellis: Bryce Canyon Country: A Contested Cultural Landscape



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Recent Faculty Publications

John Bodley

2013 *The Small Nation Solution: How the World's Smallest Nations Can Solve the World's Biggest Problems.* AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland.

Julia Cassaniti

2013 Melford Spiro: Psychological Anthropologist of Buddhism in Southeast Asian Society. In *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John McGee and Richard Warms. SAGE Publishers.

2013 The Rural Radio DJ. In *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*, edited by Joshua Barker, Erik Harms, and Johan Lindquist. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

2012 Agency and the Other: The Role of Agency for the Importance of Belief in Buddhist and Christian Traditions. *Ethos: The Journal of Psychological Anthropology* 40(3): 297–316.

Andrew Duff

Williams, Justin P., Andrew I. Duff, and William Andrefsky Jr.

2013 Debitage Stylistic Variability at Cox Ranch Pueblo. *Lithic Technology* 38(1):3-16.

Colin Grier

Grier, Colin, Kelli Flanigan, Misa Winters, Leah G. Jordan, Susan Lukowski, and Brian M. Kemp

2013 Using Ancient DNA Identification and Osteometric Measures of Archaeological Pacific Salmon Vertebrae for Reconstructing Salmon Fisheries and Site Seasonality at Dionisio Point, British Columbia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40(1):544-555.

Monroe, Cara, Colin Grier, and Brian M. Kemp

2013 Evaluating the Efficacy of Various Thermo-stable Polymerases against Co-extracted PCR Inhibitors in Ancient DNA Samples. *Forensic Science International* 228:142-153.

Grier, Colin, and Jangsuk Kim

2012 Resource Control and the Development of Political Economies in Small-Scale Societies: Contrasting Prehistoric Southwestern Korea and the Coast Salish Region of Northwestern North America. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 68(1):1-34.

Angelbeck, Bill, and Colin Grier

2012 Anarchism and the Archaeology of Anarchic Societies: Resistance to Centralization in the Coast Salish Region of the Pacific Northwest Coast (with CA Comment and Reply). *Current Anthropology* 53(5):547-587.

Barry Hewlett

Hewlett, B.S., and J.M. Fancher

2013 Central African Hunter-Gatherer Research Traditions. In *Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology and Anthropology of Hunter-Gatherers*, edited by V. Cummings, P. Jordan, and M. Zvelebil. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

House, B.R., J.B. Silk, J. Henrich, H.C. Barrett, B.A. Sceza, A.H. Boyette, B.S. Hewlett, R. McElreath, and S. Laurence

2013 Ontogeny of Prosocial Behavior Across Diverse Societies. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Brian Kemp

Villanea, F.A., D. Bolnick, C. Monroe, R. Worl, R. Cambra, A. Leventhal, B.M. Kemp

2013 Evolution of a Specific O Allele (O1vG542A) Supports Unique Ancestry of Native Americans. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 151:649-657.

Barta, J.L., C. Monroe, and B.M. Kemp

2013 Further Evaluation of the Efficacy of Contamination Removal From Bone Surfaces. *Forensic Science International* 231:340-348.

Cui, Y., J. Lindo, C.E. Hughes, J.W. Johnson, A. Hernandez, B.M. Kemp, J. Ma, R. Cunningham, B. Petzelt, J. Mitchell, D. Archer, J.S. Cybulski, and R.S. Malhi

2013 Ancient DNA Analysis of Mid-Holocene Individuals from the Northwest Coast of North America Reveals Different Evolutionary Paths for Mitogenomes. *PLoS One* 8: e66948.

Monroe, C., C. Grier, and B.M. Kemp

2013 Evaluating the Efficacy of Various Thermo-Stable Polymerases Against Co-Extracted PCR Inhibitors in Ancient DNA Samples. *Forensic Science International* 288: 142-153.

Monroe, C., B.M. Kemp, and D.G. Smith

2013 Exploring Prehistory in the North American Southwest with Mitochondrial DNA Diversity Exhibited by Yumans and Athapascans. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

Grier, C., K. Flanigan, M. Winters, L.G. Jordan, S. Lukowski, and B.M. Kemp

2013 Using Ancient DNA Identification and Osteometric Measures of Archaeological Pacific Salmon Vertebrae for Reconstructing Salmon Fisheries and Site Seasonality at Dionisio Point, British Columbia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 40: 544-555.

Mata-Míguez, J., L. Overholtzer, E. Rodríguez-Alegría, B.M. Kemp, and D.A. Bolnick

2012 The Genetic Impact of Aztec Imperialism: Ancient Mitochondrial DNA Evidence from Xaltocan, Mexico. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 149: 504-516.

Tim Kohler

Crabtree, Stefani, and Timothy Kohler

2012 Modelling across Millennia: Interdisciplinary Paths to Ancient Socio-ecological Systems [An Introduction to a Special Issue on Models in Archaeology]. *Ecological Modelling* 241:2-4. doi: 10.1016/j.ecol-model.2012.02.023.

Kohler, Timothy, with Denton Cockburn, Paul L. Hooper, R. Kyle Bocinsky, and Ziad Kobti

2012 The Coevolution of Group Size and Leadership: An Agent-Based Public Goods Model for Prehispanic Pueblo Societies. *Advances in Complex Systems* 15(1&2):1150007 (29 pages). doi: 10.1142/S0219525911003256. (In topical issue, "Cultural Evolution," edited by A. Kandler and J. Steele.)

2013 Discussion: Landscape, Movement, and Technology in the Northern Rio Grande. In *From Mountaintop to Valley Bottom: Understanding Past Land Use in the Northern Rio Grande Valley, New Mexico*, edited by B. J. Vierra, pp. 230-237. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press.

2012 Le rôle du changement climatique dans l'évolution culturelle et migratoire du Sud-Ouest des États-Unis : le cas des Pueblo. In *Des Climats et des Hommes*, edited by Jean-François Berger, pp. 327-341. Paris: La Découverte.

2012 Une Troisième Voie pour l'Archéologie: une Modélisation multi-agents dans le Sud-Ouest des États-Unis. In *L'Archéologie à Découvert*, edited by Sophie A. De Beaune and Jean-Paul Francfort, pp. 211-220. Paris: CNRS Editions.

2012 Complex Systems and Archaeology. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, 2nd edition, edited by Ian Hodder, pp. 93-123. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Varién, Mark, with Timothy Kohler and Scott Ortman

2012 The Mesa Verde Region. In *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of North America*, edited by T. R. Pauketat, pp. 608-619. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

2012 Social Evolution, Hazards, and Resilience: Some Concluding Thoughts. In *Living with the Dangers of Sudden Environmental Change: Understanding Hazards, Mitigating Impacts, Avoiding Disasters*, edited by Jago Cooper and Payson Sheets, pp. 219-232. Boulder: University of Colorado Press.

Jeannette Mageo

2013 Dreaming and Its Discontents: US Cultural Models in the Theater of Dreams. *Ethos* 41(4).

Courtney Meehan

Meehan, Courtney L., and Jennifer W. Roulette

2013 Early Supplementary Feeding among Central African Foragers and Farmers: A Bio-cultural Approach. *Social Science and Medicine* 96:112-120.

Meehan, Courtney L., Robert Quinlan, and Courtney Malcom

2013 Cooperative Breeding and Maternal Energy Expenditure among Aka Foragers. *American Journal of Human Biology* 25(1):42-57.

Meehan, Courtney L.

2013 Allomothers and Child Well-Being. In *Handbook of Child Well-Being: Theories, Methods and Policies in Global Perspective*, edited by Asher Ben-Arieh, Ferran Casas, Ivar Frønes, and Jill E. Korbin. Dordrecht: Springer.

Luke Premo

2013 Multilevel Selection and the Evolution of Food Sharing in Fragmented Environments: A Spatially Explicit Model and Its Implications for Early Stone Age Behavior. In *Computational Approaches to Archaeological Spaces*, edited by A. Bevan and M. Lake, pp. 127-150. Left Coast Press.

2013 What Serves as Evidence for the Presence (or Absence) of Pleistocene Language? *Journal of Anthropological Sciences* 91:19-21.

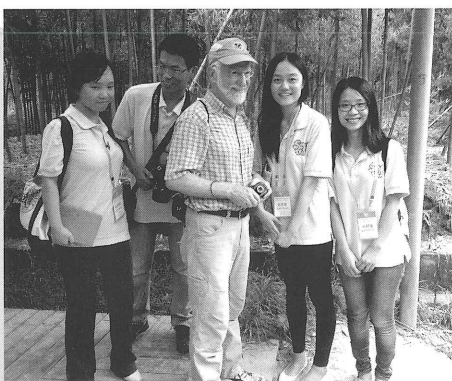
Faculty Updates

Village Ecodynamics Project

The Village Ecodynamics Project (VEP) was honored in August at a ceremony in Shanghai as one of the top ten archaeological projects in the world in recent years for its “major archaeological research findings.” The VEP was the only project conducting research in North America to be so recognized.

Accepting the award on behalf of the project was Regents Professor **Tim Kohler**, who has directed the VEP since its foundation in 2002. Several WSU graduate students have worked on this project over the years, including **Kyle Bocinsky**, **Stefani Crabtree**, **Jesse Clark**, **Jason Cowan**, **Katie Grundtisch**, **David Johnson**, **Kelsey Reese**, and **Aaron Wright**. Associate Professor of Anthropology **Brian Kemp** is analyzing turkey and dog aDNA for the project.

The award was presented by the Shanghai Archaeology Forum in its inaugural meeting; similar awards will now be given every two years. The VEP was nominated by emeritus WSU anthropology professor **William Lipe**. Nominations were then



Kohler with student volunteers for the Shanghai Archaeology Forum at the walled Neolithic settlement at Liangzhu in Zhejiang Province.

judged by a panel of international experts and a group convened from Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Kohler noted that the event was “extremely impressive and clearly demonstrated the importance of archaeology as a discipline in China.” He was particularly gratified to meet many Chinese students who struck him as “very dedicated, smart, and hard working.”

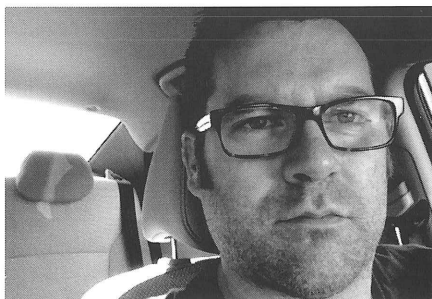
VEP results up through 2010 were reported in *Emergence and Collapse of Early Villages: Models of Central Mesa Verde Archaeology*, published in 2012 by the University of California Press.

Luke Premo

I traveled to Minneapolis this November to give a number of lectures and informal talks in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. I was invited by Dr. Gil Tostevin (anthropology) and Professor William Wimsatt (philosophy of science) to present my research concerning the effects of local extinctions and social network topology on rates of culture change and levels of cultural diversity in the Paleolithic. During my three day visit, I gave a lecture for students enrolled in advanced archaeological methods and theory, discussed my research with the Biology Interest Group of the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, and gave a talk in the center's Studies of Science and Technology Colloquium Series. My colloquium presentation was entitled “Great Expectations: The Potential and Perils of Using Models Borrowed from Neutral Theory to Study Cultural Transmission in the Archaeological Record.” The Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science advances research and graduate training in the philosophy of science and related studies of science and technology and includes scholars from a number of different disciplines throughout the University of Minnesota as well as area colleges and universities. I am honored by the invitation, and I enjoyed interacting with scholars at the Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science and the Department of Anthropology at University of Minnesota.

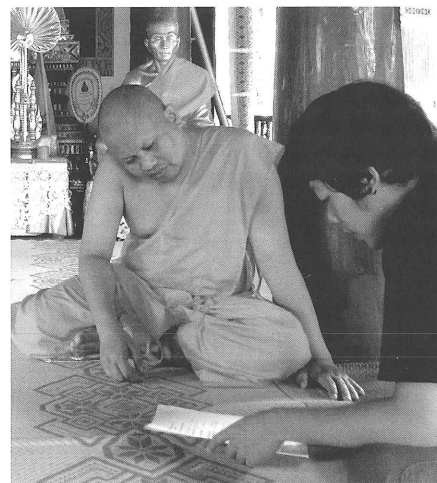
Brian Kemp

Over the past year, Brian Kemp and his laboratory team have been busying conducting experiments funded by the National Institute of Justice and the National Science Foundation. This past summer he spent two months in Mexico learning Spanish, which is an asset to maintaining working relations with his colleagues in Mexico, and setting up a research project for next summer. The project, which is funded by the Berry family (donors to WSU), will entail a genetic study of ancient skeletal remains from Mesoamerica at Kemp's ancient DNA laboratory at WSU. This fall, Kemp was invited to participate in the UNESCO World Heritage Thematic Program “Human Evolution: Adaptations, Dispersals, and Social Developments (HEADS),” in Puebla, Mexico. In August, Kemp was granted tenure by the Department of Anthropology and the School of Biological Sciences (where he holds a 40% appointment). He and his wife are expecting their first child in December, so 2013 is definitely a big year for him.



Julia Cassaniti

This summer I began a project on Buddhist mindfulness in Southeast Asia. Mindfulness can be thought of as the practice of non-judgmentally attending to the present moment, and while it has become a hip term among clinical and cognitive psychologists in the United States and has roots in Buddhist thought, there is relatively little known about its use within cultural contexts with long histories of Buddhist influence. To begin to remedy this, and with the help of a WSU New Faculty Seed Grant, WSU alumnus **Justin Van Elsberg**, Chiang Mai University graduate student Santi Leksakul, and I went to Thailand this summer to find out what mindfulness (or rather what could be considered its Pali-language gloss, *sati*) means to people there. Over the course of two months Justin, Santi, and I interviewed monks from Chiang Mai's two university monasteries (Wat Suan Dok and Wat Chedi Luang), staff at the nearby psychiatric hospital (Suan Prung), students taking philosophy courses at Chiang Mai University, and a range of people living in the rural area of Mae Chaem near Chiang Mai. In 50 interviews and 150 surveys we asked them about their experiences and influences with mindfulness through questions that touched on personal definitions, literature, lineages, and benefits of practice. We learned about connections mindfulness has with local ideas about memory, spirits, and self, among others, and gathered new leads to track down in future work. The next phase of the project will be to analyze the data and travel this spring and summer to Sri Lanka, Burma, and back to Thailand to learn more about the culture and context of mindfulness in practice.



A research assistant interviewing a monk at Wat Ban Tap in Mae Chaem, Thailand.

Courtney Meehan

I am part of a recently awarded interdisciplinary National Science Foundation (NSF) INSPIRE project. The NSF INSPIRE (Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education) awards program was established to address some of the most complicated and pressing scientific problems that lie at the intersection of traditional disciplines.

The project has brought together an international team of physiologists, anthropologists, nutritional scientists, microbiologists, and mathematicians, which includes Michelle McGuire (PI), Courtney Meehan, Lars Bode, James Foster, and Sophie Moore (Co-PIs), and Andrew Prentice, Gloria Otoo, Mary Penny, Rossina Pareja Torres, Elizabeth Kamau-Mbuthia, Grace Marquis, Robin Bernstein, Daniel Sellen,

Mark McGuire, Linda Kvist, Omar Cornejo, and Juan Miguel Rodriguez. The project, "What is Normal Milk? Exploring Sociocultural, Evolutionary, Environmental, and Microbial Aspects of Human Milk Composition," is a comprehensive investigation of the global differences in selected nutrient and non-nutrient constituents of human milk (namely human milk oligosaccharides (HMO) and human milk microbiota) as well as infant fecal gastrointestinal microbiota. It is focused on milk composition and social, environmental, and cultural patterns in twelve populations in eight countries across four continents. This investigation will enable us to understand potentially important cultural, ecological, or physiological differences in human milk composition that

have evolved with human populations to support infant survival and that have important implications for infant health worldwide.

In addition, last year Dr. Alyssa Crittenden (UNLV) and I chaired an advanced seminar at the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The seminar, "Multiple Perspectives on the Evolution of Childhood," included Drs. Sarah Hrdy, Melvin Konner, David Lancy, Jennifer Thompson, Barry Bogin, Sanae Okamoto-Barth, Robin Bernstein, and Daniel Sellen. An edited volume resulting from the advanced seminar, *Origins and Implications of the Evolution of Childhood*, edited by Courtney Meehan and Alyssa Crittenden, is forthcoming.

Alumni Profile

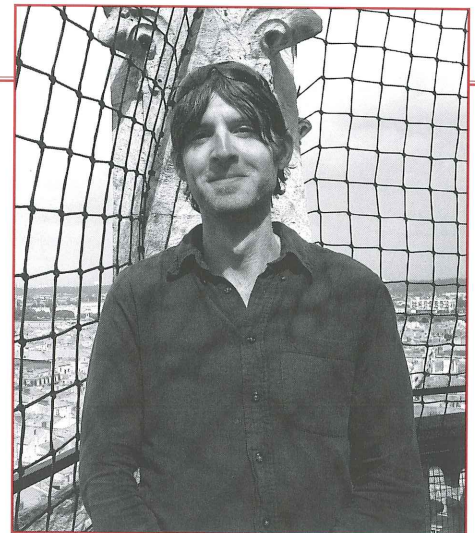
Brandon Chapman

During my time as a doctoral student in the cultural anthropology track at Washington State University, my research site was in the tropics, specifically a small fishing community in Trinidad/Tobago. Little did I know my post-graduate work would take me to one of the farther reaches of the world, researching northern Alaskan Natives in the Alaskan Arctic, where I currently reside. Under the supervision of Barry Hewlett, John Bodley, and Rob Quinlan, my dissertation at WSU focused on small-scale fishers' cultural models of subsistence food transfers. I compared predictions from HBE and cognitive anthropology in measuring subsistence fish transfers among Afro-Trinidadian and Indo-Trinidadian small-scale fishers to better understand how cultural models shape material exchange. Results show that individuals who adhere to local cultural models that define "high quality" fishermen "enhance" the process of kin selection and their reproductive success. Currently, I have three article submissions in review based on this research and have another in preparation.

My experience working with subsistence fishermen and mapping fishing territories led me to a job at the Northwest Arctic Borough in Kotzebue, Alaska, working as the borough's cultural anthropologist. There I was the lead designer of ethnographic methods for a \$1.8 million federally funded, borough-wide subsistence mapping project. The goal of the project was to build a database of highly used subsistence areas utilized by Iñupiaq residents of the region. My days with the borough were

spent developing interview topics on local subsistence use, constructing questionnaires, recruiting informants from tribal and elder councils, and conducting focus groups and ethnographic interviews. I constructed a database for organizing data collected from the project including hand-drawn subsistence maps of highly used subsistence use areas. I had the chance to train project staff and native interns on how to conduct semi-structured interviews and surveys for collecting traditional ecological knowledge and on data entry. I acted as the lead literature reviewer and bibliography compiler for the project and reviewed and standardized hundreds of published sources for inclusion in analysis. In short, my time with the borough was a cultural anthropologist's dream! I also did oral histories outside of work and published a short piece in *Cultural Survival Quarterly* documenting the recent history and changes in marine mammal hunting on the Kotzebue Sound with Iñupiaq elder John Goodwin. Goodwin, chairman of the regional Ice Seal Committee, is one of the most respected and well-known marine mammal hunters in the Arctic and was my fieldwork associate during the subsistence mapping project. Learning from such knowledgeable elders and being able to travel to much of the isolated coastal and interior Arctic was a thrill that has not yet been surpassed in my life.

As I worked at the Northwest Arctic Borough, I began teaching online courses for the University of Alaska-Fairbanks at UAF's



Chukchi campus. I currently teach, through the UAF extension campus system, courses on the native cultures of Alaska, social problems of rural Alaska, and an introduction to anthropology course. I am also continuing my research programs with the Iñupiaq and have just begun a research program among the neighboring Koyukon Athabascan. Both programs focus on understanding cultural models of subsistence by documenting narratives and stories of modern and traditional hunting, fishing, and berry picking practices and experiences from long-time subsistence users from these cultures. I currently have a book manuscript in preparation for the University of Alaska Press covering these stories.

My education in cultural anthropology at WSU prepared me well. The faculty members and resources there gave me the skills and knowledge to research in some of the farthest-reaching corners of the world.