Returning to the Marmes Site

The Marmes site has a certain mystique that those of us who have been following archaeology in eastern Washington for the last forty or fifty years are well aware of. As a school girl in Pullman I remember hearing of the great discovery of ancient human remains near the mouth of the Palouse. Files in the Museum of Anthropology include a guest book of visitors to the site that includes my Aunt Betty's record of taking her Camp Fire girls to see this remarkable site. The names of students who worked at Marmes during the early excavations of the 1960s and later the urgent attempt to salvage materials from the rising flood waters behind Lower Monumental Dam in the 1970s include some of WSU's most accomplished alumni. How many times did Carl Gustafson hold our attention riveted as he spoke of the excitement of reading 9,000 years of environmental history in the faunal remains from Marmes, the giant elk, the red fox? All of this and yet there was a certain unsettledness about Marmes; perhaps because of Rolald Fryxell's death before he or anyone else was able to complete a significant report on the site.

Jump ahead twenty some years and Marmes became the first WSU Museum of Anthropology collection to receive a thorough inventory and rehabilitation when NAGPRA and the curation regulations of 1990 came into play. The vastness of the collection and the diversity of materials was astounding. Locating and organizing the records, and then assisting the staff of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Hicks et al. 2004) as they prepared a major monograph describing the original work and synthesis of the resulting data was as demanding and intense as any large excavation I have been associated with.

Another 14 years pass and I find myself standing above the now flooded site on a cool, dry, autumn day with a brilliant blue Palouse sky as men and women with deep rich voices sing the haunting songs of their ancestors as some of these very ancestor's remains are returned to the earth. Removed from their archival packages, provenience labels erased, they are again people and I wonder at the lessons they have taught us during their second journey into this world...
Dear Anthropology Friends,

This will be my last entry in the Anthropology Newsletter from the Chair’s Desk. I originally agreed to serve as department chair in 2000 while working in the college dean’s office as an interim associate dean. At the close of this spring semester I shall have completed a ten-year tenure as department chair. I look forward to other challenges. However, as I reflect over the past decade I can’t help but notice how our department has evolved and restructured itself in many different ways. Described below are my impressions of the strengths and sources of change that characterize the Anthropology Department today. I can’t possibly cover all of the areas in question, so I must emphasize that these are my relatively brief opinions. I apologize to those faculty, students, staff, and supporters who may not be directly identified, but who have made significant contributions to our program.

When I began as chair, our department had 15 tenure track faculty situated primarily on the Pullman and Vancouver campuses. Over the past decade our program has grown while many other areas of the university have contracted, and still other areas and programs have been removed due to the international recession. We now have 20 tenure-track and one clinical faculty position located on the Pullman, Vancouver, and Tri-Cities campus locations. This speaks well for the future of our program. We continue to teach thousands of WSU undergraduate students while conducting world class research.

Our graduate student population has stabilized to include approximately 75 students split evenly among our master’s and doctoral programs. Last year we funded a record number of 48 graduate students with assistantships and fellowships. Our undergraduate majors have also increased to 90 students choosing anthropology as either their first or second major.

Anthropology and Evolution at WSU

One of the primary differences between our program today and a decade ago is the expansion of our areas of graduate research from archaeology and sociocultural anthropology to include evolutionary anthropology. After the retirement of Professor Grover Krantz we were unable to hire another biological anthropologist for several years. However, once given permission to fill that line we decided that it would be impossible to attract and keep a productive scholar if we did not consider ways to build a collaborative research environment for a solo biological anthropologist. With several archaeologists and sociocultural anthropologists theoretically committed to a neo-Darwinian approach (Kohler, Hewlett, Lupo) we decided to build an evolutionary anthropology track at the graduate level.

Today, the Anthropology Department currently has one of the largest, most productive, and well-recognized graduate programs in evolutionary anthropology in the nation. Almost immediately after we founded the evolutionary track, Tim Kohler obtained a multi-year National Science Foundation IGERT grant to recruit the best graduate students in anthropology and biology in the nation. This program is partnered with the WSU School of Biological Sciences and the University of Washington’s Department of Anthropology. Recently other evolutionary faculty (Rob and Marsha Quinlan, Karen Lupo, Brian Kemp, Courtney Meehan) have also received prestigious grants to help propel this branch of our department.

Indigenous Perspectives and Anthropology

Another important transformation in our program has been the shift in emphasis of the Museum of Anthropology. Originally, while I was working in the dual roles of both department chair and museum director, it was decided that our museum did not have the capacity to operate as an “outreach” museum that could effectively embrace the community in the same way as other museums associated with anthropology. We just did not have enough conservators, curators, and other support staff. We decided to do what we do best, curate ethnographic and archaeological collections for state and federal agencies. With the great work of a newly hired museum director, Dr. Mary Collins, we established curation agreements with several key federal agencies and build a modern repository facility. Arguably, the WSU Museum of Anthropology is the leading federal repository university in the nation today. We are the stewards of some of the most important collections from the interior Pacific Northwest, providing researchers and other stakeholders with access to these materials of cultural heritage. Under the leadership of Dr. Collins, the Museum of Anthropology has partnered with the WSU Plateau Center for American Indian Studies, creating a direct linkage between WSU, federal land-holding agencies, and the surrounding American Indian Nations. Several other anthropology faculty members (Grier, Duff, Andrefsky, Kohler) have taken faculty affiliate positions with the Plateau Center as well. One of the significant roles of the museum that has emerged over the past decade is our responsibility to facilitate Native American access to materials of heritage and cultural patrimony held in our repository.

Shifts in the Sociocultural Program

Before her retirement in 2007, Professor Linda Stone initiated and developed a Masters International (MI) degree program between the WSU Department of Anthropology and United States Peace Corps. MI programs are common throughout universities nationwide, but are usually housed in programs such as agriculture, engineering, and economics. Our Masters International program is the only one in the nation that gives Peace Corps volunteers a graduate degree in anthropology. Originally, we had hoped this program would provide graduates with training to enhance their employment opportunities in the government and private sectors, which it has done. However, we have also found that some of our graduates have been stimulated to continue anthropological research for their doctorate using their contacts and experience in the Peace Corps as a foundation for their professional anthropological careers. Our MI program is one of the largest areas of new graduate student recruitment in the sociocultural degree track.

As new faculty lines have been added to our program we have gradually gained a critical mass of sociocultural faculty with expertise in medical and psychological applications of anthropological inquiry. This has resulted in an exciting focus of scholarship for our sociocultural program covering topics such as childhood development and well being, family organization, the anthropology of infectious diseases, addictive behaviors, and human depression. The psychological/medical focus of our program has allowed us to partner with other depart-
Anthropology Students and Alumni

Archaeology and the Test of Time
Throughout the shifting research interests of archaeology faculty over the past decade, the archaeology program has maintained and perhaps strengthened its emphasis in material science applications in archaeology. WSU Anthropology has some of the most well-equipped archaeological laboratories dedicated to analysis and interpretation of faunal remains, lithic artifacts, botanical remains, and geological samples. Recently we have added ceramic and DNA laboratories to our building, College Hall. The geographical focus of our archaeology program is still primarily within western North America from the Arctic to the American Southwest. However, recently we have expanded with new faculty interests in South America and Mesoamerica.

Archaeology is still one of the strengths of our graduate program. Our graduates have long been easily placed in the private and government sectors. Recently we have also been effectively placing our graduates into tenure track teaching positions. Recent WSU archaeology graduates have landed tenure track positions at the University of Montana, Ball State University, University of Memphis, and Hamilton College.

Anthropology Students and Alumni

Another significant change to our program is the emergence of our Anthropology Graduate Student Organization (AGO) as one of the most effective student organizations I’ve had the pleasure to interact with. It hosts a guest visiting scholar every year based upon the interests of the students. It organizes and sponsors an end of the year dinner banquet inviting faculty, former students, and donors. This event has been used as a forum for the Anthropology Department to honor its most high achieving graduate students with scholarship awards based upon annual and long-term performance. AGO generates funds to help graduate students travel to meetings, print research posters, and off-set research expenses. This organization effectively works with faculty and departmental administration to help develop program initiatives and assess current curricular needs. It is a fabulous organization that gives our graduate students a strong voice and effective structure to implement potential improvements to our program.

Former undergraduate and graduate students have also made a significant impact to our program. We have many alumni who have recognized their time as anthropology students and have given generously back to our program. I thank everyone who has contributed any amount to our general Anthropology Fund or to specific scholarship funds. There are too many people to list. However, I need to give special thanks to a few people that I have worked with over the last ten years who have significantly enriched the lives of our anthropology students. Thank you to Roger and Jessica Friedman, David and Bea Taylor, and Elaine Burgess.

Summary

In the past ten years we have increased extramural funding, progressively taught more students, and have grown in numbers during difficult financial times. The faculty demographic profile has rapidly shifted from a majority of senior scholars to an active majority of vibrant junior scholars. We currently have eight tenure track faculty at the pretenure stage of their careers and two open tenure track lines slated for filling at the entry level. Such a demographic profile is often viewed as a time for program rebuilding; however, our program has focus, diversity, and impact both internally and externally. It has been a pleasure (at times) and an honor (always) to serve as department chair over the past decade with such a forward-thinking group of faculty, students, alumni, and staff.

—William Andrefsky

Korean Connection

Colin Grier (assistant professor) spent the fall 2009 semester as a visiting faculty member in the Department of History at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. Partnering again with Jangsuk Kim (see Grier et al. 2006), the purpose of his visit was to continue comparative work on the emergence of social complexity in small-scale, coastal societies. The research focused specifically on households, comparing changes in household size and resource storage capacity over time. On the Northwest coast, households start off residing in small longhouses, which become larger over time. This suggests two things. First, an increasingly large labor pool was aggregated into longhouses. Second, storage capacity also increased. Longhouses acted essentially as storage boxes, and their size therefore provides a relative measure of household storage capacity. In Korea, longhouse-based households increase in size from the early coastal hunting and gathering period through the early agricultural period. They then fragment into very small households with external storage features in increasingly segregated locations. Since household organization is a barometer of broader changes in society, these disparate cases suggest important differences in the way resources were controlled, a pattern that Grier and Kim are hoping to better document and explain. Colin Grier’s visit to Kyung Hee University was arranged by Jangsuk Kim under Kyung Hee University’s International Scholar program.

Bea Taylor, and Elaine Burgess

David Roger and Jessica Friedman, and

Above, Dr. Jangsuk Kim discusses archaeological site interpretation with graduate students in Seoul, Korea, and left, with Colin Grier.
AGO Notes
It’s a new year, and a new AGO! Last year ended with a great awards banquet at the Hilltop Restaurant in Pullman, organized by Nichole Bettencourt and her amazing banquet committee. This year brings the arrival of some new faces in AGO leadership to join the second-year students who continue to show a strong commitment to serving the anthropology department. Here are the 2009-2010 AGO officers:

Co-Presidents: Kyle Bocinsky (fall) and Caity Placek (spring)
Secretary: Emily Benz
Treasurer: Katie Harris
Faculty Representative: Melissa Goodman-Elgar
Anthropology Club Liaisons: Emily Benz and Lindsey Clark
Stream Representatives: Jen Ferris (archaeology), Mark Caudell (evolutionary), Kristina Cantin (cultural)
GSPA Senate: Fernando Villanea (evolutionary), Erin McIlraith (archaeology), Nate Murphy (cultural)

Also of note: the anthropology graduate students have been working hard to raise money for the Aka. The Aka are a population of semi-nomadic tropical foragers inhabiting parts of the Central African rainforest. Numerous WSU anthropologists work with the Aka including Barry Hewlett, Karen Lupo, Courtney Meehan, Ed Hagen, and a handful of graduate students. The purpose of the Aka Fundraising Committee (AFC) is to help grant the requests of a people who have consistently granted our requests to record, analyze, and publish almost every aspect of their lives. Last year the AFC raised money to pay teachers at the Aka School, which was founded by WSU researchers. This fall, the AFC held two events: a Scrabble® tournament and the Cultural Café, where graduate students donated baked goods sold during the unveiling of a new Aka exhibit in the Anthropology Museum. Both events were a great success! Money raised this year will continue provide funds for the school.

Graduate Student News
Courtney Helfrecht

Over the past two years I have been working on three different lines of anthropological research. The first pertains to my thesis, which I successfully defended last spring (“Age and Sex Differences in Aggression among the Aka Foragers of the Central African Republic”) under the direction of Dr. Edward Hagen. The paper focuses on using evolutionary approaches to better understand age and sex differences in both physical and indirect aggression. The results were presented in February 2009 at the Annual Barbara L. and Norman C. Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights Advocacy Forum. The second area is tied to my research assistantship under Dr. Courtney Meehan, and centers on the cooperative breeding model. This research has been conducted in both U.S. daycare centers and among the Aka foragers of the Central African Republic (CAR).

Selected Faculty Publications

Tim Kohler


Courtney Meehan


Brian Kemp


William Andrefsky

Anthropology Scholarship and Research Funds

There are several Department of Anthropology endowment funds, as well as funds slated for endowment. Below is a short description of some.

**General Anthropology Fund**
Funds go to graduate and undergraduate scholarships, student travel, and research expenses.

**Janet Friedman Memorial Fund**
Resources go toward a scholarship to a female archaeology graduate student interested in Cultural Resource Management.

**Lipe Visiting Scholar Fund**
Resources go toward bringing a nationally recognized archaeologist to Pullman to work with graduate students in archaeological method and theory.

**Museum of Anthropology Development Fund**
Funds are specifically targeted for ethnographic and archaeological collections held in the museum at WSU.

To give to the Department of Anthropology, visit libarts.wsu.edu/anthro and click “I want to give.”

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**Recent Graduates**
(Fall 2008–Summer 2009)

2008 Master’s of Art Degree
**Benjamin Ryan Burgen:** The Social and Economic Implications of Migration: Case Study of a Soninke Village in Mauritania.
**Jennifer Ferris:** Lithic Technological Organization of Site J69E, Espiritu Santo Island, Baja California Sur.

2008 Doctor of Philosophy Degree
**Diane Curewitz:** Changes in Northern Rio Grande Ceramic Production and Exchange, Late Coalition through Classic (AD 1250–1600).
**Nathan Goodale:** Convergence in the Neolithic: Human Population Growth at the Dawn of Agriculture.

2009 Master’s of Art Degree
**Melissa Artstein:** The Construction of Well-Being and Social Capital among Nicaraguans in Costa Rica: An Anthropological Perspective.
**Michelle Dillon:** The Effects of Resource Competition and Dilution on Sibling Rivalry in Rural Dominica.
**Ashley Hallock:** Paleoenvironmental Investigations near Hattieville, Central Belize: Implications for Ancient Maya Salt Production.
**Courtney Helfrecht:** Age and Sex Differences in Aggression among the Aka Foragers of the Central African Republic.
**Chris Kiahtipes:** Fire in the Desert: Holocene Paleoenvironments in the Bonneville Basin.
**Christopher Noll:** Late Holocene Occupation of the Birch Creek Site (35ML 181), Southeastern Oregon.
**Kyla Rudnick:** Constraints at the Bottom of a Global Commodity Chain: The Case of Shea Butter in Northern Ghana.
**Pasang Sherpa:** Indigenous Movements: Identifications of Indigenous Concerns in Nepal.
**Diane Wallman:** Meet Me in St. Louis: An Analysis of 19th Century Historical Faunal Remains from Cochran Gardens (23SL2229), St. Louis, Missouri.
**Caitlyn Wichlacz:** Complementary Compositional Analysis of Ceramics from Two Great House Communities in West-Central New Mexico.
**Justin Williams:** Debitage Variability among Multiple Flint Knappers.

2009 Doctor of Philosophy Degree
**Jason Fancher:** An Ethnoarchaeological Analysis of Small Prey Bone Assemblages Produced by Forest Foragers of the Central African Republic.
**Mark Hill:** The Benefit of Gift: Exchange and Social Interaction in the Late Archaic Western Great Lakes.
**Israt Turner-Pahman:** Consciousness Blossoming: Islamic Feminism and Qur'anic Exegesis in South Asian Muslim Diaspora Communities.
**Faculty News**

**Tim Kohler**

Archaeologist **Tim Kohler** has been kept busy coordinating the IGERT Program in Evolutionary Modeling (ipem.anth.wsu.edu), which is in its fourth year, and getting a new cycle of research underway in the VEP (Village Ecodynamics Project) in southwest Colorado and northern New Mexico (village.anth.wsu.edu) with funding from NSF’s Coupled Natural and Human Systems program. In June he accompanied graduate students **Kyle Bocinsky** and **Charles Reed** as they mapped communities in Mesa Verde National Park and is looking forward to another season of fieldwork next summer in the region. This fall Kohler gave a keynote lecture at the European Social Simulation Association in Guildford, Surrey, UK, and spoke at climate and culture conferences in Maine and Paris.

**Courtney Meehan**

**Dr. Courtney Meehan** is currently engaged in two active research projects in the Central African Republic (CAR) and in Washington state. Her research in Central Africa among the Aka foragers and Ngandu farmers investigates cooperative childrearing and the effects of multiple caregivers, parents, siblings, grandparents, and others on maternal time allocation, family health, and child development. This research is focused on answering questions associated with the evolution of human childhood dependency, maternal reproductive strategies, attachment, and cooperative breeding. In 2009 she received two grants through the Leakey Foundation and the Washington State University Foundation Office of Research to support research in the CAR. During summer 2009, Dr. Meehan and three WSU graduate students collected data in the CAR associated with these projects. They returned to the CAR in January 2010 to continue data collection. Her research in the United States also explores multiple caregivers in early childhood. Dr. Meehan and her research assistant, doctoral student **Courtney Helfrecht**, are conducting research in a variety of day-care and home-care settings. She is examining caregiver sensitivity and child attachment to non-parental caregivers.

**Brian Kemp**

Since completion of **Dr. Brian Kemp’s** laboratory space in College Hall (highlighted in last year’s newsletter), he and his students have been actively collecting genetic data from ancient and modern human and animal populations. His current projects range from a population genetic study of southeastern Alaska Natives to identifying the origin of early farmers in the southwestern United States and from turkey domestication in the southwestern United States to species identification of salmon remains in ancient northwestern archaeological sites. This fall, **Dr. Jodi Barta** joined the Kemp lab for a two-year postdoctoral research position and **Cara Monroe** will continue in the lab for the next two years as a research assistant. These two positions are funded by a grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) currently held by Dr. Kemp. Monroe’s continued diligence in the lab and the new expertise that Barta brings to WSU will undoubtedly contribute to the anthropology department becoming a leader in the fields of molecular anthropology and ancient DNA. Graduate student and IPEM fellow **Brad Newbold** also joined the Kemp lab this fall. Newbold is an archaeologist who will learn to use genetic data to help uncover prehistory in North America.

*Continued on back page*
Alumni Profile

Hillary Fouts
After completing her doctorate in anthropology from Washington State University, Dr. Hillary Fouts spent four years in a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Section on Social Emotional Development. Fouts is currently an assistant professor in the interdisciplinary department of Child and Family Studies at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. During her postdoctoral fellowship and for the past three years at the University of Tennessee, Fouts has been pursuing two main lines of research. Related to her dissertation research in the Central African Republic (CAR), Fouts has continued to examine cultural, biological, and ecological contexts of early childhood care and development in the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo among the Bofi foragers (CAR), Bofi farmers (CAR), and Aka foragers (Congo). Specifically, she has been examining the social, emotional, and caregiving experiences of children with multiple caregivers, including mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings during transitions in feeding (i.e., breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and weaning) and transitions related to maternal pregnancy and new siblinghood. These research aims are represented in recent publications in Social Science & Medicine, European Journal of Developmental Science, Cross-Cultural Research, Current Anthropology, and Ethnology. In addition to her research in Central Africa, Fouts has also been working on a collaborative project with Dr. Jaipaul Roopnarine (Syracuse University) and Dr. Michael Lamb (Cambridge University) examining the early caregiving experiences of 3-4-month-old infants in various socioeconomic and ethnic contexts in the United States in an attempt to disentangle the effects of socioeconomic status and ethnicity and better understand their intertwined roles in early care experiences. This research is represented in recent publications in Journal of Family Psychology and Developmental Psychology. Fouts also has an emerging line of research in collaboration with Dr. Rena Hallam (University of Tennessee) that documents the early caregiving experiences of low-income at-risk infants and toddlers in east Tennessee and specifically examines continuity and discontinuity in children’s experiences across and within child care settings (i.e., kith and kin; formal child care). Examining the complexity of interactions in very early childhood provides insight for understanding the mechanisms by which caregiving interactions impact development and holds promise for intervention with at-risk children. This project is still in the pilot phase and initial findings have been published recently in Early Childhood Research and Practice.

Recent Selected Publications


Department of Anthropology adds publications to the WSU Research Exchange

In the fall of 2009, the WSU Museum of Anthropology, in cooperation with the WSU Libraries, began to deposit publications in the WSU Research Exchange, the repository for WSU publications and other research materials. The museum’s Reports of Investigation, the project reports of the Laboratory of Archaeology and History, and the project reports of the Washington Archaeological Research Center are being added to the Research Exchange. Check it out at research.wsulibs.wsu.edu.

For further information about the WSU Research Exchange and how it might be useful to your research, please contact Kay Vyhnanek, scholarly communication librarian, at kayv@wsu.edu or 509-335-9514.
Bill Andrefsky
During the past year Bill Andrefsky has been exploring geochemical techniques for isolating chert sources in southern Idaho and Oregon using XRF analyzers. Initial results will be presented at the upcoming annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. He has also begun examining existing projectile point assemblages excavated on the Columbia Plateau during the reservoir construction era along the Snake River, applying new recording and measurement software and hardware. He hopes to apply cultural transmission models to metric variation in projectile technology to help explain changes in land-use patterns during the earliest occupations of the Columbia Plateau.

and what those lessons mean to me, to us, as teachers and researchers. How will all that we have learned, and will continue to learn, about the full experience of Marmes shape how our students do archaeology in the future?

Only some of the artifacts taken from this site have passed through the legal process of being determined “Native American” and so subject to the NAGPRA. Others, of greatest antiquity, remain objectified in the museum where they await our working through the difficult social, political, and ideological issues that remain to be resolved before they too can be returned to their resting place. I wonder if I will be there on that next cool, dry, blue skied morning?

—Mary Collins, Director
Museum of Anthropology