

Department of Anthropology



Archaeology, History and Colonial-Indigenous Conflict at Lamalchi Bay, British Columbia

Colin Grier, Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology

On April 20, 1863, the gunboat *Forward* of the British Royal Navy steamed into Lamalchi Bay, a half-moon bay on what is now Penelakut Island in coastal southwestern British Columbia. After a three hour wait (in vain) for the indigenous Lamalchi villagers to turn over a group of warriors accused of several murders, the gunboat fired on the village. Lamalchi warriors were ready and returned fire from the bay's two points, killing one British seaman and forcing the *Forward* to retreat out of the bay (see figure, page 2).

Colonial troops returned two weeks later and landed unopposed, burning the now-vacated village to the ground. The British Navy later captured their suspects in a cave on nearby Galiano Island, taking them to Fort Victoria where they were summarily tried and convicted for the murder of the seaman (not the original murders, of which they were likely innocent), and then hanged.

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The land where the village stood was given to private interests, and has remained in private hands to this day. While ostensibly a "police action" the conflict was really the result of northward land encroachment by the Colonial settler population into unceded native territory, and resistance to that expansion by Hul'q'umi'num First Nations. Colonial governments have always been pretty "creative" in finding ways to overcome resistance.

Historic records of the battle, compiled mostly by Chris Arnett in his 1999 book *The Terror of the Coast*, provide an account of the events of the battle, but offer only a limited picture of the long-term historical context of the village itself. Since 2012, Chris Arnett, Andrew Martindale (both from the University of British Columbia) and myself have been documenting the village through a variety of archaeological techniques, including several remote sensing methods. These investigations have a few related goals, but focus on establishing where the village was, how long it was occupied prior to the battle, and how the Lamalchi village fits into the larger pattern of Coast Salish villages in the region.

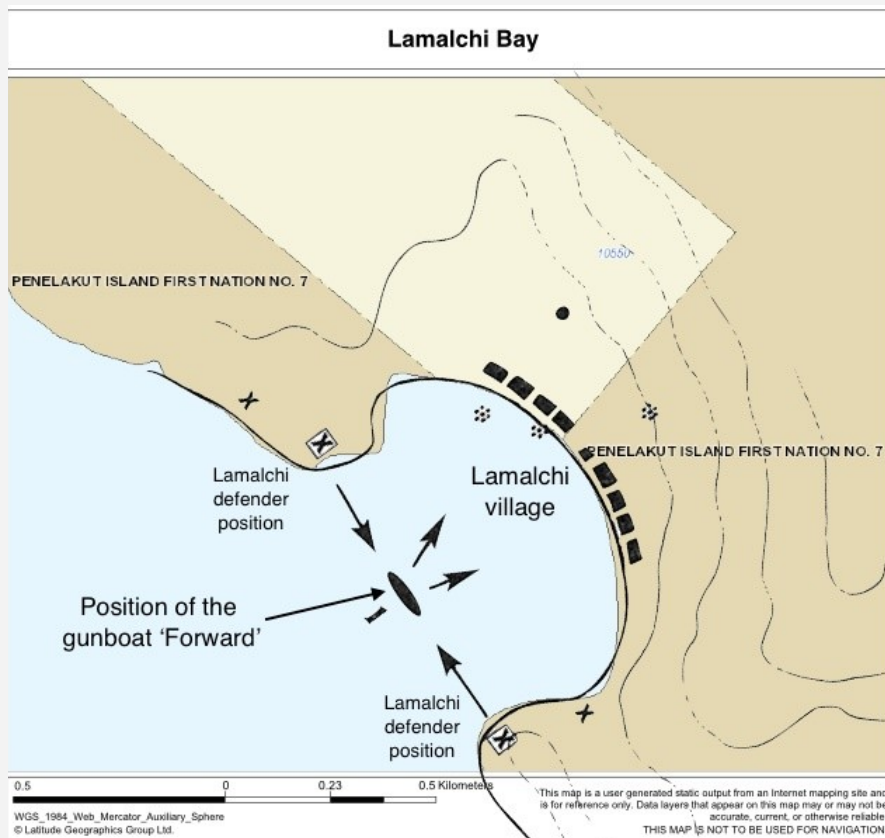
The lot that was appropriated has now been farmland for a century. Surface modifications from plowing and construction have obscured the exact location of the eight or so large plank houses that were known to exist at the time of the battle. We have been employing ground penetrating radar (GPR) to locate these plank houses, and reconstruct what the houses looked like (see figure, page 2). Using GPR to identify plank houses has not been widely undertaken, and so requires ground truthing — essentially doing test excavations to confirm that the GPR anomalies (unusual signals relative to the background) are in fact archaeological features.

Winter
2018



Ground penetrating radar data collection in the village area on the private land at Lamalchi Bay in 2016.

We are looking mostly for hearth areas, alignments of postholes, open floor areas, and the transition between inside and outside space. For various reasons, all of these theoretically should show up as anomalous readings. They also should appear in spatial arrangements typical of Coast Salish plank houses, which I have been documenting through more traditional archaeological methods over the last 20 years.



Map of the assumed location of houses and the Forward, and reconstruction of the organization of the conflict that took place on April 20, 1863.

The larger objective is to be able to identify houses and villages buried deeply in large shell midden sites where there are no surface indications of houses. This would allow us to put the regional settlement pattern record on a more solid footing. At the moment very few villages have been recorded, even though hundreds must have existed. A second bigger picture outcome concerns the Lamalchi village itself. The land on which the village stood was alienated forcibly some 150 years ago. Descendants of the villagers have sought compensation from the Canadian Government for this unlawful act. Their claim was initially denied because it was apparently unclear if the village was in fact located on the private property. We now have increasingly solid evidence that it was, and our work can help to make right this long-standing historical injustice.

Arnett, Chris (1999) *The Terror of the Coast: Land Alienation and Colonial War on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, 1849-1863*. Talon Books, Burnaby BC.

Recent graduates:

Fall 2016

Crabtree, Stefani; 2016, Ph.D., Chair: Tim Kohler

Trade, Territoriality, Alliances and Conflict: Complexity Science Approaches to the Archaeological Record of the U.S. Southwest with a Case Study from Languedoc, France

McNassar, John; 2016, Ph.D., Chair: Nancy McKee

Making Peace with the Warrior Next Door: Rituals in Identity, Wellness, and Transition in Veteran Communities

Spring 2017

Alvarez, Tiffany A.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen

The Evolution of Gendered Toxin Defense: Smoking, Ethnicity, and Reproduction

Assoma, Awoke A.; 2017, Ph.D., Chair: Barry Hewlett

Adaptation and Change in Enset Ecology and Farming Among the Kore of Southwestern Ethiopia

Collins, Jessica R.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Courtney Meehan

Infant Signaling Behaviors and Maternal, Paternal and Alloparental Caregiving

Hanson, Sydney A.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Jade d'Alpoim Guedes

Early Agricultural Strategies at Four Prehistoric Central Thai Sites: An Archaeobotanical Analysis

Hawthorne, Paige E.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Colin Grier

Avians and Diversity: A Multi-Analytical Approach to Avian Faunal Analysis in Southwestern British Columbia

Kaspari, Katarina E.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen

Cross-National Variation in Smoking Prevalence Versus Parasite Load

Lightner, Aaron D.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Ed Hagen

The Impact of Explicit Culturally Transmitted Frames on Economic Decision Making

MacIntyre, Hannah E.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Nancy McKee

Cultural and Social Biases in Educational Access for LGBTQ Public School Students

Moonkham, Piyawit; 2017, M.A., Chair: Julia Cassaniti

Mythscape: An Ethnohistorical Archaeology of Space and Narrative of the Naga in Northern Thailand

Randise-Hinchliff, Chia T.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Julia Cassaniti

A Thread of Continuity: Spiritual Journey Through Yarn in Honor of Wixarika Ancestors

Summer 2017

Phillips, Lori B.; 2017, M.A., Chair: Erin Thornton

Birds of a Feather: Turkey Use at Postclassic Mayapan

Faculty updates

Julia Cassaniti

Cassaniti, Julia and Menon, Usha (editors)

2017 *Universalism Without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and Culture*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/U/bo27035148.html>

Cassaniti, Julia

2017 "Wherever you go, there you... aren't?" In *Buddhism, Meditation, and Science*. McMahan, David, Braun, Erik (editors) London: Oxford University Press.

Andrew Duff

Duff, Andrew, Judith Habicht-Mauche, and M. Steven Shackley.

2017 Minerals. In *Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of the Southwest*, Barbara J. Mills and Severin Fowles (editors), pp. 767-785. Oxford University Press.

Tim Kohler

In May 2017 Kohler participated in the conference "Lost and Future Worlds: Marine Paleolandscapes and the Historic Impact of long-term climate change" organized by the Royal Society, held at Chichely Hall in Buckinghamshire.

Kohler was also invited to participate in a Working Group Scoping Meeting for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) held from 1 to 5 May, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In September Kohler was invited to a one-day symposium sponsored by the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C., where he talked about "Putting Bandelier and Mesa Verde in their Places: Larger Contexts for Southwestern Research" in their symposium on the "Pre-Columbian Heritage of the National Park System."

Tim Kohler and Erin Thornton hosted a Working Group at the Santa Fe Institute in August 2017 on explaining differences in wealth inequality between preliterate societies in the Old and New Worlds. The co-organizer was Amy Bogaard of Oxford. We explored possible future research connected with findings from a volume edited by Kohler and Michael Smith (ASU) entitled *Ten Thousand Years of Inequality: The Archaeology of Wealth Differences*, expected from the University of Arizona Press in 2018. Graduate student Laura Ellyson attended and presented a paper.

Tim Kohler and David Wolpert (Santa Fe Institute) co-organized a Santa Fe Institute Working Group on "Information Networks and the Evolution of Social Organizations," August 28-30. Graduate student Laura Ellyson attended and presented a paper.

AGO News

AGO is excited to welcome our new Graduate students to the 2017 academic school year.

Last year was a busy one for AGO, filled with guest speakers, community outreach, fundraisers and collection drives. We collected and donated a large volume of both canned food and household items to Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse. We are currently accepting donations for this year's collection drive. Donation boxes are located in the student lounge on the first floor of College Hall.

AGO also introduced an educational outreach program that brought Anthropology into Pullman elementary school classrooms. This program, implemented by graduate student Amanda Thiel, hopes to expand both in number of classrooms visited and incorporate Vancouver campus area classrooms as well.

Brown Bag lectures will continue this year, and will be scheduled further in the semester.

Thank you to Hannah, President 2016-2017, and Emily, Vice President 2016-2017, for providing unwavering leadership and initiating amazing outreach programs this past year.

2017-2018 AGO officers:

President: Samantha Fulgham
Vice President: Emily Whistler
Secretary: Daphne Weber
Treasurer: Andrew Gillreath-Brown
Stream Representatives:
Archaeology: Katie Richards
Cultural: Cynthiann Heckelsmiller
Evolutionary: Aaron Lightner

This year AGO aims to increase interdisciplinary collaboration, and hopes to foster collaborative relationships between departments outside our own. AGO will also be actively pursuing funds to support a Cultural and Evolutionary version of the Lipe scholar, as it is important that these streams are well represented and have the opportunity to hear lectures from the best in their fields.

The AGO is always looking to work with others who support the aims and goals of the AGO. If you are interested in getting involved or helping out, please contact the AGO at ago.rso@wsu.edu.

-Samantha Fulgham &
and Emily Whistler

Graduate Student Spotlight: Valda Black



Valda Black (right) Sondor archaeological site located in Peru . Summer 2017

I was an excavation supervisor at the Institute for Field Research (IFR) Sondor Bioarchaeology Project this past summer in Andahuaylas, Peru. Sondor is an archaeological site that overlaps with the Chanka cultural group during the Late Intermediate Period and the Inca during the Late Horizon.

I became involved with this project because I have done research in the Andahuaylas region since 2013 under the guidance of Dr. Danielle Kurin, the field director. This project provided me with the opportunity to troubleshoot and teach students excavation techniques to deal with human remains found in burial caves on a steep hillside. My research focuses on using ancient DNA and isotopes to look at

relatedness and origin of the populations found at Sondor and the surrounding area. Based on my methods, students had to excavate the human remains wearing face masks and gloves to minimize contamination.

The staff was composed of both American and Peruvian archaeologists and bioarchaeologists with unique backgrounds and various research focuses, so the students were able to see a variety of approaches. Overall, the students in this field school were trained in osteology, excavation techniques of structures and human remains, how to conduct small research projects, and were exposed to the vibrant culture of the South-Central Andes.

Spotlight continued on page 7

AGO Community Outreach

Introducing Anthropology to Pullman Elementary Classrooms

Amanda Thiel

On Friday 4/28/16 six anthropology graduate students (Sydney Hanson, Dominic Bush, Andrew Gillreath-Brown, Cynthiann Heckelsmiller, Brooke Coco and I) went to Franklin Elementary School to present an hour-long talk and activities about anthropology. We worked with three 1st grade classes, approx. 72 students in Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Rushold and Mrs. Sontgerath's classes. Since my son is in Mrs. Davis's class, it was easy to create and coordinate this program for the kids.

We divided the kids into two groups and rotated them half way through to expose them to both archae-



The AGO hosted dig boxes for first graders at Franklin Elementary School. Spring 2016

ology and cultural anthropology. In the archaeology presentation the kids learned about archaeology by getting their hands dirty in dig boxes in which artifacts like bones and pottery were buried in sand. In the cultural anthropology presentation we talked about what culture is and how cultures are different across the world. We did this by way of a "Kids Around The World" activity in which the students got to see pictures from our own departments' faculty and students' fieldwork on nearly every continent. With the pictures was information about kids in each area-things like what kids do for fun, typical kids names, and what kinds of plants and animals live around them. For each culture the students learned about, they put a sticker on a world map in the area where the culture is found.

The overall general aim was to introduce anthropology to young kids in a fun way, especially because most anthropology education doesn't begin until college. More specifically, I hoped to encourage the students' awareness of, and respect for, human diversity around the world.

The kids and teachers were very excited about our presentations. They listened really well to our information (which we kept brief and age-appropriate) and responded really well to our hands-on activities. They each wrote us adorable thank-you letters and bound them into a book with photos of our visit. In the future the teachers would love to have us back for regular presentations. They mentioned their interest in including curriculum related to Nez Perce culture, since the state is now requiring this. If we can add that in the future, great, and if not, they are more than happy with what we presented as is.

Faculty updates continued

Jeannette Mageo

Jeannette has been elected chair of the faculty senate, a post she will assume next August. This year she is Faculty Senate Chair-elect, a post that comes with many responsibilities such as chairing the Committee on Committees.

Hermann, Elfriede, **Mageo, Jeannette** (editors)

2017 *Mimesis and Pacific Transcultural Encounters: in Time, in Travel, and in Ritual Reconfigurations*. New York: Berghahn Press.

Mageo, Jeannette

2017 "Dream Transformations of the 'American' Pinup Model for Sexuality" appeared last fall in *Anthropology and Humanism*, 41(2):178-195.

In Press "Nightmares, Abjection, and American Not-quite Identities American Psychological Association.

Courtney Meehan

McGuire MK, **Meehan CL**, McGuire MA, Williams JE, Foster J, Sellen DW, Kamau-Mbutia EW, Kamundia EW, Mbugua S, Moore SE, Kvist LJ, Otoo GE, Brooker SL, Price WJ, Shafii B, Placek C, Lackey KA, Robertson B, Manzano S, Ruiz L, Prentice, A, Rodriguez JM, Pareja R, Bode L.

2017 What's normal? Oligosaccharide concentrations and profiles in milk produced by healthy women vary geographically. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 105(5):1086-1100.

Ruiz L, Espinosa-Martos I, García-Carral C, Manzano S, McGuire MK, **Meehan CL**, McGuire MA, Williams JE, Foster J, Sellen DW, Kamau-Mbutia EW, Kamundia EW, Mbugua S, Moore SE, Kvist LJ, Otoo GE, Lackey KA, Flores K, Pareja RG, Bode L and Rodriguez JM.

2017 What's normal? Immune profiling of human milk from healthy women living in different geographical and socioeconomic settings. *Front. Immunol.* <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2017.00696/full>

Meehan CL, Hagen EH, Hewlett BS

2017 Persistence in infant care patterns among Aka foragers. In Victoria Reyes Garcia & Pyhälä, Aili A (editors.) *Hunter-gatherers in a changing world*, Pp. 213-232. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

McGuire MK, **Meehan CL**, Brooker S, Williams J, Foster JA, McGuire M.

2017 An evolutionary, biosocial perspective on variation in human milk microbes and oligosaccharides: An example of eco-homeorhesis? In Michelle McGuire, Mark McGuire, and Lars Bode (editors.), *Prebiotics and Probiotics in Human Milk*, Pp. 367-400. Boston: Academic Press.

Gartstein M, Wolayte Bogale Gessamo, Meehan CL

2016 Adaptation of the infant behavior questionnaire-revised for use in Ethiopia: Expanding cross-cultural investigation of temperament development. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 45:51-63.

Meehan CL, Crittenden AN (editors)

2016 *Childhood: Origin, Evolution, and Implications*. Albuquerque: NM: University of New Mexico Press & Santa Fe, NM: School of Advanced Research Press.

Meehan CL, Helfrecht, C, Malcom C.

2016 Implications of lengthy development and maternal life history: Allomaternal investment, peer relationships, and social networks. In Courtney L. Meehan and Alyssa Crittenden (editors.) *Childhood: Origin, Evolution, and Implications*. Albuquerque: NM: University of New Mexico Press. Santa Fe, NM: School of Advanced Research Press.

Helfrecht C, Meehan CL.

2016 Sibling effects on nutritional status: intersections of cooperation and competition across development. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 28:159-170.

Premo, Luke

2016 Effective population size and the effect of demography on cultural diversity and technological complexity. *American Antiquity* 81:605-622.

Premo, L. S. and G. B. Tostevin

2016 Cultural transmission on the taskscape: Exploring the effects of taskscape visibility on cultural diversity. *PLoS ONE* 11(9):e0161766.

Tennie, C., D. Braun, L. S. Premo, and S. P. McPherron

2016 The Island Test for Cumulative Culture in the Paleolithic. In *The Nature of Culture*, M. Haidle, N. Conard, and M. Bolus (editors), pp. 121-133. Springer Press, Berlin.

Tennie, C., L. S. Premo, D. Braun, and S. P. McPherron

2017 Early stone tools and cultural transmission: Resetting the null hypothesis. *Current Anthropology* 58:652-672.

Shannon Tushingham

Tushingham, Shannon, and Richard Brooks.

2017 Inland Sanctuary: A synergistic study of indigenous persistence, colonial entanglements, and multi-ethnic households at Hiouchi (*Xaa-yuu-chit*). *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 118(1):108-139.

Anderson, Shelby, Shannon Tushingham, and Tammy Buonasera.

2017 Aquatic Adaptations and the Adoption of Arctic Pottery Technology: Results of Residue Analysis. *American Antiquity* 82(3):1-28.

Morgan, Christopher, **Shannon Tushingham**, Raven Garvey, Loukas Barton and Robert L. Bettinger.

2017 Hunter Gatherer Economies in the Old World and the New World. In: *Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Environment*. Oxford Press, Oxford, England.

Erin Thornton

2017 National Science Foundation Collaborative Research Grant: Documenting Turkey Husbandry and Domestication in Ancient Mesoamerica Pls: Erin Thornton and Kitty Emery, co-Pls: Camilla Speller, Rob Guralnick and Pete Hosner (Total award: \$330,966).

2017 "Explaining Significant Household Gini Disparities between the Old and New Worlds in Prehistory" organized by Tim Kohler, (Washington State University, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and Santa Fe Institute), Amy Bogaard, (Oxford University) and Erin Thornton, (Washington State University).

Alumni Profile

Mark Mansperger

It was in the fall of 1985 when I travelled from Alaska and began my Anthropological journey at WSU, an adventure that continues to this day. After arriving I soon found myself enmeshed in Anthropological issues and interacting with numerous professors.

Those were the early, mid, or late-career years of John Bodley, Linda Stone, Geoff Gamble, Bill Lipe, Nancy McKee, Robert Ackerman, Grover Krantz, Bill Andrefsky, Tim Kohler, and the rascally Robert Littlewood, among many good others. Linda Stone and particularly John Bodley and Bob Littlewood spent countless hours with me engaged in anthropological discussions. Now that I'm a busy professor myself, I find it even more amazing that they always found the time.



Mark Mansperger

Of course, getting involved with Grover Krantz generally meant entering the controversial world of Sasquatchology. Grover received many reports of Bigfoot sightings. Consequently a carload or two of graduate students and sometimes Grover himself, along with his giant Irish Wolfhound, would travel distances determined to investigate the occurrences. Sasquatchery was great young person adventure and added some fringe excitement to parts of the Anthropology Department.

There were some outstanding graduate students with whom I studied. The staff was congenial, and there was a pleasant homey feel to the department. After many long years of being moved hither and yonder, sometimes to some rather poor locations, the Anthropology Department was just then settling into its beautifully restored home in College Hall. That building is still something to be appreciated.

I attained my MA in 1987 and eventually decided to return to Pullman for my Ph.D. My dissertation was titled *The Impacts of Tourism Among Cultural Minorities*, which led me out to Yap Island in Micronesia (Pacific) for fieldwork in the summer of 1991. While there I lived in a small hut on the property of one of the island's traditional chiefs. I had a truly unique experience and was able to get several publications from doing the ethnography.

Upon graduation, I journeyed to Los Angeles and lived by my wits, like a good Anthropologist, for 10 years, until migrating back to Washington and settling in the Tri-Cities. Finally at the right place and time, I was hired in 2007 when the Tri-Cities campus added lower-division courses to its curriculum. I was brought on as a clinical professor to teach Anthropology and the now defunct GenEd 110 & 111 classes, which were mandatory.

So, as the sole full-time Anthropologist at the Tri-Cities campus, my tasks have been to teach in each subfield of Anthropology, at all levels except graduate, and instruct large sections of what is today called Hist 120 & 121. When Hist 105 was developed, I taught it too, and then I introduced Hist 150 (Peoples of the United States) to the Tri-Cities campus. A very interesting topic for which I've discovered

the close relationship between Anthropology and History. I love teaching in both fields.

As for Anthropology, I've been teaching 101, 203, 260, 309, 316, 330, 331, 350, 395 (as Historical Linguistics), and 395 (as Contemporary Human Issues). Being somewhat of a generalist back in grad school has been useful, for it helped prepare me for teaching in every subfield. I strive to make each class unique and true to its course description. Through time, I've amassed a decent collection of bones, fossil casts, artifacts, and films. Moreover, I was very pleased when we declared an Anthropology Minor several years ago in the Tri-Cities.

It's been quite a ride. Over the years, I've had 22 op-eds published in the *Tri-City Herald* and have been on television news numerous times. I give guest presentations for schools and clubs, and once even debated with the Washington Secretary of State on Northwest Public TV. I've organized campus-wide panel discussions bringing in outside speakers on issues such as Human Trafficking, and have recently launch The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi on the Tri-Cities campus serving as the first Chapter President.

I've learned several things from teaching so many varied classes. One, the different Anthropological subfields truly do come together well. It's both handy and gratifying when a concept from Historical Linguistics can be employed while lecturing in Archeology. Two, professors

should strive to teach many different classes. Not only do it within one's particular area, but also, to the extent departmental parameters allow, teach in other areas as well. True, it's a lot of work, but quite rewarding and broadens one's knowledge base extensively.



The Castle at Tulum ~ Summer 2016

Starting in 2013, I began one of the most enjoyable aspects of my position. I'm traveling each summer to some of the different anthropological sites that I've discussed in classes for years. First it was to Chicago to see a Lascaux cave recreation at the famous Field Museum. In 2014 I made it to Mexico City, visiting Tenochtitlan and walking down the Avenue of the Dead in Teotihuacan. The following year it was beautiful Mesa Verde and Chaco Canyon. In 2016 Cahokia was on the agenda, where I spent a day in one of the best interpretive centers I've ever experienced. Finally, last June, I flew to the Yucatan and was able to visit the spectacular Maya sites of Chichen Itza, Coba, and Tulum. Sharing pictures and knowledge gained from travels is one of the best ways I know to make students interested in topics, and it certainly makes the whole professorial experience enjoyable.

I think it was John Bodley and Geoffrey Gamble who once in a graduate seminar said that the reason we do Anthropology is because "it's fun." It'd be hard for me to agree more.

Summer 2017 Archaeological Fieldwork ~ Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge



Students during archaeological survey at Poker Jim Ridge, overlooking the Warner Valley, Hart Mtn. National Antelope Refuge, Oregon

In the summer of 2017 Shannon Tushingham and several WSU graduate students conducted archaeological fieldwork at the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, in the northern Great Basin region of Oregon.

The research involves students, faculty, and two department Alumni (David Rice 1967 MA, 1972 PhD, and Anan Raymond 1984 MA) and is conducted in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Two graduate students from Portland State University (Katie Tipton and Patrick Rennaker) also participated. WSU research in the area first took place in 1967 when David Rice conducted excavations at Rock Creek Rockshelter. Andrew Frierson (Tushingham's student) is writing his Master's thesis on these materials, which have been housed at the Museum of Anthropology at WSU ever since. He is working closely with David Rice on the project, and he, Bill Andrefsky, and Tushingham are serving on Frierson's committee. Anan Raymond, Regional Archaeologist at US Fish and Wildlife Service oversees archaeological properties at USFWS properties throughout the Pacific States, including those at Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, and was integral to finding support for education in CRM for WSU students. This includes Frierson's research as well as survey and field activities that began in the summer of 2017, involving graduate students from WSU and Portland State University.

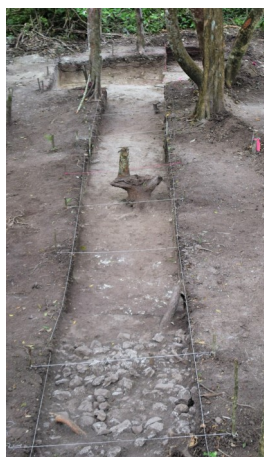


Left to right, Greer Lantier, Shannon Tushingham, Andrew Frierson, Kim Clausen, Anan Raymond, Tiffany Fulkerson, Dakota Wallen, Katie Tipton at Rock Creek Shelter, site of David Rice's 1967 excavations.

Grad Spotlight Continued

Jessica Devio

Dissertation Fieldwork at the site of Xunantunich in Belize



Excavations in Belize

I am currently a staff member of the Mopan Valley Preclassic Project (MVPP) and Mopan Valley Archaeological Project (MVAP) in collaboration with M. Kathryn Brown and Jason Yaeger at the University of Texas at San Antonio. My dissertation research examines the botanical diversity found in households during the Late-to-Terminal Classic period at Xunantunich in Belize. My research will examine plants consumed by the Maya to understand the agricultural diversity, environmental impacts and the degree to which more drought tolerant foods were utilized.

During the summer of 2017, I spent two months conducting extensive excavations of activity areas associated with a Late-to-Terminal Classic L-shaped domestic group located 800 meters from the Late Classic site core. The domestic group is located near Early Xunantunich, a Middle Preclassic monumental center, a region of the site with very deep, fertile soils. I collected samples for macrobotanical and microbotanical analysis, and obsidian blades that will be tested for starches. By using a multi-proxy analysis, I will obtain a more comprehensive understanding of plant use since many species, such as tubers and orchard species are underrepresented or absent from macrobotanical assemblages. My research also uncovered a hidden structure buried approximately 40 cm below the surface. The hidden structure is associated with the domestic group and may have been a storage structure or production facility associated with the household. Underneath the structure, we encountered an earlier plaster floor built on top of a layer of marl which may be associated with Early Xunantunich. I plan to revisit the hidden structure next season to further understand the function of the structure. My research was funded by the Janet L. Friedman Memorial Scholarship and Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid #G2017031593226541.

Dominic Bush

Maritime Archeology Adventure

I am currently an archaeology MA student working with Dr. Erin Thornton. My current research is based in the Central Petén Lakes region in northern Guatemala. In the past, I've worked with a 19th century Midwest fur-trapping assemblage, which included stable isotope analysis. I have also worked on archaeological projects in Ireland and the Philippines.



As part of the 2017 University of Guam Maritime Field School, I got to participate in a number of archaeological surveys of a World War II dump site in Apra Harbor, Guam.

Dominic Bush surveying an underwater archaeological dump site in Apra Harbor, Guam.

Museum of Anthropology

Current Exhibit

Native American Basketry

Featuring an exhibit of Native American basketry made by member of Plateau tribes, with examples from collections made by local women at the beginning of the twentieth century. The exhibit shows methods of construction, how baskets were used for gathering, transporting, and preparing, and how they represent different styles of decoration.

Hours Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Museum of Anthropology/ Washington State University
PO Box 644910 / Pullman WA / 99164-4910



This coiled basket decorated with orange, purple, and white imbrication was made by a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and purchased by Mrs. Lois M. Kahlow of Okanogan, Washington, sometime before 1921.

It was donated to Washington State University by her family.