This edition of the AnthroObserver marks my last installment of “News from the Chair,” as my term as department chair ends with the spring 2010 semester. During my term as department chair, the department has witnessed a series of sea-changes, mostly for the better. In our recent departmental review, for instance, the review committee provided us with an outside perspective on our progress. From this assessment, it is clear that our department has experienced an upward trajectory both in quality of instruction and research as well as national and international visibility, even during these tough economic times. We have worked hard in the years since our last review to forge a fresh and coherent identity with foci in feminist, environmental, paleo- and medical anthropology, which cross-cut subfield boundaries. In fact, despite University budgetary restraints, we were approved to hire a new faculty member to help us continue strengthening these foci. I am thus happy to report that, in the coming fall, we will welcome our newest addition to the faculty, assistant professor and medical anthropologist Emily Wentzell, who comes to us from a post-doc at Yale University.

Recent hires and veteran faculty have all done their part to strengthen our connections across the university, broadening our visibility and sphere of anthropological influence. Additionally, our undergraduate and graduate programs have grown with the advancements in the field, and thanks to a number of internal faculty grants, our students continue to have access to cutting edge technologies across the sub-fields. Furthermore, our professors and students alike continue to be recognized for their excellent scholarship, teaching, and mentorship. Most importantly, Tony Pomales was awarded a Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship. Graduate students Anna Waterman, Lavanya Murali Proctor, Alex Woods, and Jonathan Thomas were all recently awarded Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards, Cerisa Reynolds received the Sandra Barkan Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award, and Professor James Enloe was the recipient of an ICRU Distinguished Mentor Award. Awards such as these recognize our department’s commitment to providing undergraduate students with the highest quality of education and for attracting graduate students of the highest caliber. Therefore, it is with no regret, but with great hope that I leave the department to the capable hands of our next chair, knowing that our faculty and students have what it takes to meet our joint future head-on.
Focus on New Faculty

Emily Wentzell

The Department of Anthropology recently completed a search for a medical anthropologist. The department is pleased to announce that Emily Wentzell has accepted the offer of a full-time, tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor beginning in fall of 2010.

Dr. Wentzell holds a dual B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in Anthropology and Writing Seminars (2003), an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2006), and earned a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2009). In addition, she has graduate certificates in Science, Technology and Society and Women’s Studies.

Dr. Wentzell’s dissertation research “examined the ways that aging, chronic illness and medical treatment for erectile dysfunction shape older Mexican men’s ideas and practices of masculinity.” Future research plans include a new study at her former field site in Cuernavaca, Mexico “exploring the co-construction of heterosexuality, love and illness identity among couples enrolled in a longitudinal study of HPV transmission.” Her research foci include medical anthropology, women’s and gender studies, and history of science, medicine, and technology. She has published articles in Social Science and Medicine and Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society, as well as numerous reviews, and has contributed chapters to two edited volumes. She was a co-organizer for the Society for Medical Anthropology conference, “Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Celebrating 50 Years of Interdisciplinarity,” held at Yale University in September, 2009. For the past year she has held a Postdoctoral Associate position with Yale University Department of Anthropology.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Wentzell to the department this fall!
**FOCUS ON FIELDWORK**

**THE GRAND TOUR**
Contributed by Scott Maddux; photos by Scott Maddux

“Nothing can be more improving to a young naturalist than a journey in distant countries.” ~ Charles Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle

In May of 2009 I learned that the Wenner-Gren and Leakey Foundations were graciously going to be funding my dissertation research investigating the infraorbital region of Pleistocene *Homo*. Awaking the morning after an obligatory night of celebration, it slowly dawned on me... I was actually going to have to do all that stuff I said I would do in those grants. In short, I had to figure out how to visit more than 40 museums in 17 different countries on 4 different continents, on what we in paleoanthropology refer to as the “Grand Tour.”

Fortunately, I had already planned most of the first leg of my research trip, and on June 4th my wife Tressa and I set off on a three month trek across Europe. Our first stop was Moscow, Russia where Erik Trinkaus (Wash U) had invited me to join him in studying the 26,000 year old *H. sapiens* fossils from Sunghir. This turned out to be a lucky coincidence, as my parents live in Moscow (it’s a long story) and were more than happy to guide us around places like the Kremlin, Red Square and Lenin’s Tomb. From Moscow we flew to Rome to study the Saccopastore and Guattari Neandertals, and then took an overnight train to Germany to study the 300,000 year old Steinheim cranium in Stuttgart, and the Feldhofer Neandertal and Obercassel *H. sapiens* fossils in Bonn. We traveled on to Belgium to see the Spy Neandertals in Brussels, and then took the Chunnel to London to work at the Natural History Museum. We spent 3 weeks in London while I studied fossils such as Kabwe and Gibraltar along with the museum’s incredible collection of modern human crania. While there I met Joel Irish (University of Alaska-Fairbanks), who was poring over the museum’s ancient inventory books (we both found the original 1913 entry for the *Eoanthropus dawsoni* [Piltdown] fossils particularly intriguing!). From London we travelled to Leiden in the Netherlands to examine the Wadjak fossils. Having spent much of my childhood living in the nearby city of Wassenaar, returning to the Netherlands was a real treat. After a quick swing by my old house at Dominee Honderslaan #11, we headed to the Naturalis Museum which holds the majority of Eugene Dubois’ collections, including the Trinil skullcap and femur (my office even had a life-size wooden sculpture of *Pithecanthropus erectus* hand-carved by Dubois himself!). From Leiden we hopped a train to Paris, France to see some of the early *H. sapiens* fossils from Qafzeh at the Institut de Paléontologie Humaine. Camembert, baguettes, wine? Check, check, and check. A week later we left for Ventimiglia, the Barma Grande crania, and the beautiful shores of the Italian Riviera. A couple of days of skulls, seafood and sun and we were off to Flor-
ence to see the Romito fossils, and Sienna to study the Paglicci 25 cranium. We then headed back to Germany to study the recently rediscovered Combe Capelle skull in Berlin. After visiting the likes of the Reichstag, Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz and Gemaldegalerie, we sped off to Vienna, Austria to work at the Naturhistorisches Museum, where I had previously spent 5 weeks working on my Master’s project in 2005. We spent 4 wonderful weeks in Vienna, while I studied the Mladec fossils and the museum’s collection of more than 30,000 modern human skulls from around the world. During our stay in Vienna we took a day trip up to Brno in the Czech Republic, to study Dolní Věstonice III, Kulna and the Brno specimens. We then took a 19 hour train ride to Bucharest, Romania to study the Peştera cu Oase fossils (by the way, when in Romania, your colleagues will likely recommend the Moldovan stew... it’s a delightful mix of unidentifiable organ meats). After another 16 hours on a train (including a ridiculously long layover in Sofia, Bulgaria) we finally reached our final destination of Thessaloniki, Greece to study the Middle Pleistocene Petralona cranium at Aristotle University. After taking the last measurements of the summer, Tressa and I spent the last few hours of the day relaxing on the beach, sipping Ouso, and watching the sunset on the Mediterranean. It was the perfect way to end an amazing 3 months of “work.”

In September, Tressa headed back to her teaching job in Anamosa, while I traveled to Washington, D.C. to work at the National Museum of Natural History. I spent 3 weeks in the nation’s capital taking measurements on the museum’s extensive skeletal collections and enjoying D.C. without the summer masses. In mid-October, I headed from D.C. to New York City to work with the Point Hope Collection at the American Museum of Natural History. After three, all too brief, weeks of measuring skulls and enjoying life on the Upper West Side, I was packing my bags for Africa.

My 16.5 hour flight to Johannesburg, South Africa arrived on the night of November 15th, and I began work at the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria the next morning. While at the Transvaal, I had the opportunity to work with the 1.5 million year old SK 847 *Homo erectus* cranium, as well as the famous STS 5 (“Mrs. Ples”) and SK 48 specimens. From Pretoria I took the short trip south to Johannes- burg to work at the University of the Witwatersrand to study the Border Cave, Mumba and STW 53 fossils, and modern crania from the Raymond Dart Collection. From Joburg I flew to Bloemfontein to study the Florisbad cranium at the National Museum and the Matjies River Cave fossils at the Florisbad Research Station, where I enjoyed my meager Thanksgiving dinner (Turkey sandwich and beer) watching an incredible sunset on the veldt. From Bloemfontein I flew to
East London to study the Hofmeyr cranium and then onto Cape Town to study the Klaises River Mouth and Fish Hoek specimens at the South African Museum, where I also had the opportunity to examine the engraved ochre from Blombos Cave. I then flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where I had the privilege of studying the Middle Pleistocene Bodo cranium and earliest known H. sapiens fossils from Omo. After experiencing some truly authentic Ethiopian food, I was off to Israel. In Tel Aviv I studied Qafzeh 9, Ohallo 2, and Amud, and while in Jerusalem I studied the Zuttiyeh and Skhul IV specimens. With the Western Wall, Dome of the Rock, Church of the Holy Sepulchre and about a million other historical sites, visiting Jerusalem’s Old City is definitely one of the most memorable experiences of my trip.

In December, Tressa joined me in Tokyo, Japan where I was studying crania from the Incipient Jomon period (Terminal Pleistocene) at the National Museum of Nature and Science. As professed sushi addicts, we can confidently say that you cannot overdose on raw fish… because we definitely tried. Several pounds of sushi later, we grudgingly left for Beijing, China to work at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP). While at IVPP, I had the opportunity to study a number of important fossils such as Luijiang, Maba, and Lantian, as well as original casts of the long lost Zhoukoudian H. erectus fossils. Unfortunately, our travel plans to museums in Southeast Asia were derailed by the worst blizzard to hit China in 60 years, grounding us in Beijing for nearly a week. With no discernible signs that Vietnam Airlines was ever going to fly out of Beijing again, we finally decided to cut our losses and fly directly to sunny Australia. It’s hard to describe the contrast of flying from frozen, snow-blown Beijing into the blistering inferno that is Adelaide, Australia in January (it hit 115 Fahrenheit while we were there). Despite the heat wave, our stay in Adelaide was thoroughly enjoyable, filled with incredible Aussie wine and beautiful sunsets on Glenelg Beach. My work at Adelaide’s South Australian Museum was equally rewarding, as I had the opportunity to study the impressive Roonka Collection, with skeletal remains dating to more than 20,000 years ago. A brief stop in Sydney (had to see the Opera House), and we were on our way back to Iowa. The tour was finally drawing to an end, with just a little thing called a “dissertation” now standing between me and a Ph.D.
Focus on Teaching

Anthropology Professor Receives ICRU Distinguished Mentor Award

Archaeology Professor James Enloe was one of two UI faculty members to receive the Distinguished Mentor Award at the Iowa Center for Undergraduate Research (ICRU) Spring Undergraduate Research Festival on March 27, 2010. The awards were created to recognize the outstanding mentoring of undergraduate students in research and creative projects at the UI. Winners received automatic ICRU funding to support an undergraduate assistant during the next academic year.

Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award

Cerisa Reynolds received the Sandra Barkan Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award at the Jakobsen Graduate Conference on March 27, 2010. This award, named for former Associate Dean of the Graduate College Sandra H. Barkan, recognizes graduate students who show exceptional mentorship of undergraduates and junior graduate students in their assistantships.

Four Anthropology Graduate Students Named Outstanding Teaching Assistants for 2009-2010

Lavanya Murali Proctor, Jonathan T. Thomas, Anna Waterman, and Alex Woods received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards for 2009-2010. This is an exceptional showing for the Anthropology Department as approximately thirty TA awards are given across the University each year. The University of Iowa Council on Teaching Annual Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards are awarded to teaching assistants who have demonstrated outstanding ability as teachers at the University of Iowa.

Undergraduates participating the ICRU 2010 Spring Undergraduate Research Festival

Hannah Scates
Myra R. Laird
Matthew Manning
Veronica Mraz
Laura J. Stulken
Sandra Walker
Sterling C. Martin
Renugan Raidoo
NEW COURSE OFFERINGS
Several new courses have been added over the past year and others will be offered in the upcoming year. New offerings include: Human Genetics in the Twenty-First Century (113:081), Graduate Seminar: Resistance in Theory and Practice (113:251), Graduate Seminar in Medical Anthropology and Social Theory (113:274), Anthropology of Sexuality (113:112), Our Life with Dogs: The Anthropological Study of Animals in Human Societies (113:111), Cultural Resources Management Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities (113:170), and Crossing Borders Seminar: Reading Transnational Feminist Theory (113:222).

THE UI DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS THE 2009-2010 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Jonathan Andelson (Grinnell College): “What Can Amana Teach Us About Sustainability?”

Ellen Lewin (University of Iowa): “Consuming (Gay) Fatherhood”

Chris Simon (University of Iowa): “Providing Meaningful and Effective Informed Consent: a South African Community Health Context”

Matthew G. Hill (Iowa State University): “The Carlisle Clovis Cache”


Jonathan Larson (University of Iowa): “A Ludskost Supreme: Emancipatory Love and Education for Democracy in Post-Socialist Slovakia”

João Zilhão (University of Bristol): “There is No Such Thing as a Free Darwin: Neandertals and Symbolic Behavior”

Ari Samsky (University of Iowa): “Living Through Population: Bodies, Endemicity, and Technologies of the State in Two International Drug Donation Programs”

William Leap (American University): “Embodying a Homo-haven in Michael Lucas’ Men of Israel Series”

Tyler O’Brien (University of Northern Iowa): “A Hard-working Man is Easy to Find in Marengo, Iowa: A Forensic Anthropology Case Study”
After 15 years of teaching about South Asia in the classroom, I took a group of students to India for a three week study abroad course entitled International Development: Gender and Justice. This was part of the Winter in India Program, launched by Professor Rajagopal (UI Geography) three years ago. The program is quickly gaining attention on campus and nationally. Most anthropologists value study abroad, for we believe in the value of long-term engagement with a culture, participation in the activities of daily life, language study, and, yes, even culture shock. The Winter in India Program is different from conventional study abroad programs, including UI’s own Semester-in-Mysore Program, in that it has a short three week time frame and student groups are hosted by, and work with, Indian NGOs. Last winter, I decided to suspend my concerns that the short program allows no time for serious preparatory learning about the place one is visiting and take the plunge; I proposed a course.

What I learned is that a three week program makes study abroad accessible to a range of people who would not otherwise participate in a conventional program: graduate students, older students with jobs and children, students with fewer financial resources, non-student members of the community. Equally significant, the Winter in India Program draws students from a broad range of fields (nursing, social work, engineering) who are interested in a topic (sustainable housing, maternal health, empowerment of poor women) that is being addressed in interesting ways in India, but who would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the place. In this sense, the Winter in India Program makes it possible for a wider range of people in the United States to visit India. Professor Rajagopal has done more than any single person in Iowa City to increase interest in India among students, faculty and community members.

Working with NGOs was also a new experience for me. While I teach about development and the non-profit sector in several courses, the experience of talking with and shadowing NGO staff members created daily dialogue among those in our group about the relationship between academic analysis and development practice. India has a very vibrant and active NGO sector, and Professor Rajagopal’s tireless efforts to identify non-profit organizations in India willing to provide the labor needed to host visitors from Iowa has enabled the involvement of faculty with no previous expertise in the region; faculty from urban planning, nursing, studio arts and a range of other fields led courses on a range of topics.
My group was hosted by the Institute of Rural Research and Development, an initiative of the Des Moines-based Sehgal Foundation. Because of the Iowa connection, we were able to meet Jay Sehgal, Executive Director of the Sehgal Foundation, before departing for India in mid-December and then again in India when he arrived there in early January. IRRAD has built a green building to house its main research facility in Gurgaon, just outside of New Delhi. The building, with its solar panels and waste-water recycling, exemplifies IRRAD’s aim of promoting sustainable village development. IRRAD facilitates integrated sustainable development in some 18 villages in Mewat district of Haryana. We learned from orientations provided by IRRAD researchers that, even though Haryana is one of the most prosperous states in India, Mewat district is one of the poorest in India. Because it is located in a prosperous state and because the predominantly Meo (indigenous) Muslim population has historically rejected development interventions, the district had not benefited from the expertise and resources offered by NGOs and the state in recent decades. What is most impressive about IRRAD’s work is its collaborative spirit. IRRAD has not gone into villages to tell people that they need to educate children or learn new methods of sanitation; rather, the staff first researches the problems, talks with villagers, and then provides financial support and expertise to villagers. They only pursue projects that garner 25% input from the villagers themselves, whether in the form of funding, materials, or labor. Because of this, IRRAD staff explained to us, villagers are invested in the programs and maintain them. It was clear from observing various interactions between IRRAD staff (both the Delhi-ites and village-based team members) and villagers that the relationship is one of trust.

Initial inquiries by IRRAD researchers quickly revealed that water was one of the most pressing problems in this region due to depletion and salinization of ground water... IRRAD has assisted villagers in Mewat district to build and distribute biosand filters that are cheap and easy to maintain.

“Water was one of the most pressing problems in this region due to depletion and salinization of ground water... IRRAD has assisted villagers in Mewat district to build and distribute biosand filters that are cheap and easy to maintain.”
ment-subsidized wheat for example, among people who live in different villages and their ability to mobilize to demand the legal price once they realized they were being cheated. All of this was possible because of IRRAD’s generosity in hosting us and allowing us to tag along as they went about their activities.

My students managed to observe an amazing range of contexts in the short time that we were there. We stayed in a guest house in Gurgaon, a modern city full of call centers premised on English-language fluency, shopping malls that promote high consumption, and high rise buildings with logos of multi-national corporations. And yet, the Mewat villages we visited were only a 1-2 hour drive away. Prior to IRRAD’s involvement starting in 1999, these were villages without schools, running water, or toilets. My students (all women) had the visceral experience of what it means to be without access to a toilet for the entire day when we visited villages. Women in this region, we were told, get up before dawn to relieve themselves and then do not do so again until after dark. Peeing in the dark also makes one vulnerable to snake bites! One researcher told us that women did not have this problem a generation ago when wooded areas provided privacy to women, but deforestation has created this problem. While I was encouraging my students to drink a lot of water to avoid dehydration, this advice was contradicted by the knowledge that we might not have access to a toilet the entire day! We learned to think of toilets and water and forests as gendered issues, even though US feminism and US environmentalism do not define them as such.

While my students experienced what some call “the two Indias” in our movement between the guest house in Gurgaon and the villages we visited on day trips, they also learned that the boundary is more blurry than it first appears. For example, our guest house advertised all the modern amenities, like WiFi and hot water, and yet we could never count on these things to work. Toilets were western-style but did not accommodate toilet paper! Only a few outlets worked in the guest house. Electricity would come and go. WiFi did not function for the first two weeks of our stay, and the guest house staff did not know how to make it work. I’ve spent enough time in India to expect this. Frustrating as it was for the students who depended on laptops, gadgets, and skype, it was a reminder that this “modern” city has been built with breakneck speed in the wake of economic liberalization, but without the water or power resources to sustain it. And, though we think of India as a place where one can get by with English, none of the hotel staff spoke English and I found myself as the translator in almost every interaction. I also learned that translation is cultural mediation and is never simply about words.

Some moments were very moving, as when one of my students Kristie Fortmann-Doser explained to villagers (via an interpreter) about the DVIP hotline service we have in Iowa City. The women listened intently and then an elderly woman stood up to bless the student and to ask for Kristie’s own phone number that she could call if the need arose. She did not understand that we lived in another country and
...learning about IRRAD’s work helped [students] to expand previous notions of “women’s issues” based on a US-centric perspective. Why would one establish a school for girls who must spend five hours a day fetching water for daily use? In what sense is water a gendered issue... we learned that change happens in small, incremental steps.”

that our phone numbers were useless to her.

Some moments were comic, as when I taught the students a few words in Hindi so that they could communicate with the driver in my absence; he let them struggle with Hindi and then, amused, told me he could understand that much in English! Still, it made him happy to observe them trying to speak Hindi.

There were moments of irony as well. One evening, we went to a meeting with people from the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN). We met with the founder Colin Gonzalez and a group of about 30 (mostly very young) lawyers. As we crowded into their office in a dark and dingy basement crammed with desks and books, we listened with interest as they told us about their work with the poorest and most marginalized people. We heard about people being tortured in Delhi’s jails and about the horrid conditions of a state-run women’s health center that two young lawyers had visited. We also learned that in India, unlike in the US, lawyers can bring a class-action suit before the Supreme Court without a single signature. Thus, HRLN argued successfully for the right to food on behalf of 350 million poor people. Directly from the meeting, we drove ten minutes to a wealthy home where we’d been invited for dinner … a different world from the one we’d just heard about. In that evening, as in the movement back and forth between Gurgaon and nearby villages, students experienced both sides of India’s economic growth: prosperity and optimism on the one hand, and grinding poverty on the other. We came away with a deep appreciation for the legislation that has been passed in India in the name of social justice. For example, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, passed in 2005, guarantees any adult 100 days of employment on local public works. The Girl Child Scheme, introduced in 2008, is intended to promote education and economic security for girls; the government deposits a sum of money in an account in the name of a girl child upon birth and then continues to deposit payments as the girl completes specified levels of schooling. Such programs suggest that there is recognition that the benefits of liberalization are not democratically distributed.

The students and I learned so much from the Winter in India course. Professor Rajagopal’s willingness to experiment means that not only do more Iowans know something about India, but also that many more people in India now know something about Iowa! As the program develops, efforts are being made to enroll Indian students in these courses as well. The challenge as the program moves forward will be to ensure that the experience also serves the interests of the NGOs that so generously agree to host students from the US and to share their expertise and time.
Margaret Beck has had a great third year as an assistant professor at UI. Oscar S. Hill joined the family at the end of May, so neither Oscar nor Margaret made it out to western Kansas last summer for the ongoing fieldwork at the Scott County Pueblo (an unusual site in western Kansas with a 7-room stone and adobe pueblo dated to the period around 1700.) She presented the results of the ceramic analysis at two conferences: the Plains Anthropological Conference in Norman, Oklahoma and the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in St. Louis, Missouri. She also submitted a related journal article (“Puebloan Migration to the Scott County Pueblo, Western Kansas”) to *Kiva: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History*, which is in review. Four of her publications have recently appeared in print: “Residential Mobility and Ceramic Exchange: Ethnography and Archaeological Implications” (Beck 2009, *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*), “Determining Provenance of Shell-tempered Pottery from the Central Plains using Petrography and Oxidation Analysis” (Roper, Josephs, and Beck 2010, *American Antiquity*), “Ceramic Vessel Use and Use Alteration: Insights from Experimental Archaeology” (Beck 2010, *Designing Experimental Research in Archaeology: Examining Technology through Production and Use*, University of Colorado Press) and “Coming Together for Dinner: A Study of Working Families” (Ochs, Shohet, Campos, and Beck 2010, *Workplace Flexibility: Realigning 20th Century Jobs to 21st Century Workforce*, Cornell University Press). This fall she became the Secretary of the Plains Anthropological Society and continues to serve on its Board of Directors. She also continues on the advisory board of the journal *Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies* and still serves as the book review editor for that journal. Oscar will get his first taste of fieldwork at the Scott County Pueblo this summer.

Thomas Charlton

During 2009 I continued developing new courses, one on Historical Archaeology (113:172) taught in the Spring Semester, and one on Mesoamerican Writing Systems (113:165) taught in the Fall Semester. I also continued teaching the Department Field Course in Historical Archaeology at Plum Grove during the Spring Interim Session. My research into the historic period in Iowa involved collaboration with one undergraduate, Amy Schnitz, supported by an ICRU grant, to write up final reports on the research at Plum Grove. Amy prepared a poster showing the links from excavation to reports and presented it at the ICRU Scholars conference last spring. In addition Bryan Kendall and Cerisa Reynolds conducted some analyses of the faunal remains at Plum Grove and prepared a poster for the SAA Meetings in Atlanta presenting the findings. In Mexico I continued analyses of materials from the Aztec and Teotihuacan occupation of the northeastern Basin of Mexico and collaborated with Mexican colleagues on investigations into Obsidian mines and techniques of exploitation. My research in Mexico was presented at several conferences-The Annual Meetings of Midwest Mesoamericanists, the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (3), the International Conference of Ameri-

Professor Thomas Charlton offers departmental field courses in historical archaeology at the Plum Grove site in Iowa City during the summer session. He also continues his program of research in Mexico.

Michael Chibnik has been on leave during fall and spring semesters working on a book manuscript comparing anthropological approaches to decision-making with those taken in other disciplines, especially economics and cognitive psychology. He has now completed a good draft of the manuscript (provisionally titled Anthropology, Economics, and Choice) and is sending proposals to potential publishers.

Mike has also been busy editing the Anthropology of Work Review and serving as the chair of Labor Relations Committee of the American Anthropological Association. He is spending quite a bit of time with his many graduate student advisees working on M.A. papers, journal articles, grant proposals, and doctoral theses.

Michael Chibnik contributed to the faltering economy in 2009 by buying, remodeling, and moving into an old house in a great location.

Russell L. Ciochon has spent the last year continuing to balance his duties as DEO with his academic research on Southeast Asian Homo erectus and Gigantopithecus. This has included two recent research trips, with another planned for summer 2010. In June 2009, Russ took part in a research expedition to central Sumatra in search of Oligocene primates funded by the National Geographic Society. In October 2009, he was an invited speaker at the International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Skull of Peking Man held in Beijing, China, participating also in a post-symposium excursion to the southern Chinese province of Guangxi to visit Gigantopithecus-bearing caves in the tower karst landscape. This summer, Russ is co-PI of an international collaborative focused on site formation and taphonomy of the Late Pleistocene hominin site of Ngandong, Java (Indonesia). Joining him in Java will be current graduate student, Shelby Putt. In addition to these expeditions, Russ has four peer-reviewed journal articles and one textbook (Jurmain, R., Kilgore, L. Trevathan, W., Ciochon, R.L., 2009. Introduction to Physical Anthropology).
JIM ENLOE

Jim Enloe continues research on Paleolithic sites in France. In 2009, he continued field work in collaboration with Francine David, CNRS, in the excavation of Middle Paleolithic levels of the Grotte du Bison at Arcy-sur-Cure. This important site documents the transition from Neanderthals of the Middle Paleolithic to anatomically modern humans of the Upper Paleolithic. Two graduate students and one undergraduate participated in the excavations. This research project resulted in the 2009 publication of (F. David, V. D’Iatchenko, J.G. Enloe, M. Girard, M. Hardy, V. Lhomme, A. Roblin-Jouve, A-M. Tillier & C. Tolmie) “New Neandertal remains from the Grotte du Bison at Arcy-sur-Cure, France.” Journal of Human Evolution 57(6):805-809, and (F. David, V. D’Iatchenko, J.G. Enloe, M. Girard, M. Hardy, A. Roblin-Jouve & A-M. Tillier) “Nouvelles découvertes de dents néandertaliennes dans la grotte du Bison a Arcy-sur-Cure (Yonne)” Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française 106(2):375-390. He will return to Arcy-sur-Cure this summer with graduate students, funded by a grant from the Leakey Foundation for Anthropological Research. Jim has also continued field work at the Upper Paleolithic site of Verberie in 2009, with a National Science Foundation grant supported program of test excavations to verify results from ground penetrating radar studies he and Glenn Storey performed in 2006. Iowa undergraduate and graduate students participate in these excavations as well. Jim presented a paper on Arcy-sur-Cure at the 74rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Atlanta. Jim continues to serve on the International Committee of the International Council for Archaeozoology, and is on the editorial board of Ethnoarchaeology: Journal of Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Experimental Studies.

ROBERT FRANCISCUSS

Professor Robert Franciscus co-authored “The Shanidar 3 Neandertal rib puncture wound and Paleolithic weaponry.”


Below: Shanidar Cave site in Iraq

Shanidar 1 skull

Laura Graham

During academic year 2009-2010, Laura Graham has been a Visiting Scholar in the Departments of Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley and Anthropology at the University of California at Davis. Her chapter, “Problematizing Technologies for Documenting Intangible Culture,” appeared in Intangible Culture Embodied, edited by Helaine Silverman and D. Fairchild Ruggles (Springer, pp. 185-200). She served as Special Guest Editor for “The Other Brazil: Indigenous Peoples and the Great Savanna,” an edition of Cultural Survival Quarterly (33(2), summer 2009) and is currently finishing editing an expanded Portuguese language issue. Her essays, “The Tractor Invasion” and “Performing Dreams” appear in both issues. In Anthropology News (AN, April 2009), Graham presented an overview of the work of the joint Society for Linguistic Anthropology/Committee for Human Rights Task Group on Language and Social Justice, which she has chaired since 2005. In May 2010, AN will publish “Language in the US Census: Problems and Progress,” that Graham co-authored with Ana Celia Zentella (Ethnic Studies, UCSD). The tribute to David Maybury-Lewis (Anthropology, Harvard) that she wrote with Harald Prins (Anthropology, Kansas State University), “Pioneer in Brazilian Ethnography & Indigenous Advocacy,” appeared in Tipiti 6(1):115-122. She was a Keynote Speaker for SALSA at the University of Texas at Austin in April 2010, where she presented “Playing With Image: Xavante recontextualizations of Verbal Art and Performance.” The conference, “Performing Indigeneity: Historic and Contemporary displays of indigeneity in the public sphere,” that she organized with Glenn Penny (History) was a great success and brought many distinguished national and international scholars to the UI campus in May 2009. The assistance provided by Cindee Calton, Lavanya Proctor and Eric Dickerson helped to make the conference a success. Graham and Penny are now editing a book based on the conference proceedings. Also, with Paja Faudree (Anthropology, Brown), Laura Graham co-organized the session, “Performing Difference: Circulating Culture Across Boundaries,” for the Latin American Studies Association Meetings held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2009. In November 2009, the film she co-directed with indigenous filmmakers David Hernández Palmar (Wayuu, Venezuela) and Caimi
Update Fulltime Faculty

Waiassé (Xavante, Brazil) was released for distribution with Documentary Educational Resources (DER); since the last issue of the Anthropology Newsletter the film has screened at juried international festivals including the Indigenous Film Festival de Chile (Santiago, June), the Aboriginal Film Festival (Winnipeg, MB, Canada, November 2009) and will screen in May 2010 at the Göttingen International Ethnographic Film Festival in Germany. The film was part of materials used to prepare former Vice President Al Gore for his trip to central Brazil and will also be featured in Public Radio International’s Living on Earth series in a program on soy in the Brazilian cerrado.

Adi Hastings
Adi Hastings is currently working on a book entitled Modern Sanskrit in Six Easy Lessons: The Politics and Poetics of a Classical Language, which deals with the lamination of a modernist aesthetic on to the Sanskrit language over the last two centuries, transforming it into an object of national imagining in the contemporary era. He currently has several essays either under review or forthcoming concerning: the ritualization of the Sanskrit language everyday, colonial classificatory schemes in the early twentieth-century Linguistic Survey of India, and attempts to frame Sanskrit as a language of science and inherently scientific itself. When he can clear up all the permissions for image use, he will also be publishing an essay on the trope of devotion as a way to understand movie star fandom in South Asia. He’s also working on a small piece on the construction of mediated publics through the phenomenon of 2Girls1Cup response videos, although he doubts anyone will publish it.

Matthew Hill
I continued my fieldwork and laboratory projects focused on my two main research interests: earliest hunter-gatherers of the Americas, and the impact hunting of large game had on the past environments of the Great Plains. This work resulted in publication of two journals articles and a chapter in an edited volume. Two additional manuscripts were submitted for publication. During the summer and fall I contributed to two collaborative NSF proposals. During the past summer I directed a small crew of University of Iowa undergraduates (Veronica Mraz and David Boatwright) and graduate student (Cerisa Reynolds) to conduct a site survey and surface mapping and geophysical (GPR and magnetometer) mapping of two sites (a late 17th-early 18th century pueblo site in western Kansas, and a 9000 year old bison kill site in southwestern Wyoming).

Meena Khandelwal
Meena’s paper “Arranging Love: Interrogating the Vantage Point in Cross-Border Feminism” appeared in Signs, 34(3) Spring 2009. Her essay on spiritual tourism in Rishikesh, the Indian yoga capital that attracts “budget tourists” from all over the world will be published as part of an edited volume on contemporary gurus. In

Professor Meena Khandelwal was an Obermann Center scholar-in-residence at the Obermann Center in Fall 2009. She has received a Stanley Award and an Obermann Interdisciplinary Research Grant for new projects in Summer 2010.

Summer 2009, Meena collaborated with Chitra Akkoor to write a paper on the annual dance competition Nachte Raho organized by the Indian Student Alliance at the University of Iowa. They analyze the convergence of generation, chronological age, migration histories, and the shifting geopolitical relationship between U.S. and India to explain the emergence of Indian dance competitions in the last decade. They are currently revising this paper for publication in a journal. Meena spent the Fall 2009 semester as a scholar-in-residence at the Obermann Center, where she initiated two new projects. She received a Stanley Award to travel to India in Summer 2010 for preliminary research on women’s experiences of emerging sexual liberalism in urban India. She was awarded an Obermann Interdisciplinary Research Grant for a new, collaborative project on Indian diaspora philanthropy. She will spend four weeks in residence this summer, working with Mark Sidel (UI Law School) and Erica Bornstein (U.W-Milwaukee Anthropology) to investigate the rapidly increasing charitable donations directed from Indian communities in the United States to non-profit organizations in India. While researchers have examined the flow of resources through social and familial networks, less is known about giving to religious and secular development organizations. During the Winterim session, Meena also led a group of graduate and undergraduate students on a three-week study abroad course in India; the students focused on gender in international development and were hosted in Gurgaon by the Institute for Rural Research and Development. Meena will also spend one month in Summer 2010 preparing a new short (1 s.h.) course to be offered in November 2010 on women’s movements in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. This year, Meena was also elected to the South Asia Council of the Association of Asian Studies.

**ELLEN LEWIN**

Professor Ellen Lewin’s major research interests center on motherhood, reproduction, and sexuality, particularly as these are played out in American cultures. Last year, Dr. Lewin published two books. The first, a co-edited collection (with William L. Leap, American University) entitled *Out in Public: Reinventing Lesbian/Gay Anthropology in a Globalizing World*, is her third collaborative project with Dr. Leap. They are developing a fourth volume based on their Presidential Session at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, “Framing the End/s of Queer Anthropology,” with a working title of *Out of Bounds*, in which essays will examine how lesbian/gay anthropology has expanded its focus beyond topics usually thought of as part of its mission. The second book she published in 2009 is *Gay Fatherhood: Narratives of Family and Citizenship in America*, her third ethnography on lesbian and gay family issues in the U.S. – the others being *Lesbian Mothers: Accounts of Gender in American Culture* (1993) and *Recognizing Ourselves: Lesbian and Gay Ceremonies of Commitment* (1998). Dr. Lewin is now beginning work on a new research project that focuses on lesbian/gay/transgender Black Pentecostals who belong to a coalition of churches in the US. She will be collecting personal narratives from church leaders and members as well.
as examining the content of ritual events.

**KATINA LILLIOS**

Katina Lillios devoted the past year to completing some major writing projects and to beginning a new research project. With Anna Waterman, Joe Artz, and Richard Josephs, she coauthored “The Neolithic-Early Bronze Age mortuary rockshelter of Bolóres, Torres Vedras, Portugal: Results from the 2007 and 2008 excavations,” which will be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Field Archaeology*. She also completed the final revisions to two edited volumes, scheduled for summer 2010 publication: *Material Mnemonics: Everyday Memory in Prehistoric Europe*, co-edited with Vasilis Tsamis, and *Comparative Archaeologies: The American Southwest (AD 900-1600) and the Iberian Peninsula (3000-1500 BC)*. Over the summer, she began exploratory research for her study of museum guards and their role in the history of Portuguese archaeology. She conducted archival work in the Museu Nacional de Arqueologia in Lisbon, Portugal, where she read and transcribed correspondence and other documents written to and by guards of the Museum between 1893-1929, under the first director, Dr. José Leite de Vasconcellos. These documents provide fascinating details into the working lives of museum guards during the period in which the material remains of the Portuguese past and Portugal’s colonial territories were being organized and displayed to the public for the first time.

**ERICA PRUSSING**

This year Erica learned just how important it is to find the right editor with whom to work, as one publishes a book! This spring she was pleased to procure a full contract with the University of Arizona Press for her first book, *White Man’s Water: Gender and the Politics of Sobriety in a Native American Community*. She has also begun collecting pilot data for her next project, an international comparison of the relationship between community-controlled epidemiology programs and broader activism for greater local control of health services in indigenous communities. This project includes research sites both within the U.S. and New Zealand, and Erica will submit several grant applications this spring and summer to fund more extensive fieldwork visits there in 2011-2012. Closer to home, Erica has continued to work on a local collaborative project about physician-nurse communication with colleagues in anthropology and medicine. Erica continues to work with graduate students from numerous departments across campus, to serve on the steering committees of the American Indian & Native Studies Program and the Global Health Studies Program, to supervise undergraduate honors projects in Anthropology and International Studies, and to enjoy working with Anthropology majors and honors students as Director of Undergraduate Studies. She is also very pleased with the expanding network of medical anthropologists available in Iowa City, including colleagues not only in Anthropology but also in Nursing, Family Medicine, the Global Health Studies Program, the College of Medicine’s...
SCOTT SCHNELL

Scott continues his research into the mountaineering and hunting traditions in Japan, focusing in particular on contemporary image production surrounding the *matagi*, traditional big-game hunters of the northeastern beech forests. Last summer he returned to Japan to conduct additional fieldwork. He also attended the annual “Matagi Summit” meeting in Akita prefecture, which centered last year on human interactions and conservation efforts involving the Asiatic black bear.

Back in the US, Scott was invited to participate in a week-long seminar on “Nature, Science, and Religion: Intersections Shaping Society and the Environment,” which was sponsored last August by the School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His participation will result in a book chapter entitled “Believing is Seeing: A Religious Perspective on Mountaineering in the Japanese Alps,” soon to be published by the SAR. Scott continues as co-editor of *Asian Ethnology*, a peer-reviewed journal produced in cooperation with Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan.

SONIA RYANG

Sonia started her appointment as an associate professor of anthropology and the C. Maxwell and Elizabeth M. Stanley Family and the Korea Foundation Scholar of Korean Studies in fall 2006. Most recently, her co-edited book (with John Lie, professor of sociology at UC Berkeley) entitled: *Diaspora without Homeland: Being Korean in Japan* was published from UC Press (2009). Her forthcoming book, *Explorations in the Political: Ethnological Study of North Korean Literature*, will be published from Harvard University Press. She is currently conducting an Academy of Korean Studies-funded research *Digital Korea: Changing Human Relations on the Net* and as part of her grant, she conducted the first round of fieldwork in Seoul, South Korea, in December 2009. As the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Director, she is organizing an international conference, *From Area Studies to Transregional Studies? Contours of Globalization in Asia’s Re-integration: International Symposium*, in May 2010. Highly acclaimed and visible scholars will congregate in Iowa City for this event, traveling from Japan, Singapore, Australia, Canada, and other parts of the US.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities, and the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center.

ERIC AND SON LINUS WERE PLEASED TO ATTEND A GRADUATION CEREMONY THIS DECEMBER AT ASHFORD UNIVERSITY IN CLINTON, IA FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE FRIEND BERTHA BROWN.
GLENN STOREY
The Classical Greek grammar and introductory textbook *A Fundamental Greek Course* by the Nigerian scholar Dr. James I. A. Eezzuduemhoi, edited by Storey, was released in October of 2009, University Press of America. Storey is completing the editing of an accompanying Exercise Key for that volume, which will be published this year. Storey and the author were invited to give a Presidential Session presentation on the textbook at the Classical Association of the Midwest and South’s (CAMWS) annual meeting in Oklahoma City in March, 2010. This past summer, Storey returned to Sicily to continue work at the Abbey of Gangivecchio, completing the analysis of the Late Roman burials found in 2005, a tomb full of women and children that now appear to be victims of the earthquake of A.D. 362. Storey and colleagues also wrote a paper on the dating of Roman and Byzantine bricks from the excavations at Gangivecchio which will be submitted this year. Storey was made the Curriculum Adviser for the College Board’s AP Latin Syllabus Review, and continues as a Senior Reviewer in that project. His Chapter 9, “Housing and Domestic Architecture,” for the *Cambridge Companion to Ancient Rome*, edited by Paul Erdkamp, has been delayed but should come out in 2011. He and graduate student Jason Thompson are giving a paper on experimental testing of ground-penetrating radar, designed by Thompson, at the SAAs in St. Louis. He continues work on a book, co-authored with his sister, Professor Rebecca Storey of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Houston, comparing the Fall of Rome and the Maya Collapse.

NELSON TING
Nelson Ting enjoyed a productive 2009, co-authoring two peer reviewed research papers with a third one currently in review; “Co-infection of Ugandan red colobus (Procolobus rufomitratus tephrosceles) with novel, divergent Delta-, Lenti- and Spumaretroviruses” in *Journal of Virology*; “Adaptive evolution of digestive RNASE1 genes in leaf-eating monkeys revisited” in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*; and “Molecular Phylogenetics and Chronometrics of Tarsiidae based on 12s mtDNA Haplotypes” in International Journal of Primatology. Nelson obtained $29,538 from the University of Iowa’s Biological Sciences Funding Program to begin a project in the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania, and thus spent his summer in the Udzungwa collecting primate biomaterials that will address the effects of human mediated forest fragmentation on primate communities. Over the 2009-2010 Winter Break he also conducted fieldwork on Bioko Island, which is part of Equatorial Guinea in West Central Africa, to start a project that investigates evolutionary processes associated with morphological differentiation. Nelson gave invited presentations at Iowa City’s Darwin Day celebration, the American Museum of Natural History, Penn State University, and the University of Calgary, and was heavily involved in organizing the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution meetings in Iowa City. He is hoping for a big 2010, as he now has several pending grants, a backlog of papers to write, and a freezer full of primate poop for genetic analysis.
JONATHAN LARSON
Jonathan joined the department as an affiliated visiting assistant professor in the summer of 2009 when he and his wife, Deborah Michaels, moved to Grinnell, Iowa for her position at Grinnell College in social studies education. In the fall he filled in for Laura Graham in the course “Language, Culture, and Communication.” In the spring of 2010 he held an additional affiliation at the U of I’s Obermann Center for Advanced Study in between funded research appointments at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, University of Pittsburgh, and Czech Academy of Sciences. This new project looks at the roles of space, sentiment, and media in the formation of critical communities in late socialist and post-socialist Czechoslovakia. He completed final revisions on two peer-reviewed articles on his main country of research, Slovakia: one on literacy and political socialization for the British journal *Critique of Anthropology*, and one on intellectual conflict and the media for a special issue of *The Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. He has submitted two other articles for review and has been actively seeking a publisher for a recently completed book manuscript on public and social criticism in Slovakia. In the past year Jonathan has given outside talks at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute; the University of Chicago’s weekly Politics, Communication, and Society Workshop; and on a panel that he co-organized for the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Boston. He has made several public appearances at the University of Iowa. In December he helped organize, presented a paper, and discussed a film at the European Study Group’s conference on the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, followed by serving as a panelist for the Foreign Relations Council’s televised roundtable discussion on the same subject. He also gave a talk in the Department of Anthropology’s colloquium series in March. Jonathan and Deborah have otherwise kept busy keeping their new Labrador puppy, Argo, off their cross-country skis and away from deer feet on the trails, and enjoying meeting new people in Grinnell and Iowa City. In the fall of 2010 he will likely lecture at Grinnell College.

JOHN DOERSHUK
John Doershuk, State Archaeologist and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, co-taught a fall 2009 First-Year Seminar with Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) colleagues Steve Lensink and Melody Pope entitled, “Applied Archaeology: Saving the Past for the Future.” This same course is being scheduled for fall 2010, and Doershuk is currently scheduled to teach “CRM Archaeology: Practice and Practicalities” during spring 2011. These courses are being taught at the OSA facility (700 Clinton Street) and benefit from the participation of several OSA staff members actively involved in cultural resource management archaeology projects. Doershuk will be teaching an introductory archaeology course for Cornell College students during their upcoming May 2010 block (Cornell students are on a one-course-at-a-time schedule). Doershuk continues
to participate on Bryan Kendall’s Ph.D. committee as well as Chris Kimsey’s and Sarah Trabert’s M.A. committees. Doershuk was the organizer of the 2009 Midwest Archaeological Conference annual meeting which was held in Iowa City at the Sheraton Hotel October 15-18; over 300 regional archaeologists participated in this highly successful conference. Doershuk and co-author John Cordell (OSA Repository Manager) will be presenting the paper “Project 1047: New Deal Archaeology in Iowa” in the Biennial Gordon Willey Symposium on the History of Archaeology: Shovel Ready: Archaeology & Roosevelt’s New Deal for America in April 2010 at the Society for American Archaeology 75th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri. Doershuk as continues to serve on the Register of Professional Archaeologists’ Field School Certification Committee. He wants to remind all students with archaeological interests to visit OSA and avail themselves of the collections, archives, and personnel to enhance their University of Iowa learning experience in anthropology.

KEVIN M. KELLY
Kevin Kelly is a biological anthropologist in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa Research Park. He is an associate research scientist in the Department of Occupational & Environmental Health as well as adjunct associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Community & Behavioral Health and the Department of Occupational & Environmental Health. His day job research focuses on understanding health risks and behaviors of rural and working Iowans. He also maintains continuing interest in craniofacial morphology and Pacific prehistory.

DONGWANG LIU
Dongwang Liu received his Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Iowa State University in 2005. His research focuses on family issues such as family policies and domestic violence. He has taught courses on marriage and family and family kinship as an adjunct. He enjoys sports such as biking, basketball, and volleyball.

ALFRIETA MONAGAN
Alfrieta is busy planning off-campus opportunities for her students at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA. Each year she alternates between taking students to a tiny island in the Bahamas or to Barbados and Trinidad. She has become increasingly interested in the impact of large-scale tourism on the people and environment of small-scale societies. She continues her work on cultural adaptation in West Indian immigrant communities in North America. Other activities include attending meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology.
**Tomomi Naka**

Tomomi Naka has enjoyed her first year as an adjunct assistant professor. In Fall 2009, she taught a course, Culture and Consumption, and had a good group of students. She published two articles. One is in *Ethnology* and examines occupational choices and Mennonite religious beliefs. The other article in *New Directions for Teaching and Learning* discusses an international service-learning course in Mexico held at University of Iowa in 2007 (co-authored with Florman, J. C., Just, Peterson, J., and Seaba, H. H.). In Spring 2010, she is teaching Introduction of the Study of Culture and Society. She is moving to Chittagong, Bangladesh in summer to take a teaching position.

**Kéelin Baine**

Kéelin has had a busy year working on her prospectus and her comprehensive exams, along with working for Matt Hill on the Scott County, Kansas faunal collection. She presented a poster on this research at the SAAs in April. She is also planning a trip to Ireland this year in order to continue her research on human and animal relationships in Irish prehistoric burials. Kéelin competed in the Chicago Marathon in October, and although she will be unable to compete at the Boston Marathon this year (school must come first after all!), she hopes that she’ll either be able to repeat her performance at Chicago again in the fall or take her turn at a race overseas.

**Erica Begun**

Erica Begun is an archaeology PhD student studying with Dr. Charlton. She has successfully completed her comprehensive exams and has begun work on her dissertation research in Mexico on the assessment of ethnic identity in Classic period Mesoamerica at Teotihuacan. She has been in the field for much of the past year working with the ceramic material from the particular household compound in which she is focusing her work. In addition to getting her first publication on figurines from Michoacan, Mexico, she was invited to present some of her preliminary findings for her dissertation work at a small conference in Mexico City along with the archaeologists she works with in Mexico. In addition to her scholarly work, Erica recently announced her engagement to Robert Veenstra. They are planning the wedding for sometime in 2010.

**Cindee Calton**

Cindee is a third year student in linguistic anthropology. Her research examines the academic acceptance (or non-acceptance) of American Sign Language (ASL) in the United States and the ideologies that feed and result from the position of ASL in academia. Last summer, Cindee had the opportunity to teach ASL I for the ASL program at Iowa and had a blast doing so. Her husband and her then drove to California for six weeks so Cindee could attend the Linguistic Society of America
Congratulations
Jenna Grant received a 2010 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.

Brandy Case Haub
Brandy Case Haub is currently a PhD Candidate in the Sociocultural Anthropology program. She received her MA here at UI in Feminist Anthropology on the subject of giftedness and gender identity. Her work examines sovereignty movements in politically-dependent nations and her doctoral research focused on the Puerto Rican Independence movement. Brandy’s ethnographic research took place from 2003-2005 in Puerto Rico and New York City. She just finished her last diss. chapter and is now about to move into the “revisions” phase. She had a third baby, another boy, in September—Gavin. She still live in West Des Moines with my husband Mike, and three sons: Jack, Benjamin, and Gavin. She hopes to graduate in August 2010.

Jill Davis
Jill is currently finishing up her second year as a graduate student in anthropology.

Eric Dickerson
Eric came to Iowa with a M.A. in anthropology from Louisiana State University, and is currently a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology. Eric studies expressive culture in the African Diaspora, and has carried out field research in Louisiana and Jamaica. His M.A. thesis (2004) explored the play of rhetorical opposition and musical collaboration among various local performers and religious movements in western Jamaica (St. Elizabeth and St. James parishes). Here at UI Eric has continued his engagement with Jamaican expressive culture, carrying out pre-dissertation research in the eastern parish of St. Thomas, with the support of a supervised fieldwork grant from the Ruth Landes Memorial Fund at the Research Institute for the Study of Man. His dissertation research project will focus on video-graphic practices related to roadside “Sound-System” dance parties in rural St. Thomas parish, examining practices of audio-visual production and circulation through which participants mediate their own local status and contest larger cultural-political issues of sexuality, race, class, and transnational mobility within the Jamaican national public sphere. Eric advanced to doctoral candidacy in spring of 2008, and also garnered the T. Anne Cleary Fellowship for International Research.
Congratulations to Alex Woods. Alex was the recipient of the 2009 June Helm Award. The June Helm Award is a solely grad student administered award and provides a means for UI Department of Anthropology grad students to recognize one of our own peers for commitment to service to the department and to the broader community. The award is given in memory and honor of our department founder, June Helm.

From Alex’ department bio: “Through my work, museum demonstrations, flintknapping, and by acting as coach of the Unofficial University of Iowa Atlatl Team, I have found that I am not the only one who shares this interest. Throughout history we, as human beings, have faced the same trials, frustrations and joys. I can think of no occupation so rewarding as one which allows us to understand, just a little, how much we all have in common.”

Susanna Donaldson
Susie is a cultural anthropologist who is near the end of her fourth year as a graduate student at Iowa. This past summer Susie attended the NSF funded Summer Institute for Research Design (affectionately dubbed “Nerd Camp” by this year’s attendees). Following this intensive month of proposal writing and defending her ideas to “methods guru” Russ Bernard, Susie has written and defended her dissertation prospectus, “Organizing Seasonal Labor: Farmers, Migrants, and Burley Tobacco,” and submitted proposals to the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Currently she is taking her comprehensive exams. In November, Susie presented a paper on the process of rural and agricultural identity formation at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association. The rest of the semester has been spent teaching, editing a paper for publication, and making preparations to enter the field. Susie plans to kick off her dissertation fieldwork this summer. By June she should be watching the World Cup at the local Mexican restaurant/bodega and walking the rows with East Tennessee burley tobacco farmers.

Lindsay Eaves-Johnson
Lindsay is ABD, and has been working on her dissertation project which focuses on correlating thoracic shape with respiratory variables in living humans using CT scans and 3-D visualization and digitization software. This work is part of her greater effort to create a theoretical baseline for which to study bioenergetics in fossil hominins (particularly Neandertals). She presented facets of her research at both the American Association of Physical Anthropology (Albuquerque, NM) and American Association of Anatomy (Anaheim, CA) meetings during April 2010. This summer, she hopes to finish her data analysis and begin her writing in earnest, bringing her ever closer to her dissertation defense.

Jenna Grant
Jenna is a PhD candidate currently conducting dissertation fieldwork on medical imaging technologies in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This project involves ethnographic research in the imagery ward of a large government hospital and in private clinics in Phnom Penh to explore the rapid proliferation of ultrasound. She is also conducting archival research at the National Archives of Cambodia on medical images and imaging technologies in recent history. The research is supported in part by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Center for Khmer Studies, where Jenna is a fellow while in Cambodia, and the UI T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship. She presented a paper on the use of images in Cambodia’s first medical journal at the ‘Cambodia in World History/World History and Cambodia’ conference in January and will develop this work further for a paper at the 3rd History of Medicine in Southeast Asia conference in Singapore in June.
RACHEL HORNER BRACKETT
Rachel Horner Brackett is currently writing her dissertation. Her research focuses on the Slow Food Movement in Italy and the United States. In June she is presenting part of her research at the multidisciplinary “Food in Bloom” conference, hosted by the Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition.

BRANDI JANSSSEN
I am completing my third year in the department’s sociocultural program and it’s been a busy academic year. I ended last summer by participating in Iowa State’s Sustainable Agriculture graduate field course. This entailed two weeks in a van with ISU grad students (ranging from sociologists to plant pathologists) traveling around Iowa and Minnesota visiting farms, seed companies, meat lockers and gardens. I arrived back on campus to start teaching in Rhetoric, which has been a fun and rewarding experience. The students are interesting, even those who have their work cut out for them, and I’m glad that anthropology has some representation in what would otherwise be a Humanities department. I successfully prepared my MA paper for publication; a version of it will appear in the first issue of Culture and Agriculture this year. I’ll also be defending my prospectus this semester. For my dissertation research, I will continue to look at local food systems in Iowa, with a focus on how producers gain and apply various forms of knowledge to be successful. This summer I plan to do some preliminary research by becoming more involved in local farming organizations and spending even more time than usual at various farmers markets. I plan to come back next semester in fighting shape for my comps.

BRYAN KENDALL
Bryan Kendall is a fifth year graduate student. He is primarily focused on the archaeology of the Midwest. Topics of interest include geoarchaeology, GIS applications in archaeology, and landscape-scale site patterning. During the summer and fall of 2008 Bryan oversaw fieldwork during an 8-week archaeological survey of Lost Canyon and Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Management Areas in eastern Iowa which will serve as a backbone for his dissertation. The ongoing Lost Canyon and Whitewater Canyon archaeology project has been a collaborative endeavor incorporating individuals from University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Jones County and Dubuque County conservation boards, and over 100 students and volunteers. Bryan has also contributed to the excavation and analysis of an historic livestock slaughter site at Plum Grove in Iowa City over the last year and continues to support data analysis of materials recovered from Bolóres Rockshelter in Portugal.
CONGRATULATIONS

Scott Maddux has received Wenner-Gren, Leakey, T. Anne Cleary, Stanley and ECGPS grants over the past year.

Christopher Kimsey

Chris has completed his MA thesis, titled “Investigating Artifact Preservation and Social Status in a 19th Century Catholic Cemetery,” and plans to graduate in May 2010.

Eleanor King

A second year graduate student in Cultural Anthropology, Eleanor came to the University of Iowa with an M. Div from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Before landing in Iowa with her two cats, Eleanor worked a variety of non-profit jobs from facilitating social justice seminars at the Church Center for the United Nations to assisting elderly New York and displaced New Orleans jazz musicians through the Jazz Foundation of America. Eleanor has enjoyed being back at school and the opportunity to more thoroughly pursue her interests in human-animal relationships, theory in the context of new media, globalization and ecological crisis, and gender and resistance in Japan and the United States.

Scott Maddux

Scott Maddux is a sixth year, ABD graduate student. Scott’s research focuses on craniofacial evolution in Middle and Late Pleistocene Homo, with a particular emphasis on the infraorbital region. With the support of Wenner-Gren, Leakey, T. Anne Cleary, Stanley and ECGPS grants, Scott spent the majority of the year conducting research at fossil repositories in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. In addition to his travels, Scott was also a co-author on a paper (along with UI anthropologists Nathan Holton and Robert Franciscus) entitled “Sutural Growth Restriction and Modern Human Facial Evolution: An Experimental Study in a Pig Model” published in the Journal of Anatomy. Scott continues to work on a number of collaborative projects including an investigation of dental size reduction in Indonesian H. erectus with fellow UI anthropology graduate students Hannah Marsh and Josh Polanski, and an exploration of climatic adaptation in modern human nasal form with Robert Franciscus and Todd Yokley. Scott and his wife Tressa also recently adopted their second pseudo-child, and are now in serious danger of becoming “cat people”.

Farai Marazi

Farai is a second year sociocultural graduate student.

Ted Marks

Ted graduated from Tulane in 2007 and came to the University of Iowa in 2009 after a stint as a lithic analyst for a CRM firm. His current research projects are focused on the Middle Stone Age in Central Namibia with an emphasis on understanding how early humans survived in the extreme arid environment. In a completely different direction, Ted is also interested in how people through time have understood, utilized, and exploited the archaeological record for everything
from national identity to fun and profit.

HANNAH MARSH
Hannah is completing her sixth year of grad school. She is working hard on finishing her thesis research and writing her dissertation. Her topic is cranial vault thickness in the genus Homo, and focuses on the variation in thickness seen in through out not only recent human populations, but also members of the genus Homo from the last 1.8 million years. She presented successfully a paper about sexual dimorphism in recent human cranial vault thickness at the Annual Meetings of American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Albuquerque, NM this April. Hannah is working on several papers to be submitted for publication in the next year, including topics such as a H. erectus fossil from the Sangiran Dome found in 2001, the variation in premolar size of Homo, and sexual dimorphism in the thickness of the human cranial vault. She is looking forward to graduating in the coming year.

ALEJANDRO MUZZIO
Alejandro Muzzio graduated in 2008 from Knox College, in Galesburg Illinois, with a Major in Anthropology/ Sociology and minors in Black and Latin American Studies. His MA work is on meatpacking workers in rural Iowa. Working closely with a community organizer his work provides insight on efforts to organize meat-packing workers and worker perceptions of making a living in the industry, one of the most dangerous in the United States. This year he was awarded the Obermann Fellowship and hopes to receive other funds to start dissertation research in Central America.

LIZ NEWBURY
Liz is a third year sociocultural anthropology student with an emphasis in medical anthropology. She has had a busy year straddling both sides of the river, packing in epidemiology and medical history classes in addition to anthropology seminars. Over the winter interim she had the opportunity to travel to Tamil Nadu, India with a UI Winterim in India course on “Exploring Cultural Roots and Epidemiologic Boundaries: Maternal and Infant Health in South India.” Liz presented a poster based on her MA research at the Society for Medical Anthropology conference, “Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Celebrating 50 Years of Interdiscipli
narity,” held at Yale University in September, 2009, and at a panel on HPV vac
cination in Iowa at the 2010 Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health. She is revising her MA paper for journal submission this spring, and looking forward to a couple weeks of downtime over the summer, but is also hoping to be able to get in some research on vaccination politics in Iowa, as well.

CHRISTINA NICHOLAS
Christina Nicholas is finishing up her third year here at the University of Iowa. She recently presented her Master’s research in a poster at the AAPAs entitled “Internal

Alejandro Muzzio was named a Fellow of the Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy for 2010. The Obermann Center for Advanced Studies and the Graduate College offer the Institute for graduate students to learn about how public engagement can be merged with teaching and research. During the weeklong Institute, participants study methods for engaged teaching and research and develop plans for a project that reflects the methodology and theory studied.
nasal floor configuration in contemporary fetal and postnatal subadult *H. sapiens*. Christina plans further data collection this summer to expand upon this topic. Broadly speaking, her area of study is paleoanthropology, and her research interests revolve around mid-facial growth and development.

**Sarah Ono**
Sarah is finishing her dissertation with the support of the Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, and looks forward to setting a defense date in the near future. Her research explores how Hollywood functions to reify and deconstruct popular notions of contemporary American community. While Sarah still lives in Los Angeles, she made time to present at the AAA meetings (2008) with fellow UI graduate students Alexis Matza & Kenda Stewart, and spend a couple of months in Iowa City this spring. Sarah’s health is stabilized and she is feeling better all the time.

**Cristina (Nina) Ortiz**
Nina went to LASA in Rio de Janeiro to present a paper about quinceañeras over the summer. She moved from Pella to Columbus Junction and completed her comps. While doing fieldwork in Columbus Junction, she met a woman in the grocery store who had read her LASA paper online! She is learning a lot by being a TA in Women’s Studies and is looking forward to continuing her fieldwork as the weather gets warmer.

**Tony Pomales**
Tony is completing his second year of graduate studies in Cultural Anthropology with a focus in Medical Anthropology. He received his BA in Honors Anthropology from the University of Notre Dame in 2006. Tony’s current research interests include: men’s reproductive health, the politics of reproduction, constructions of masculinity and femininity in Latin America, the body, subjectivity, agency, and the intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality and health. Last summer, Tony conducted ethnographic research in Costa Rica on the practice of vasectomy. He will be presenting his findings from this research in May.

**Dan Proctor**
Dan came back from collecting data for his dissertation last year. He visited several museums in the US, and examined additional human and fossil specimens in South Africa. Dan has finished writing his dissertation, and his defense is scheduled for May 25th. His dissertation is titled, “Three-dimensional morphometrics of the proximal metatarsal articular surfaces of *Gorilla, Pan, Hylobates*, and shod and unshod humans.” He will graduate this July. Dan is presenting a poster at the American Association of Physical Anthropology meetings, titled “Morphometric analysis of MT 2 with *Pan, Gorilla, Homo* (shod and unshod), and South African fossil hominins.” In addition, he currently has a paper in review in the *American

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**Presentations**

Nina Ortiz presented a paper about quinceañeras at LASA in Rio de Janeiro in summer 2009.

**Paleoanthropology Society and American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) Meetings**
were held in Albuquerque, NM, April 2010

Lindsay Eaves-Johnson presented “Who are you? Strategies for Presenting Forensic Anthropology and Human Variation in the Classroom,” at the AAPA Teaching Outreach Workshop and chaired a paper session, “Human Biology: Patterns of Adaptation.”

Nathan Holton, Jill Scott, and Prof. Bob Franciscus presented two co-authored papers. Christina Nicholas and Bob Franciscus presented two co-authored papers. Hannah Marsh presented a paper, “Beyond thick versus thin: Sex and cranial vault thickness in recent humans.”
Journal of Physical Anthropology. Since the previous titles are so long, he decided to spare you from another long title. Dan has a gallon of homemade blueberry wine that he plans to open after defending his dissertation.

**LAVANYA MURALI PROCTOR**
Lavanya has spent the last year working on her dissertation, which is on the ideological and discursive connections between language, class, gender, education, and mobility in schools in New Delhi, India. She has also become an aficionado of bad crime shows on TV (taking a special interest in fictional crime-solving anthropologists) as a coping mechanism. She hopes to graduate in the not-too-distant future and be done with the dissertation, but suspects the inexplicable interest in improbable anthropological crime-fighters will remain a lifetime character flaw.

**SHELBY PUTT**
Shelby graduated with a B.A. and A.A. from Indiana University and is finishing up her first year as a graduate student with a focus in paleoanthropology. Shelby is most interested in the hominin species *Homo erectus* and its migration into Asia, as well as the origins and evolution of language, and hominin locomotion. Currently, Shelby is looking forward to doing fieldwork this summer at Ngandong, Java, Indonesia, where several *Homo erectus* specimens have been excavated in the past.

**MISHA QUILL**
Misha, a third year graduate student in feminist cultural anthropology, is working on her comprehensive exams. Prior to coming to the University of Iowa, she worked at the Minneapolis-based Center for Victims of Torture and spent seven years as project manager for American RadioWorks, a national public radio documentary production team. In 2009-10, Misha was named a Crossing Borders Fellow. Her current work is focused on migration, NGOs, human rights, citizenship, identity, gender and cultural change in the Republic of Ireland.

**CERISA REYNOLDS**
Cerisa is a 5th year archaeology student who achieved ABD status in May of 2009. During the summer of 2009, Cerisa was one of three students to join Matthew Hill in mapping and geophysical survey projects at the Scott County Pueblo in Scott County, Kansas and the Finley Site near Eden, Wyoming. She has spent the 2009-2010 academic year working with Matt Hill on an analysis of the faunal remains from one of Finley’s two Paleoindian bison bonebeds. This research has been exciting in that it has questioned long-held theories of the formational his-
CONGRATULATIONS

TO JILL SCOTT on receiving 2009 Stanley Graduate Award for International Research, an Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students (ECGPS) Research Grant, and UI Anthropology Department Summer Funding.

AND TO JONATHAN THOMAS who received a 2010 T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Cerisa also worked with fellow graduate student Meredith Wismer on an analysis of faunal remains from site 5JA421, a multi-component site in North Park, Colorado. In addition, Cerisa continued her analysis of the faunal remains from the Bone Feature at Iowa City’s Plum Grove Historic Farm. This analysis is part of a collaborative project with fellow graduate student Bryan Kendall, Professor Thomas Charlton, and Dr. William E. Whittaker of the Office of the State Archaeologist, and investigates the market economy and the transport of meat goods in late 19th century Iowa. Cerisa is looking forward to a productive summer, and to traveling to Paris in August, where she will present the results of the Bone Feature analysis at the International Council for Archaeozoology 2010 Conference.

JILL SCOTT
Jill is a third-year graduate student in paleoanthropology. Jill received her M.A. from the UI Anthropology Department in Spring 2009 with research focusing on the assessment of the evolutionary significance of the chin in Homo sapiens. During summer 2009, Jill received funding to travel to skeletal repositories in Cambridge, England and Vienna, Austria in order to collect preliminary doctoral data on a wide variety of geographically diverse modern humans. In April 2010 at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM, Jill presented a poster combining the data from that of her summer 2009 research with data collected by UI anthropology undergraduate Myra Laird, as well as serving as co-author on another poster. Additionally, Jill has spent the past academic year teaching Forensic Anthropology and CSI and looks forward to doing so again during the 2010-2011 academic year.

KENDA STEWART
Kenda Stewart recently completed her dissertation fieldwork in Sakhnin and Haifa, Israel. Her research focuses on identity within the Palestinian Arab community in Israel, particularly in the context of Palestinian Arab women’s participation in soccer in the Israeli soccer league. She continues to write her dissertation and plans to defend within the year.

JONATHAN T. THOMAS
Jonathan T. Thomas is an anthropological archaeologist who studies the relationship between the production of material culture and the evolution of social complexity. His research and fieldwork center on questions related to increasingly organized craft production in Late Neolithic southwestern Iberia, and how technological reorganization in the Namib Desert, central Namibia, reflects the emergence of behavioral modernity in the African Middle Stone Age. His most recent work “Speaking of Stone, Speaking through Stone: An Exegesis of an Engraved Slate Plaque from Late Neolithic Iberia”, published with Katina Lil-
lisos, appeared in Materialitas: Working Stone, Carving Identity (2009). He currently teaches two courses, The Anthropology of Art and The Origins of Inequality, and recently participated in the SIU Visiting Scholar Conference “Making Senses of the Past: Toward a Sensory Archaeology.”

JASON THOMPSON
Jason Thompson is finalizing the research necessary for completion and defense of his PhD dissertation.

CLARE TOLMIE
Clare received a BA in archaeology from the University of Southampton, England, and her MA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa. Her PhD research focuses on the transition from Neanderthals to anatomically modern humans in France (from the Chatelperronian to the Aurignacian). She is particularly interested in evidence for the use of bone and antler as a raw material for tool-making and any differences between the two taxa in terms of bone/antler tool manufacture and the inclusion of bone tools to work skin and plant fibers.

SARAH TRABERT
Sarah is a graduate student in archaeology with a focus on the Plains region of the U.S and late prehistoric to protohistoric ceramic-producing cultures. She completed her undergraduate education at Kansas State University and will be receiving her MA in May with plans to pursue her PhD. Sarah’s MA thesis is over the analysis of two ceramic assemblages from prehistoric sites near Glenwood, Iowa. Sarah will continue her research with ceramics from Great Plains prehistoric groups for her dissertation work. She presented her MA research at the Plains Anthropological Conference in Norman, Oklahoma and at the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist brownbag series last fall. She will be presenting the results of her latest ceramics analysis, the reanalysis of ceramics from the Scott County Pueblo in Western Kansas and a Dismal River site from Nebraska at the upcoming Society for American Archaeology Conference in April. Sarah plans to excavate in Southeastern Kansas on an endangered Archaic site and work at the Scott County State Park.

JENNIFER TRIVEDEI
Jennifer is a sociocultural anthropology graduate student whose research focuses on disasters, recovery, vulnerability, Katrina, FEMA, and the American South. Jennifer has studied the casino industry in Biloxi, Mississippi and how hurricanes and the industry have affected one another. Her related chapter, “‘Hurricanes Did Not Just Start Happening’: Expectations of Intervention in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Casino Industry,” was published in 2009 in Eric Jones and Arthur Murphy’s edited volume The Political Economy of Hazards and Disasters. Jennifer has also studied the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (including the agency’s history, operations, organization, and perceptions of it). She worked with other researchers.
on projects related to the 2008 Iowa floods. Jennifer is currently focusing on issues of long-term recovery in Biloxi.

**Anna Waterman**

Anna Waterman is a doctoral candidate in biological anthropology. She is working on her dissertation titled “Marked in Life and Death: Identifying Biological Markers of Social Differentiation in Late Prehistoric Portugal” and was recently awarded the Archaeological Institute of America Archaeology of Portugal Fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year. Anna will be returning to Portugal this summer for further excavations of the Late Neolithic burial site of Bolôres (Torres Vedras, Portugal) under the direction of UI professor Katina Lillios.

**Alissa Whitmore**

Alissa Whitmore is a fourth year archaeology graduate student. This past year she successfully defended her prospectus and completed her comps. This summer she will be working on writing some chapters for her dissertation on gender in the Roman public baths, and writing some papers for upcoming conferences.

**Meredith Wismer**

Meredith Wismer is a third year graduate student in Archaeology. She received her Master’s Degree last spring and is beginning the process of earning her PhD. The highlights of her third year at the University of Iowa have been finishing research on the (very large) Cherokee Sewer collection and presenting that research at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). She also sent off her first (and humble) article for review to *Current Research in the Pleistocene*, and presented a talk based on her preliminary research of the Cherokee Sewer site at the Midwest Archaeological Conference in October. She looks forward to participating in this summer’s excavation at the Middle Paleolithic site of the Grotte du Bison at Arcy-sur-Cure, directed by Professor Enloe (though her primary research interests lie in North American prehistory, she cannot help but be tempted by the possibility of Neanderthals, beautiful scenery, challenging fieldwork, wine, and good company).

**Alex Woods**

This has been a long year of drilling rocks. This summer I will be heading to France to finish data collection for my dissertation. I will be staying at the François Bordes House in Les Eyzies, collecting rock samples, and analyzing the French portion of the blade materials from Abri Cellier.
FROM HERE I WILL NOT LEAVE
Contributed by Megan Felt, Photos by Megan Felt

“YO DE AQUÍ NO SALGO sino que nada más muerta pero del resto no salgo.”
(FROM HERE I WILL NOT LEAVE, well, unless I’m dead, but any other way I will not leave.)--Alanza Rodríguez of Curvaradó, Colombia

My anthropological research in northern Colombia began over the winter break of 2008-2009, under the guidance of Dr. Laurie Graham. But I had already begun my observations the previous summer partaking in human rights work.

I arrived in Colombia in June 2008 with a Witness for Peace delegation, to learn about Plan Colombia and the so-called “war on narco-terrorism”, an agreement between Colombia and the United States in which the U.S. funds, equips, and trains the Colombian military to eradicate the coca plant that can be refined into cocaine, and engage in counterinsurgency missions against domestic Marxist guerrillas such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

During the delegation I met the organization, Inter-church Commission Justice and Peace, and was awed by their comprehensive work throughout the country. I decided to volunteer with them after the delegation. This led me to the Lower Atrato region of Chocó, Colombia, in a river valley called Curvaradó. The campesinos (small-scale farmers of Afro-Colombian and indigenous descent) of Curvaradó were in the process of retaking their ancestral land that had been stolen from them ten years before. I was there to provide them with protective accompaniment, or better put, to be a human shield.

According to the campesinos, they had been violently displaced from their land in 1996 and 1997 during a Colombian military operation backed by local paramilitary death squads to eradicate local guerrillas. Instead of targeting guerrillas, the operation targeted innocent civilians, using tactics of public torture, decapitations and murders, massacres, rape and mass displacements. By late 1997 the area was barren with most civilians dead or having fled. Almost immediately afterwards, African palm companies and extensive cattle ranchers began squatting the land and developing their businesses. A faction of brave displaced campesinos began nonviolently retaking their land from the companies two years ago, with the help of both domestic and international human rights organizations such as Justice and Peace and the International Peace Brigades.

In my time accompanying the communities during this first summer, I was transformed. I saw communities’ subsistence crops destroyed by neighboring ranchers, felt the eyes of constant surveillance of military and other men whom the
The aim of my project was to record the testimonies of the surviving and resisting inhabitants of Curvaradó, in order to give those stories a larger audience...And to understand and reveal the impacts of the violent displacement and continued terror, and why the people were risking everything, including the lives of their children and grandchildren, to regain their land.

The aim of my project was to record the testimonies of the surviving and resisting inhabitants of Curvaradó, in order to give those stories a larger audience by disseminating them in the United States. And to understand and reveal the impacts of the violent displacement and continued terror, and why the people were risking everything, including the lives of their children and grandchildren, to regain their land.

Upon return to Curvaradó the following winter, along with continued accompaniment, I began conducting interviews and actively observing when and where the people spontaneously told their stories and to whom in order to understand the function of this retelling. Although my interviews started out strong, they slowed and I encountered some very slow moving, rigid conversations with people whom I normally talked with smoothly. I kept the same tactics of question and answer interviews and avid, discreet note taking the first five weeks. I was able to reflect on successes and lessons from my first attempt at data collection when I returned to the states for the spring semester. Reading Charles Briggs, I concluded that the interview format wasn’t ideal to enable organic testimonies, since their traditions of oral history were cyclical story telling, abundant in metaphors.

I changed my approach the following summer and began soliciting life histories and only asking clarifying questions. There was a tremendous change. People began approaching me at all hours of the day, wanting their story, their personal experience to be included. It also helped that this was my third time accompanying these communities, so our relationships were deepening, enabling the people to trust me with their often most intimate and shattering memories.

All in all I collected data for twelve weeks, and transcribed and analyzed that data for one year with the help of Dr. Graham. The testimonies gathered do not only show multiple functions of rewriting history, petitions for justice and support, and catharsis; they also reveal a deep collective change within the communities of their interpretation and relation with the world after experiencing such collective trauma. And maybe most importantly, the testimonies illuminate that this unique Chocoan campesino lifestyle and all the rich traditions it entails are unable to exist without their ancestral territory.
As the opening quote demonstrates, to these communities the land and all it entails of life, nourishment and history is more important than their individual lives. Many have sacrificed their lives for the struggle to regain and tend to their ancestral land over the past two years, and many more will continue to do so, because without this land life is hollow.

As an anthropology student I felt it was my duty to bring back testimonies of displaced farmers to the United States to shed light on the human perspective of the U.S.-backed war in Colombia.

*Megan Felt is a UI senior double-majoring in Anthropology and Spanish.*

**Fall Undergraduate Research Festival**

Neal MacDonald presented a poster, “Early Human Occupation of the Grotte du Bison at Arcy-sur-Cure, France,” at the First Annual Fall Undergraduate Research Festival, convened by the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates. Neal has a double major in Anthropology and Linguistics and a minor in Ancient Civilization. His research mentor is Archaeology Professor James Enloe. See sidebar on page 6 for a list of undergraduate students who participated in the Spring 2010 Undergraduate Research Festival.

**Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates (ICRU) Fellows and Mentors**

The ICRU Research Fellows program allows mentors to hire one ICRU student as an assistant to work on a specific project for up to one academic year and/or summer. Approximately 160 students are appointed each semester. Student assistants are selected by mentors to work in areas such as research, lab work, manuscript editing, data collection, etc. Mentors can select one student per semester for this program.

2009-2010 Fellows and their mentors from the Anthropology Department are:

- Veronica Mraz (Mentor: Professor Margaret Beck)
- Sandra Walker (Mentor: Professor Matthew Hill)
- Jeffrey Carlton (Mentor: Professor Nelson Ting)
- Laura Stulken (Mentor: Professor Nelson Ting)
- Neal MacDonald (Mentor: Professor James Enloe)
Shari & Bev are guests of honor at the AnthGrad Admin Professionals Week appreciation lunch, April 2010.

Degree Conferrals

Ph.D. Degrees  Spring 2009

Alexis R. Matza
The Boston “T” Party: Masculinity, Testosterone Therapy, and embodiment Among Aging Men and Transgender Men (Chair: Lewin)

Joshua Polanski
Morphological Integration of the Cranium During Ontogeny in *Homo Sapiens* and *Pan Troglodytes* (Chair: Franciscus)

Judith Siebert
Ethnic Identities in the German-Chilean Lake District (Chair: Graham)

Ph.D. Degrees  Summer 2009

Nathan Holton
Modeling of Masticatory Biomechanics in Living Humans as a Baseline for Testing Functional Hypotheses in Neandertals (Chair: Franciscus)

Tomomi Naka
In the World but Not of the World: Virtuous Economic Practices among Lancaster Mennonites (Chair: Chibnik)

Ph.D. Degree  Fall 2009

Andria Timmer
Integration through Education: NGO Action to Redress Roma/Gypsy Exclusion from the Hungarian Education System (Chair: Dominguez)

M.A. Degrees  Spring 2009

Cindee Calton
Christina Nicholas
Jill Scott
Misha Quill
Meredith Wismer
Brandi Janssen

M.A. Degree  Summer 2009

Liz Newbury

A Thousand Thanks to our capable departmental administrative support staff members, Shari Knight (l) and Beverly Poduska (r). They have 7 and 22 years with the department respectively. Shari and Bev possess an enormous store of institutional knowledge, and a great deal of flexibility and good humor in the face of seemingly endless changes wrought by efforts to streamline University processes in tough economic times.
Note from the Editor:

My thanks to everyone in the UI Anthropology Department who has contributed to producing this edition of The AnthroObserver.

Special thanks go to Meena Khandelwal, Scott Maddux, and Megan Felt for writing extended features and contributing photos. Also to Katina Lillios, Nelson Ting, Russ Ciochon, Erica Prussing, Emily Wentzell, Jenna Grant, Jill Scott, Jonathan Thomas, and Cindee Catton for photo contributions, and to Shari and Beverly for information-gathering assistance.

Thanks are due, as well, to newsletter faculty advisor Matt Hill.

Of course, all errors and omissions are entirely my own.

Best to all of you,
Liz Newbury
AnthroObserver editor 2009-2010

Liz interviewing women in Varapul, Tamil Nadu, India, January 2010.

To give a gift to the Department of Anthropology please click here