

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chair's Corner

*The view from Williams Hall
Introducing new Chair Deborah Blom*



A few words with new Department chair Deborah Blom.

Tell us a little more about your own research. My area of research bridges archaeology and biological anthropology in the field of bioarchaeology, which uses human remains to answer questions about ancient societies. I am most interested in issues of identity, migration and other social processes in the Tiwanaku state, which flourished in the south central Andes from AD 500 to 1100.

What are the two most important goals you have for the department over

the next few years? My immediate goal is to listen and get information about the state of the department, from the perspective of administration, faculty, students and alumni. After that, my colleagues and I will use this information to develop specific initiatives to further our educational and research goals and better serve our students and alumni in their career aspirations. I welcome input from all of you.

What do you see as the most important part of the student experience for UVM Anthro majors? As

one of the largest undergraduate Anthropology department in the nation, students here have a unique experience. They are offered a wealth of anthropology courses that could never be accommodated at smaller liberal arts colleges. Additionally, in today's competitive world, experiences that go beyond the classroom are essential as well. Because our faculty are dedicated to mentoring undergraduates, UVM Anthropology students who are truly engaged in their education experience can benefit from the active research and service agendas (and their associated networks) of 12 faculty members to gain important experience and prepare for experiences abroad, independent research and fieldwork, internships or graduate/professional schools, and their eventual careers.

FALL 2012

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Welcome to UVM Anthropology: Scott Matter

Scott Matter joins the Department of Anthropology as a new full-time lecturer in Cultural Anthropology, replacing Professor Rob Gordon who is on a two-year leave.

Scott earned his B.A. in Anthropology at the University of Alberta and later went on to earn his M.A. and PhD (2011) from McGill University. Scott specializes in political and legal anthropology, indigenous rights, environmental politics, marginalization and inequality, land tenure, and forestry and conservation. The bulk of his fieldwork is in Kenya, including for his dissertation, entitled *Struggles over belonging: insecurity, inequality, and the cultural politics of property at*

Enoosupukia, Kenya. The field site for this work has been beset by violent conflict between members of different ethnic groups as well as by state-directed evictions of local residents in the name of exclusive forest conservation. Scott's thesis thus highlights the important role that social and political inequalities play in contexts of legal and institutional pluralism, as well as the ways that projects intended to further development and conservation can transform and be transformed by their local subjects.

During his time in our department, we look forward to Scott's upcoming



courses in Cultural Anthropology and Anthropology of Africa.

Until very recently both car-less and bike-less, Scott has radically reduced his carbon footprint, and learned a lot about getting around our corner of Vermont on foot. Welcome to UVM, Scott!

Returning from the field: faculty research

A number of our faculty return this fall from long periods of field work, whether to complete ongoing projects or to begin new ones. Be sure to ask them more about their travels!

Jeanne Shea lived in Shanghai during spring and summer 2012 on a Fulbright fellowship, continuing her work on family caregiving. A more detailed profile of her findings can be found later in this newsletter!

Elizabeth Smith spent spring and summer 2012 in Cairo, Egypt, beginning a new project on adoption

and milk fosterage in Islam societies and investigating the rapid changes in social, moral, and political climate there

Jennifer Dickinson travelled to Ukraine over the summer as part of her new project on Ukrainian sign languages and Ukrainian Deaf culture.

Deborah Blom returned to Moquegua, Peru in order to study trauma in group of individuals that moved from the Tiwanaku core in highland Bolivia down to the Moquegua Valley on the South coast.

UVM Anthropology alumnus wins Fulbright

James Dopp '10 has been awarded a Fulbright research grant to China for the 2012-2013 academic year. Dopp will be investigating the role of local forest guards in the conservation of black snub-nosed monkeys at Baimaxueshan National Nature Reserve in Yunnan, China. His work will lead to a deeper understanding in Chinese cultural and societal values and how they relate toward conservation policies for endangered species. He will leave for China in October and will be working closely with researchers at the Yunnan Institute of Geography as well as the Yunnan Green Environmental Development Fund.

After studying abroad on UVM's Yunnan, China program in the spring of 2009, Dopp returned to UVM and was inspired by an anthropology course on non-human primates. He then took as many anthropology classes as he could until he graduated, and after he completed his coursework he went on to pursue several fieldwork opportunities.

Dopp credits his success in the classroom as well as in the field to the mix of anthropology and Chinese language mentors he had at UVM.



James Dopp '10 in Lengjiaba Village, Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve, Guizhou Province, China

He says Professors Deborah Blom and Jeanne Shea in the anthropology department were close mentors as he began combining his interest in anthropology with his expertise in China and his passion for wildlife conservation.



September 2012 is Vermont Archaeology Month! Check out the schedule of events at <http://www.vtarchaeology.org/> and come here UVM Anthropology's own faculty (including Professor John Crock) and CAP staff speak on important finds and ongoing work right here in our own backyard!

Aging in China: Eldercare

By Professor Jeanne Shea

Shanghai is the most rapidly aging city in China and one of the most elderly metropolises in Asia today. Whereas China overall has 12% of its population over the age of 60, Shanghai is comprised of over 22% elderly residents. While many elderly Shanghai residents live in relative poverty, Shanghai is also one of the most wealthy and cosmopolitan cities in China, and as a result, there are many new elder care options emerging beyond traditional familial care of elders by adult sons and their wives. This year from January to August under the auspices of a Fulbright Senior Scholar Research Award, I had the opportunity to conduct ethnographic fieldwork on spousal caregiving and other varieties of eldercare in Shanghai. Below I illustrate examples of some of these varieties with photos taken by me and my anthropologist colleague, Dr. Hong Zhang. These photos also give a flavor of the some of the various fieldwork situations in which I had the privilege to work over the course of the eight-month research sabbatical from which I have just returned. Following up on this work, this spring I will teach Anth 189: Anthropology of Aging and involve my students in comparative fieldwork on varieties of eldercare in communities right here at home in Vermont. I am also planning a comparative study abroad summer course for summer 2013 entitled Aging, Health, and Society in the US and China in which students will do comparative fieldwork on eldercare alternatives first in Vermont and then in Shanghai. If any UVM students or alums or others have related interests, please feel free to contact me at Jeanne.Shea@uvm.edu. I'd love to hear from you.



Photo Jeanne Shea

**Elderly wife helping her husband take a walk
down their residential street**



Photo Jeanne Shea

**Husband helping his wife cross the street as they
make their way to Luxun Park for some fresh air**

Fieldwork in Egypt



Translation:

Matokki/Fadikki

The Nubian Rights
Revolution

We Are One Hand

In Front of Parliament

July 12, 2012

My sister-in-law and I in front of graffiti marking the one year anniversary of the January 25, 2011 Revolution on our apartment building in Alexandria, showing Egyptian flags labeled "Egypt" and "25"

Upcoming visitors

Cathy Lutz, Burack Lecturer

Professor Luis Vivanco has been instrumental in bringing Professor Catherine Lutz, Professor of Anthropology at Brown University, to campus to talk about questions around transportation, mobility, and inequality. Her distinguished Burack Lecture, entitled: "Inequality, Myth, and the American Automobile System," will be held on Tuesday September 25, 4pm, in Billings North Lounge. Reception to follow. Please join us!

Khushboo Jain, New Delhi, India

Professor Jonah Steinberg has invited fellow researcher Khushboo Jain, PhD student in Sociology at Delhi University, to campus to discuss their joint work on street children, rural outmigration, urban homelessness, and running away in India. She is giving a number of talks on campus, including a joint presentation with Jonah Steinberg on railway children and the predicament of the law, on Wednesday October 3, 1-3pm, in John Dewey Lounge. Dinner to follow.

Student News

Nathan (Nate) Clough (2001) is now an Assistant Professor of Geography at University of Minnesota Duluth.

Zoe M. McKenzie (13) joined Professor Deb Blom in Peru to excavate this summer.

Jonathan Roketenetz (12) was awarded the Bogorad Prize for the outstanding senior English major in addition to his Anthro outstanding senior award. He has also been provisionally endorsed by UVM for the Marshall Scholarship (to study at UCL).

David Dennett (2003) is currently a Major General James Wright Fellow at William and Mary's Mason School of Business (2012-2013)

James Allen (2010) has been working in Digital Resources Acquisitions for UVM Libraries. He also started a Masters of Library and Information Science program at the University of Kentucky and is spending a few hours a week shadowing librarians on the reference desk at Bailey/ Howe Library to gain experience in information and instructional services.

Andrew Beaupre's blogged on a trip he took this summer. "Paddling Through the Past" <http://vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2012/08/paddling-through-past-update.html>

Heather Bell (2010) is currently working for the Vermont Association of Business, Industry, and Rehabilitation (VABIR) as an Employment Consultant helping Vermonters with barriers to employment find and maintain competitive employment.

James Dopp (2011) won the Fulbright for his research project "Significance of Local Involvement and Attitudes towards Wildlife in Yunnan, China."

Sydney Ganon (2011) has been working as a Development Associate at KIPP NYC, an organization that works with charter schools.

Molly McDonough (2008) is an artisanal cheesemaker in Valais, Switzerland.

Josh Toney (2003) is a forensic archeologist at the POW/MIA accounting command in Hawaii.

FAITH FENNELLY (2007)

After studying the Anthropology of Development at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, Faith stayed for London for three years (until her visa ran out)! She has returned to take a position as a Specialist in Award Operations for Save the Children in New York.

Coming Up

Interested in writing an Honor's Thesis? Are you unsure about what a thesis project looks like or how to get started? Join Scott van Keuren and Emily Manetta up in Williams Hall to discuss the ins and outs of researching, writing, and defending an Honors Thesis.

September 25, 6-7pm



Photo: Jeanne Shea

Faculty News

Benjamin Eastman is on junior leave this semester, and reports that he is concentrating on getting some articles published. The first of which you can link via the following:

<http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2012/08/31/golden-legacies-uncertain-futures/>

Teresa Mares spent the beginning of the summer working on final revisions for two forthcoming journal articles for *Food and Foodways* and *Latino Studies* in addition to writing a chapter for the forthcoming volume *Ethnographies of Food Activism: Agency, Democracy, and Economy*, edited by Valeria Siniscalchi and Carole Counihan. In June, she also was thrilled to attend and present at the joint meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition, Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, and the Association for the Study of Food and Society in New York City. In July, Teresa embarked upon a new collaborative pilot study entitled: "Vulnerabilities and Resiliencies in Vermont's Food System: Developing a Community-Based Inquiry on Food Access," examining the multiple strategies that Vermont residents employ to access, prepare, and share food in the household. She looks forward to drawing upon the findings of this pilot study to develop a multi-year ethnographic project on the politics of citizenship in Vermont's food system.

Elizabeth Smith writes: I spent the spring and summer of 2012 in Cairo, Alexandria, and Aswan Egypt doing follow up research on my book *Nubian Nostalgia*, and beginning a totally new research project on

the use of induced lactation in orphan adoption among Muslim Egyptians. Supported by a RANNS grant and a teaching leave from UVM, I travelled with my husband and baby boy to our home in Cairo to find out about Nubians' experiences during and following the January 2011 Egyptian Revolution. Our first challenge was adjust to post-revolutionary realities in Egypt, such as frequent protests, unpredictable political events and announcements, and the insecurity and disruption of everyday these caused for us and all Egyptians. We constantly monitored Facebook, twitter, television news, and word of mouth (whether by phone or on the street) in that order to plan our safest and quickest routes through the city on a given day. The epicenter of the Revolution, Tahrir Square, is also a major transportation hub for car, bus, and subway travel, so frequent protests wreaked havoc on traffic. Also, government propaganda stirred up anti-foreigner sentiment which affected my own personal level of comfort travelling around the city. Once we got a sense of how to cope, I enjoyed reconnecting with research contacts to learn about their experiences during and since the revolution, and how things had changed (or remained the same) personally and politically. The biggest change was that I witnessed much more public and frequent discussion of Nubian claims for compensation for their involuntary 1963-64 relocation, culminating in an unprecedented protest in front of the Egyptian Parliament in July 2012 for "Nubian Rights." The most shocking day of my research since it began in 1997 was to see the graffiti "NUBIAN RIGHTS: OUR LAND" spray-painted in red on the white walls surrounding the Parliament building's neighborhood, something I never thought I'd see. I am adding the results of this research as a postscript to my book on Nubian cultural productions. While catching up with Nubians in Cairo and Aswan, at the same time the grant allowed me to start a new project on adoption. Talking to Egyptian

pediatricians going through the process of becoming internationally certified breastfeeding consultants, I learned about an innovative use of inducing lactation in infertile women who wished to adopt orphan children at a particular orphanage in Cairo, Dar al Orman. Religious texts and cultural traditions in Islam prohibit a number of key components of what we accept as adoption here in the U.S.: an adopted child taking the adoptive family's surname, inheriting from adopted parents, and fully integrating into intimate domestic family life. This means that almost all orphan children are raised to adulthood in orphanages. However, when any Muslim woman breastfeeds a non-related child, she becomes the child's "milk mother." "Milk kinship" extends to all of the mother's relatives who are therefore religiously and legally considered to be the child's biological relatives. So if lactation consultants medically induce lactation using breast pumps and sometimes drugs, an infertile couple can create the necessary kinship bond to overcome the religious prohibitions on adoption and raise an orphan child within their family. Encouraging adoption this way allows infertile couples to create families of their own, and provides homes for orphaned and abandoned infants who would otherwise be raised institutionally. My new project with an Egyptian NGO partner Wataneya Society for the Development of Orphanages is to initiate a longitudinal ethnographic study on this new type of adoption in Egypt, establish social services to support adoptive families throughout the lifecycle, and investigate potential applications in other Muslim societies by collaborating with other international partners.

Jonah Steinberg has been continuing his work on runaways in North India through ongoing research, archival work, and data analysis, and recently won a supplement to his NSF grant to address some critically important research needs. His senior researcher in India, Khushboo

Jain, will be visiting UVM in late September (noted elsewhere) to present, alongside Jonah, some of the project's findings. A UVM Anthropology major, Dan Rosenblum, won both URECA and APLE awards to explore corollary questions about landlessness, rural change, and agricultural strains in promoting North Indian children's decisions to run away from home. With further support from the Kleinknecht fund, Dan spent over three months in India working on his project, and traveled with Khushboo to the state of Bihar, among other regions.

With the generous support of a Joan Smith Award, Jonah began a parallel project, "The Disappearing Gypsy: Spatialized Modernities, Pollutive Bodies, and Urban Cleansing in the European Union," on Romani identity and phenotype in the regulation of monumental space in French cities, during which, among other things, he tracked down a Romani family photographed for National Geographic (who did not know it), got lost in forests finding Romani labor camps, and had his first accordion lesson. In February, Jonah and Emily's younger son, Amittai Alexander, was born: 9 lbs. 2 oz., and larger ever since.

Luis Vivanco writes: This past year has been an eventful and productive one for my career. One of the biggest pieces of news is that in 2012 I won two out of UVM's three main teaching awards. The Big One is the Kidder Outstanding Faculty Award, which is UVM's top teaching and advising honor. The other is the Outstanding Faculty Service Learning Award, for my efforts to integrate service learning and other innovative pedagogies

into my Anthropology of Media and Bicycles, Globalization, and Sustainability courses. I know many of you reading this submitted letters on my behalf and thank you for that. I have had the opportunity to read some of those letters, which refer to the difference I've made in someone's life; but you should know that if I have made a difference in your lives, you have made all the difference in my own.

In other news, my research on urban bicycle mobility is cranking along (get it...cranking?). Just a few weeks ago I finished my new book *Reconsidering the Bicycle: An Anthropological Perspective on a New (Old) Thing*, to be published by Routledge in February 2013. This book explores how and why urban leaders and dwellers across North America are reconsidering the bicycle, no longer thinking of it simply as a toy or exercise machine, but as a potential solution to a number of contemporary problems. It focuses in particular on what reconsidering the bicycle might mean for everyday practices and politics of urban mobility, a concept that refers to the intertwined physical, technological, social, and experiential dimensions of human movement. While I was in the throes of finishing the book, a friend gave me a vintage Italian racing bicycle, which I decided to restore – the tangible mechanical work of that really helped keep me sane while trying to write the book. If anyone else has old bike restoration advice, let's swap tips!

Scott Van Keuren was busy this year presenting and publishing the results of his recent NSF-supported archaeological field research in east-central Arizona. He presented new work on fourteenth-century Pueblo village dynamics in an invited session at the 13th Biennial Southwest Symposium in January. Later in the spring, he and Mark Agostini (UVM Class of 2012) reported the results of a high-tech elemental analysis of ancient pottery pigments at the 77th

Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archaeology in Memphis. Scott also put the finishing touches on a paper co-authored with UVM alumnus Grace Cameron (Class of 2010). In addition to publishing papers on southwestern ceremonialism and ritual in the *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* and *Journal of Archaeological Science*, he co-edited a major new volume on ancient Pueblo religion with Donna Glowacki (Notre Dame). Scott also received a UVM Research Award for the Natural and Social Sciences (RANSS) grant to initiate a new field project that will examine Pueblo religion during a period of major climatic stress in the late thirteenth-century AD.

