

Department of Anthropology



University of Vermont

Fall 2009

UVM Anthropology Department Newsletter

The View from Williams Hall



As fall approaches here in Vermont we are once again looking forward to an exciting semester in the Department of Anthropology at UVM. We are fortunate this year to welcome new faculty to our department, new majors to our classrooms, and new courses to our catalog. The growth of Anthropology at UVM has meant that our students have ever-increasing opportunities to join faculty in the field and the lab and to look forward to careers that make use of the skills they learn here at UVM. In recent months students and faculty have traveled the world (China, Ukraine, Mexico, Egypt), helped CAP continue its vital archeological work in Vermont and the Northeast, and participated in field schools in the US southwest and southeast. We look forward to bringing all of this new experience into the classroom this academic year.

In this newsletter will find out what our faculty have been up to, check out news from our busy alumni, enjoy photos taken on our

travels, and see how our undergraduate-only department involves students in every aspect of the research, writing and teaching process.

We hope you will consider dropping us a line yourself, and finding out how you can participate in the continued growth and excellence of Anthropology here at UVM. If you are in the area, stop by Williams Hall for a visit! The view is better than ever.





Anthropology welcomes Ben Eastman

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce that Benjamin Eastman will join us this year as a tenure

track faculty member. Ben’s work centers on contemporary Cuba, sports (in particular baseball), and nationalism in socialist/post-socialist contexts.

He currently researches the intersection of official interests with popular concerns in Cuban baseball during the post-Soviet "special period" in Cuban society. Ben is completing his PhD at the University of Chicago, and will defend his dissertation, entitled “Playing with Fire: Baseball and Moral Authority in Contemporary Cuba”, in fall 2009. He will further his excellent reputation as a teacher in the Anthropology Department by continuing to offer courses on the anthropology of sports, political anthropology, colonialism, and anthropological theory.

Grant awarded for work with Indian street children



We are excited to announce that Jonah Steinberg has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation \$233, 654 for his research on runaway street children in North India. Jonah’s three-year grant will allow him to explore in detail why children in rural India leave home of their own accord with such frequency and to investigate both the villages they leave and their lives once in the capital city of New Delhi. Jonah is looking forward to do-

ing new field research in India and to working closely with local researchers.

The grant affords him the opportunity to expand his existing research program on social change in South Asia and global childhoods. The grant also includes funding to explore the applied value of the research for service and advocacy organizations working with youth on the streets of India’s cities.

Jonah’s frequently taught course on street children and the Anthropology of childhood will also benefit from the grant, as Jonah expects to be able to bring new data and new research experiences into the classroom, and foster connections between UVM students and street youth in India.



Updates in Williams Hall

Williams Hall benefitted from a the summer construction on campus, including a cleaned and renovated facade and updated restrooms. You may also notice the new conference tables and whiteboard in our seminar room, creating a better learning environment for our small classes in 511.

SUMMER IN THE FIELD



Summer 2009 Archeology Field Schools

The department was able to offer two exciting field schools this past summer. Scott Van Keuren was once again able to take a group of seven students to his field sites in the southwest, specifically eastern Arizona. The students and two staff members excavated rooms at a large fourteenth-century Ancestral

Pueblo (Fourmile Ruin) during four weeks in July. The excavations uncovered important evidence of abandonment behaviors as well as a host of painted ceramics and other artifacts.

A second field school, led by department chair Cameron Wesson, traveled to Alabama to work in Dr. Wesson's region of focus: the American southeast.

Faculty News

John Crock writes “The UVM CAP crew is enjoying the gorgeous Vermont fall weather and presently includes several alums: Jen Robins ’87, Jess Robinson ’99, Andy Fletcher ’01, Jeremy Ripin ’02, Andy Beaupre ’07 who is also finishing up his masters at Western Michigan, and Grace Cameron ’09. CAP also welcomed back Rob Ingraham for part of the summer. Rob is currently working on a Masters degree at the University of Maine. “John’s recent publications include: “Indians on the Lake.” William A. Haviland and John G. Crock. Chapter 3 in *Lake Champlain: An Illustrated History*, edited by Julie Stillman and Mike McCaskey, pp 86-105. Adirondack Press.

Jennifer Dickinson spent Fall 2009 in Western Ukraine completing a long term research project on advertising, consumer culture and uses of urban space in the post-Soviet period. She is currently writing a book based on this project and is looking forward to sharing insights from her research with students in her linguistic anthropology and anthropology of Eastern Europe classes this spring. Her recent publications include “How do you write yourself? How do you call yourself??: Official and Unofficial Naming Practices in a Transcarpathian Ukrainian Village.” *Anthropological Linguistics* 49(2): 118-141. and “Documenting Identity: The Discourse of Census Categories and Rusyn Self-Determination in the 2001 Ukrainian Census.” In E. Rusinko, ed. *Selected Papers in Rusyn Studies*. Columbia University Press.; Prof. Dickinson and her family also welcomed a baby girl, Zora May Dickinson Kolovos, in May 2009.

Ben Eastman In addition to his ongoing research on the relationship between politics and sports in contemporary Cuba, Professor Eastman has been looking at issues of globalization through the lens of sport. Most recently, he conducted

ethnographic research in March 2009 at the second World Baseball Classic. In both Mexico City and Los Angeles, California, Eastman interviewed fans from around the world as well as observed the various levels of competition contained within and promoted by the Classic: team against team; nation against nation; as well as corporation against corporation.

Brian Gilley is the department’s newest senior member, having earned tenure in spring 2009. Dr. Gilley’s office is no longer located in Williams Hall, as he is serving as director of ALANA and US Ethnic Studies and can be found on the fifth floor of Old Mill. His current research on cycling was featured in *Sports Illustrated* this summer. The web version of the article can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/A2ZwH>

Emily Manetta’s comparative work on question formation processes in Kashmiri and Hindi-Urdu will be the subject of a long article in the MIT journal *Linguistic Inquiry*, appearing in January of 2010. Her research on narratives of nostalgia and longing in Tajik and Afghan Badakhshan, presented at the last meeting of the AAA, is being prepared as part of a special collection entitled “Affecting Global Movement: The Emotional Terrain of Transnationality”. Currently on junior leave, Emily is spending the semester focusing on her newest research project, concerning discourse-motivated rightward movement in Hindi-Urdu.

Jeanne Shea writes: “While I’ve given talks at Chinese academic conferences before, this year will mark my first time publishing in a Chinese scholarly journal. In December the *Journal of Guangxi University for Nationalities (JGUN)*, a leading academic anthropology journal in China, will be publishing a Chinese translation of my article on issues of sexual liberation among older Chinese women in contemporary China. Originally published in English, my

article was ranked among the top three most frequently read *Modern China* journal articles at Sage Journals Online for several years, and graduate student Francis Yu Lu took notice of it and undertook collaborating with me on its translation as his Master’s Thesis project at the University of Westminster. The translated article will be included in a special December issue of the *JGUN* featuring several foreign China anthropologists. I am excited at the prospect of getting feedback on my research from a Chinese scholarly audience.”

Jonah Steinberg’s book “Ismailie Modern: Globalization and Identity in a Muslim Community” will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in their series on Muslim Networks and Islamic Civilizations and will appear in 2010.

Scott Van Keuren presented both a paper and poster at the 74th Annual Meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in Atlanta, Georgia. Co-authored with recent UVM graduate Grace Cameron, the poster reported new insights on old collections of ancient Pueblo pottery recently donated to Brigham Young University. Grace Cameron’s work and travel was supported by a National Science Foundation REU Supplement to Dr. Van Keuren’s NSF-funded research project. Dr. Van Keuren also organized and facilitated an Amerind Foundation Seminar with a colleague at Notre Dame University to consider the topic of ancient religions in the late prehistoric Southwest. The seminar papers will be published as an edited volume by the University of Arizona Press. Finally, Dr. Van Keuren directed the UVM archaeological field school in July, providing seven students with their first field experiences.

Luis Vivanco writes: “This past year has largely been one of finishing a couple of writing projects, and

bringing several new ones into existence. By far the most important of these new projects is the birth of Camila, our third child (and second daughter) in January. I was able to take a leave from teaching during the Spring semester to be with her. Of course little babies sleep often so I took advantage of that time to write a couple of articles on tourism and to finish the first draft of the much-awaited introductory cultural anthropology textbook. Much of the past year was also taken up with my administrative duties leading what is now known as the Global and Regional Studies Program, and ushering in a new major in Global Studies. Having just returned from a leave, I'm already planning my next one. I've been invited to teach a course on environmental anthropology at the Universidad Católica and conduct research on urban mobility in Santiago, Chile for 2011. This project would largely be focused on the role of bicycles in the urban transportation matrix of Santiago, reflecting my new found intellectual passion studying the role of cycling within the environmental movement and urban sustainability. If you ever make it back to Burlington, ask me about how I'm putting these intellectual interests into personal practice, and I will show you my cargo bike which I use to haul kids, trash, groceries, and anything else I can strap on it."

Alumni News

Josh MacLeod, class of 2003, just finished his first year as a Ph.D. student in cultural anthropology at Brown University. Although it is too early to establish a definitive dissertation project, he is interested in researching indigenous and human rights issues in Guatemala.

Cullen Black '02 continues to work as an osteologist with the Army's MIA recovery group at JPAC's Central Identification Lab in Hawaii. He spends a great deal of time traveling

to remote areas of the Pacific on search and recovery missions.

Joshua Toney '98 is finishing up writing his Ph.D. at the University of Florida on his field work in the Xingu region of Brazil. Over the summer, Josh assisted **Isaac Shearn** '04, also a Ph.D. student at UF, in Dominica where Isaac hopes to conduct his graduate field work.

Another UVM grad, **Randy Croness**, '00, also a Ph.D. student at UF, taught a field school last summer in the Central Amazon of Brazil where he is conducting his graduate research. Josh, Isaac, and Randy are all students of **Michael Heckenberger** '87, and frequently see **John Krigbaum**, '87, another member of the UF faculty. Heckenberger's research in the Xingu has been published in *Science* and was recently featured in the New York Times bestseller about an early Amazonian explorer "the Lost City of Z" by David Gran.

Current student **James Allen** and '08 graduate **Allie Clark** both travelled to Antigua last summer to present papers along with **John Crook** '89 at the International Association of Caribbean Archaeology meetings. James has been working on vertebrate remains and Allie on invertebrates recovered from sites in Anguilla excavated in UVM field schools.

Andre Shoumatoff '01 is living in Park City, Utah where he is married to his wife Carrie who is the director of admissions at a boarding school for troubled youth. Andre is primarily a web developer who also owns several forum-based online communities. Most recently has been building a community based software publishing program from online forums called "TBIC" - "topic by internet community" - designed to allow communities to become leading expertise sites about their given topic. In recent years he has also worked extensively with biodiesel fuel, and Andre is also heavily entrenched in

his hobbies, as always, of mountain biking, telemark skiing, and vehicle mechanics/restoration/fabrication.

Devin Morrill '02 writes: "I'm currently living in Gainesville, Florida. I've been here since May, after finishing up my coursework and comprehensive exams for the M.A. in Greek and Latin at UVM (still have my thesis to wrap up). I'm currently starting coursework in Forensic Science at the University of Florida and am looking for work in the field. I'm also getting married in late September to Liron Weiss. She's from Israel, but studied in Vermont, where we met. We're currently in Gainesville while she gets an advanced degree. Possibly onto Israel after that, but who really knows?"

Shannon Wilson (2009) is currently living in San Pedro, Costa Rica and earning her TESOL Certificate through LanguageCorps.

Nathan Clough ('01) is in Minneapolis (University of Minnesota) finishing his PhD in Geography. He says "My dissertation examines the socio-spatial articulations between post 9-11 security techniques/technologies, urban public space, and post-Seattle 1999 Left social movement alliance politics through the lens of the 2008 Republican National Convention protests in St. Paul, Minnesota. I used qualitative methods including participant observation, interviews, and discourse analysis to collect data on social movements involved in protesting the RNC, as well as on state strategies to control the protests."



Professor Deborah Blom in Bolivia (photo: Wolfgang Schuler)

Contribute!

Haven't emailed your old advisor in a while? Have alumni news to share? Just completed a degree or started a family? Or maybe you would like to find out how you can support Anthropology at UVM through a gift to the department? Write, email or call anytime:

University of Vermont
Department of Anthropology
509 Williams Hall
72 University Place
Burlington, Vermont 05405
802-656-3884
clongwell@uvm.edu



Korea vs. Japan, Los Angeles 2009 (photo: Ben Eastman)