From the Chair

It’s a good thing I embrace CHANGE, because we have had more of it over the 2014-2015 academic year. All in all, the Department of Anthropology has experienced an exciting year, with many faculty and student achievements to report and celebrate. In the Spring 2014 newsletter, I reported on a few new hires in the department. It is true that we succeeded in hiring a new geographer. However, Dr. Jennifer Lipton elected not to join the department late last summer and, instead, we had the opportunity to bring in Dr. Andrew Bliss. Dr. Bliss received his Ph.D. in 2011 from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a glaciologist and brings an important and timely perspective on climate change with regard to his research and teaching; welcome Andy! We also hired Katie Horton in the position of communications coordinator. Ms. Horton received a master’s in biological anthropology in 2014. We are excited to have her join our staff and are confident she represents a perfect fit for the position.

With regard to faculty achievements, a few stood out this year. Dr. Jeff Snodgrass was a co-author on an article about the relationship between telomere length and stress published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Chris Fisher was part of a research team that identified a previously undocumented ancient city in Honduras, and Dr. Kate Browne has a new book coming out on her ongoing work on a large family affected by Hurricane Katrina – publication of the book marks the 10th anniversary of this disaster. A number of our students also enjoyed successes this year, from receiving a Fulbright scholarship to publishing an ethnography of the food movement in Fort Collins that is also a community cookbook. You will find many interesting stories in this edition of the newsletter.

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The purpose of the expedition was to survey and record what appeared to be large, undocumented settlements (“cities” as defined anthropologically) in a remote valley in the Mosquitia. The settlements were first identified in a 2012 light detection and ranging survey of the area conducted by the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping and the University of Houston for Under the LiDAR Productions with the approval of IHAH. (The May 2013 issue of The New Yorker magazine carried a comprehensive article on this discovery, written by Mr. Preston.) None of these settlements had been documented in academic publications, in unpublished project reports, or in any other documents present in the IHAH archaeological archive maintained in Tegucigalpa. Prior to the first airborne survey of 2012, IHAH’s then head of cultural patrimony was consulted in 2011 in order to avoid areas with already registered sites. The sites were not in the Honduran government database of cultural patrimony.

Through the 2015 fieldwork, the team was able to verify much of the initial 2012 LiDAR findings around one of the larger settlements, as well as document many features not visible in these data by verifying a sample of the overall LiDAR data. Through this work, the team demonstrated that these settlements were embedded within a human-modified landscape that includes roads and paths, water-control features such as reservoirs and canals, possible river channel modification, and agricultural terraces. This research adds a new chapter to an existing body of evidence demonstrating that the Mosquitia region was densely settled in the past. A pristine, undisturbed, and important cache of 52 ground-stone objects was located and documented both photographically and using the TLS scans to create a 3-D image of the cache with a resolution of 1cm or better, without a single object being disturbed. No excavations were undertaken; everything was left in situ.

While appropriate academic materials are being prepared, the FAQ about the project can be found at: http://resilientworld.com

The final report of the American Anthropological Association’s Global Climate Change Task Force concluded that human decisions, actions, and cultural behaviors are now the most important causes of the rapidly changing climate. “We’re not going to solve our environmental problems until we incorporate the social sciences, because it starts with people,” said Dr. Kathleen Galvin, professor in the Department of Anthropology and one of the researchers selected as a task force member. The Department of Anthropology thanks Dr. Galvin for this important service.
Dr. Kathleen Galvin held an international workshop Jan. 28-31, 2015, on Dryland Collaborative Institutions and Innovative Transformations to Sustainability. A group of academics, scholars, managers, and practitioners of dryland collaboratives from Mongolia, Kenya, and the United States met to “discover, dream, design, and deliver” research for a Knowledge Network to address natural resource problems in rangelands. Collaboratives/conservancies constitute a new kind of problem-solving organization for sustainable drylands. Recurring droughts and other extreme climate events, global commodity markets, energy development, and land tenure are driving the development of these innovative organizations. The workshop goal was to develop research and outreach that enhance collaboratives to be resilient under change.
The Department of Anthropology Welcomes
Dr. Andrew Bliss & Dr. Shaozeng Zhang

Dr. Chris Fisher
Promoted to Professor

Dr. Katie Horton is our new communications coordinator. In 2014, she received her Master of Arts in biological anthropology at CSU and, in 2010, she completed her Bachelor of Science in biology with a concentration in evolution, genetics, and systematics. Ms. Horton is currently a research assistant for The Africa Center at CSU and working on a livelihoods project with The Nature Conservancy.

Dr. Andrew Bliss is our newest geographer. Projecting future glacier mass balance on regional and global scales, global sea level rise, effects of glacier changes on local hydrology, present state of glaciers on the Antarctic periphery, glaciology, climatology, hydrology, and geomorphology are the research interests of Dr. Bliss. After receiving his Ph.D. in geography at the University of California, Berkeley, in 2011, Dr. Bliss worked on his postdoc at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, to study the mass balance of mountain glaciers and ice caps worldwide.

Dr. Shaozeng Zhang is the Department of Anthropology’s newest cultural anthropologist. Dr. Zhang has been interested in how expert knowledge can be developed, mobilized, transformed, and used in environmental policy, as well as how expert knowledge can be embedded in and shaped by social cultural relations between various actors. His most recent work was specifically focused on the policy evolution of an environmental financial mechanism REDD+ (Reduction of carbon Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) in Brazil. He has also conducted more applied research using a community-based participatory research method to design social-economic sustainability indicator systems for pilot REDD+ projects in the Brazilian Amazon.
The Department of Anthropology has recently acquired a high-resolution 3-D non-contact portable profiler and associated 3-D analysis software to be used in Dr. Michael Pante’s Paleoanthropology and Zooarchaeology Laboratory. The device will be used to inspect and describe the traces left by human ancestors on bones and artifacts. This tool is revolutionizing paleoanthropological research and is becoming increasingly common in anthropology laboratories around the country and the world. Most recently, a similar tool was used to describe the earliest possible human engravings in an article published in the journal *Nature*.

The device will provide new research opportunities for students and faculty throughout CSU. The availability of the device will justify the export of artifacts and fossils to CSU from the renowned UNESCO World Heritage site, Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. The device may also encourage other researchers to send artifacts from around the world to CSU for analysis. The presence of these artifacts at CSU will afford our students the unique opportunity to handle and study rare, priceless traces of human behavior and evolution. The instrument is available to the entire University and could encourage innovative and groundbreaking research, likely leading to new extramural funding opportunities.
Save the Date!
Katrina Book Launch, Music, and Celebration
Avogadro’s Number, Fort Collins, Colo.
Thursday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Please join Professors Kate Browne and Lori Peek for the launch of their books and a musical tribute to New Orleans on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Help us celebrate the resilience and courage of people who lost everything and whose lives are documented in these books.

*Children of Katrina* (by Dr. Lori Peek and Dr. Alice Fothergill)
*Standing in the Need: Culture, Comfort, and Coming Home after Katrina* (by Dr. Kate Browne)
Dr. Stephen Leisz, a geographer in the Department of Anthropology, participated in the NASA 2015 Land-Cover/Land-Use Change Webinar Series on May 26. A recording of his presentation, “Increased Accessibility, Landscape Changes, Rural Transformations, and Urbanization: Impacts of the East-West Economic Corridor from Da Nang, Vietnam, to Khon Kaen, Thailand,” will be available on NASA’s website within the next few weeks. The NASA 2015 LCLUC Webinar Series features projects focusing on detection and monitoring of land-cover and land-use changes. These projects contribute to the revised science questions identified in the land-use, land-cover change theme of the 2003 U.S. Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan.
Fall Courses

Anthropology Courses

Undergraduate Courses
ANTH 100 Introductory Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 120 Human Origins and Variation
ANTH 121 Human Origins and Variation Laboratory
ANTH 140 Introduction to Prehistory
ANTH 200 Cultures and the Global System
ANTH 281A1 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
ANTH 329 Cultural Change
ANTH 340 Medical Anthropology
ANTH 343 Applied Medical Anthropology
ANTH 360 Archaeological Investigation
ANTH 372 Human Osteology
ANTH 400 History of Anthropological Thought
ANTH 415 Indigenous Ecologies and the Modern World
ANTH 446 New Orleans and the Caribbean
ANTH 449 Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
ANTH 452 Archaeology of Mesoamerica
ANTH 472 Human Biology
ANTH 473 The Neandertals
ANTH 479 International Development Theory and Practice

Graduate Courses
ANTH 530 Human-Environment Interactions
ANTH 545 Global Mental Health: Theory and Method
ANTH 551 Historical Archaeology
ANTH 571 Anthropology and Global Health

Geography Courses

Undergraduate Courses
GR 100 Introduction to Geography
GR 210 Physical Geography
GR 304 Sustainable Watersheds
GR 320 Cultural Geography
GR 323 Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation
GR 330 Urban Geography
GR 381 Glaciology
GR 480A5 Mountain Geography: Environment and Culture

Graduate Courses
GR 503 Remote Sensing and Image Analysis
GR 580A2 Forests in a Warming World
Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase

Kristen Edwards
“Dental Wear and Oral Lesions: Implications for Adult Men in 9th Century Great Moravia at Pohansko near Breclav, Czech Republic”

Phillip Stern
“A case study of the Liang Bua cave specimens and the impact of their classification on the interpretation of the hominin lineage”

Jared Peltzman
“Dietary Adaptations Among Early Eocene Primates from the Willwood Formation: A Dental Metrics Analysis”

Lucas Weaver
“Early Eocene primate distribution in relation to paleosol maturity: Implications for determining microhabitat preferences using geologic proxies”

Congratulations, CURC Winners!

Ashley Packard
Awarded high honors at the annual Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase.

Madison Brandt
Awarded highest score in the writing competition at the annual CURC Showcase.
During fall 2014, Ms. Brandt published an ethnography of the food movement in Fort Collins that is also a community cookbook.

Jared Peltzman will be attending the 2015 Astypalaia Bioanthropology Field School in Greece under the direction of Dr. Simon Hillson. The research program involves recovery and analysis of juvenile remains from an early historical burial site.

What are our students doing?

Leigha Bohn, a senior cultural anthropology student at Colorado State University, has been selected for the 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Argentina.

Colorado Archaeological Society Alice Hamilton Scholarship Awards

Hallie Meeker
Aaron Whittenburg
Jesse Bain

Department of Anthropology Scholarship Awards

Crystal Simms
Nigel Dawson
Amanda Jones Field Study Abroad Award Recipient
Kellyn Davis

Koobi Fora Field School in Kenya
Essay Excerpt by Kellyn Davis

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and chance for me to explore one of my passions and learn more about future career opportunities. Through the Koobi Fora Field School, I will be able to learn skills and have experiences unique to true fieldwork, while also immersing myself in another culture. Having the opportunity to see Africa in such a unique light will help me develop a unique perspective on other beliefs, and international careers. Relevant to both my major in biological anthropology and biomedical sciences, I will be involved in work surrounding evolution, anthropology, and other interdisciplinary research. Participating in this program will be the ultimate experiential learning opportunity for me to gain a better understanding of all of the things that I love about science. I think my unique perspectives on science and people gained through my distinctive academic and extra-curricular experiences will help me a lot working in this interdisciplinary research setting. Having the chance to see such a remarkable part of the world in this light comes only once-in-a-lifetime, so I hope come this summer, I’ll find myself in Africa.

Society for Applied Anthropology Panel :: “Involve Me and I Learn: Teaching Anthropological Research Methods and Examples of Student-Directed Research Projects”

At the 2015 SfAA annual conference, Dr. Jeff Snodgrass set up the session, “Involve Me and I Learn: Teaching Anthropological Research Methods and Examples of Student-Directed Research Projects,” to allow his students to showcase their work. Pictured to the right is Dr. Snodgrass with Andrew Bagwel, Madison Brandt, Angela Huxel, and Max Van Oostenburg at the SfAA 2015 conference. The first presentation, “A Guild Full of Anthropologists: Teaching Ethnographic and Cultural Psychiatric Research Methods in an Online Virtual World,” detailed the logic and approach that the students have been using to mixed-methods ethnography. The second presentation, “From GW2 to IRL: Student Applications of Ethnographic Methods Learned in an Online Environment to Other Research,” discussed how the methods learned in Dr. Snodgrass’s class were applied to the students’ research projects.
Luke Weaver, an anthropology major with a minor in geology, presented his capstone research project, “Lateral and temporal distribution of early Eocene primates in relation to relative paleosol maturity, Willwood Formation, Bighorn Basin, Wyoming,” at the Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists Conference held at California State University, Stanislaus, on Feb. 14, 2015, in Turlock, Calif. The Willwood Formation is a sedimentary soil sequence that can be found in Bighorn Basin, Wyo., with vast exposures of fossiliferous paleosols, ancient soils, and a soil maturity that is based on proximity to ancient stream channels. Mr. Weaver’s research considered the relationship between paleosol maturity and primate species distribution to potentially determine the microhabitat preference of early Eocene primates. Data from the Paleontology Field School Lab housed in the Department of Anthropology was used for Mr. Weaver’s research. The preliminary investigation suggests that paleosol maturity may not be a reliable proxy for determining the microhabitat preferences of early Eocene primates. The method may be better utilized examining taphonomic processes and determining the formation of a particular fossil locality temporally.

During the past couple summers, Mr. Weaver has participated in the Department of Anthropology’s Paleontology Field School, in the Iowa State Geology Field Camp, and with the Johns Hopkins Paleontology Field Crew. In addition, he is currently working on research and a publication with Kim Nichols and Thomas Bown. Mr. Weaver will be attending graduate school at the University of Washington and, this summer, will begin working with his doctoral adviser at Late Cretaceous fossil localities in the Hell Creek Formation in Montana. Before going there, Mr. Weaver will assist with field research at the CSU 2015 Paleontology Field Course in the Bighorn Basin, Wyo.

Congratulations to the Spring 2015 graduates!

Bachelor of Arts
Majors
Dustin Clark
Kyle Cordain
Abigeal Downes**
Kristen Glauner
Savanna Hamilton
Samantha Kayser
Caroline Kleine
Sarah Lillis**
Michael Pichon
Christine Vandenhoff**
Eric (Jack) Wheeler**

Archaeology
Christina Burch*
Cassidy Crawford
Dominique Kovalaski
Blake Moyer
Ashley Packard*
Lance Shockley
Jenny Simacek**

Biological
Kristen Edwards
Kelsey-Lea Padilla
Jared Peltzman
Lucas Weaver

Cultural
Leigha Bohn*
Brianna Broe
John Commissaris
Colin Cook
Tanner Dodrill
Jennifer Fenner
Eryn Hummel
Katherine Kotsides
Erik Linden
Scott Morton**
Melaura Munn
Jacob Satterthwait
Cheryl Smarr-Foster

Minors
Anthropology
Taylor Alexander*
Brooke Bettolo
Mark Brown
Sonia Cortez
Mackenzie Davis
Spencer Downing
Torey Feil
Sarah Gilliam
Matthew Lancto
Elizabeth Matthews
Brandi Megrew
Taylor Rozendaal
Brandon Wyckoff

Geography
Erik Linden
Steven Tavares

* Honors
**Double Major
Congratulations to the Spring 2015 graduates!

Master of Arts in Anthropology

Archaeology
Jason Chambers (Dr. Jason LaBelle, Adviser)
Archaeology Concentration
Thesis: “Lindenmeier Redux: Spatial Patterns of the Lindenmeier Folsom Site (5LR13)”

Benjamin Perlmutter (Dr. Jason LaBelle, Adviser)
Archaeology Concentration
Thesis: “Bringing it all Back Home: Early Ceramic Period Residential Occupation at the Kinney Spring Site (5LR144c), Larimer County, Colorado”

Kristy Griffin (Dr. Mary Van Buren, Adviser)
Archaeology Concentration

Biological
Kristin Reiter (Dr. Ann Magennis, Adviser)
Biological
Portfolio Option

Cultural
Jonathan Fanning (Dr. Jeffrey Snodgrass, Adviser)
Cultural Concentration
Thesis: “We Flow Like Water: Contemporary Livelihoods and the Partitioning of the Self Among the Chamorro of Guam”

International Development
Nicholas Mott (Dr. Steve Leisz, Adviser)
International Development Specialization
Portfolio Option

Sierra Patterson (Dr. Kate Browne, Adviser)
International Development Specialization
Portfolio Option

Rachel Wendland (Dr. Steve Leisz, Adviser)
International Development Specialization
Portfolio Option
Cultural World Heritage sites all over the world are increasingly playing a major role in shaping the socioeconomic, stewardship, preservation, conservation, and sustainable use of these sites. Many African countries now recognize that apart from constructing national and sociocultural identities, cultural World Heritage sites have the potential to also propel the economic growth for communities surrounding these sites. If properly managed, these sites have the capacity of not only becoming beacons of peace, but they can also become centers of tourism (Ho and McKercher 2004; Mabulla 2000). For many years, the management of cultural heritage sites and the designation of some of them as World Heritage sites in Africa were based on European ideas of conservation, and this disconnected many African local communities from their cultural heritage sites. As a result, local African communities living near cultural heritage sites were not involved in their conservation and management. Discourses on the administration of cultural heritage sites in many African countries, such as Botswana, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, are now making it possible to engage local people in the management of these sites. Part of the strategy of sustainable management of cultural World Heritage sites in many parts of Africa must include creating opportunities for the local communities to be involved in cultural heritage tourism activities so as to economically empower them and improve their lives. Dr. Musiba discussed some new efforts to develop Laetoli and Olduvai Gorge World Heritage sites into educational, cultural, and tourist areas. Additionally, some preliminary results were discussed from continued research and excavation at Laetoli hominin footprints Site G.
With more than 100 students, faculty, alumni, and friends in attendance, Dr. April Nowell, professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria, presented “Pornography is in the Eye of the Beholder: Sex, Science, and the Media in the study of Ice-Age Figurines,” at our Anthropology Connections in October 2014. When the discovery of the Aurignacian Hohle Fels figurine from Germany was announced publicly in June 2009, it was described in popular media and academic journals as “pornographic,” a “35,000-year-old sex object”, and as a “prehistoric pin-up.” But what does “pornographic” mean in an Ice Age context? This talk examined the role of presentism in the analysis and interpretation of human figures in the visual cultures of the European Upper Paleolithic.

It is suggested that interpreting the figurines in a purely sexual context obstructs their objective, scientific study and has unintended social consequences. Following from this, Dr. Nowell considered why the Venus hypothesis persists in the popular media and scholarly research despite decades of reflexive critiques. Finally, building on these critiques, Dr. Nowell argued for the importance of contextualization in the study of Upper Paleolithic figurines and discussed new approaches to their analysis.


Snodgrass, JG, HJ Francois Dengah II, MG Lacy, and J Fagan (2014) I swear to God, I only want people here who are losers!’: Cultural dissonance and the (problematic) allure of Azeroth. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. (online access)

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