Join Us for the Alumni Picnic!

Explore the Confluence Project Land Bridge at the Anthropology Department's Alumni Picnic, **May 17, starting at 11 am.** The Land Bridge at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve is art, history, American Indian culture, and a pedestrian crossing all combined! The land bridge was designed by Jones & Jones Architects of Seattle with input from Maya Lin for the Lewis & Clark bicentennial (Jones & Jones architects also designed the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian; Maya Lin designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.). This ½-mile pedestrian land bridge and trail winds through the multicultural Hudson’s Bay Company Village, across the location of a historical pond, and to the Columbia River waterfront and the Pacific Northwest’s oldest apple tree. The picnic is pot-luck and will allow alumni and current students and staff to mingle at the Picnic Shelter next to the National Park Visitors Center, on Evergreen Blvd. just west of E. Reserve Street. The mailing address is 612 East Reserve Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Faculty and Staff News

**Ken Ames** has continued working on completing the National Endowment for the Humanities supported analyses of the Meier and Cathlapotle sites. He has presented some of the results of that work in papers given at the March meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver, British Columbia and the Northwest Anthropological Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. He gave invited lectures on this research at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University in November 2007. This spring, the *Journal of Field Archaeology* will publish his article “Large domestic pits on the Southern Northwest Coast” on the large cellar-like pot complexes under the houses at Meier and Cathlapotle. Ken coauthored the paper with Cameron Smith of PSU and Alexander Bourdeau of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He has also been active in heritage related issues in the Portland area. He is continuing to work with colleagues in British Columbia on research possibilities on the northern British Columbia coast. In September, 2007, he was elected to a third three year term as Department chair, a term that begins in September 2008.

**Virginia Butler** has been working on several projects linking archaeology with applied issues in wildlife conservation and heritage management. She (with Sarah Campbell, Western Washington Univ.) recently submitted a manuscript to *Ecology and Society* that highlights long-term sustainable use of animal resources by Pacific Northwest Native peoples, as seen from zooarchaeology. She and graduate student Tait Elder, are currently compiling zooarchaeological records from southeast Alaska as part of Tom Thornton’s Herring Synthesis project, funded by North Pacific Research Board. For the past year, she has been working with undergraduate Wendy Ann Wright studying the City of Portland’s and other U.S. municipalities’ approaches to archaeological resource protection; they presented a poster at the recent Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings in Vancouver, B.C. and are working on a manuscript. Over the summer, Butler and graduate students Danny Gilmour and Tait Elder will be analyzing and reporting on a large collection of fish remains from the Klamath Basin that will provide historical context on Native American connections with fish, many species of which are now extinct or threatened.

**Sharon Carstens** continues to ponder, research, and write about the place of Chinese culture curriculum in
K-8 Mandarin bilingual programs. Other special activities this year have included serving as consultant on 19th century Chinese immigrants to Portland for a project related to the Chinese section of the historic Lone Fir cemetery and constructing and teaching a new course in Visual Anthropology.

Connie Cash continues to be the heart and soul of department life in Cramer Hall, the glue that binds together, the force that keeps the office humming with energy and good spirit.

Margaret Everett traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, last August, where she taught a PSU capstone course on health and migration and began a research project on diabetes in a low-income community outside Oaxaca City. Dr. Everett moves to the Sociology Department at PSU this September, where she will participate in programs in social and health inequalities.

Sri Lankan man and various moonshine vessels

Michele Gamburd “I’m going to break the ashes,” called one daily drinker to another as their paths crossed early in the morning in their Sri Lankan village. The drinker’s cryptic comment compared the warming power of alcohol – in the form of his first shot of *kasippu*, the local moonshine – with the rekindled heat of a kitchen fire. Forthcoming this fall from Cornell University Press, *Breaking the Ashes: The Culture of Illicit Liquor in Sri Lanka* deals with the use and abuse of alcohol. In this village-based ethnography, Michele examines how drinking indexes gender, age, and social status. She explores the political economics of making moonshine, and she considers how local healers define and treat problem drinking.

Cameron Smith has begun a SCUBA survey for submerged cultural resources on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Reservation (RNWR) with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Last year, several 1,000-year-old canoes were discovered in a Florida lakebed. There’s no telling what’s in the wetlands, lakes, creeks, and rivers of the RNWR. Cameron’s dissertation has recently been published as “The Organization of Production among Sedentary Foragers of the Southern Pacific Northwest Coast in the British Archaeological Reports International Series. In addition, he’s wrapping up writing *Anthropology for Dummies* for Wiley (Fall 2008.), which, he notes, “is part of my larger public-outreach effort to get the messages of anthropology to the widest possible audience. I’ll reach more folks with this book than even in my intro courses at PSU.

Reaching out beyond academia is also why I recently published "The Top Ten Myths About Evolution" (Prometheus 2006). This summer Cameron is initiating an archaeological field school effort (with Linfield College) to investigate the traces of a 19th-century Chinese hop-picking camp on Parrett Mt. near Newberg, OR.

Sarah Sterling (Extended Studies/ Anthropology) developed a senior capstone class in conjunction with the Marion County Historical Society, where students develop research skills using objects housed at MCHS. She is also working on two related projects seeking funds to study the geomorphology and faunal material (in collaboration with Virginia Butler, among other specialists) from Tse-whit-zen, Port Angeles, Washington to determine the role of seismic activity in the settlement of this large precontact village.

Tom Thornton had his book *Being and Place Among the Tlingit* published last fall (UW Press) and has another due out this summer, entitled *Haa Léel’k’w Has Aani Saax’ú, Our Grandparents Names on the Land* (UW Press and Sealaska Heritage Institute). When not teaching at 8 am, Tom has been researching the historical ecology of herring (through a North Pacific Research Board grant; see photo) Alaska Native corporations (through a National Science Foundation grant), and recently was awarded an International Polar Year grant (with colleagues in Sweden and Russia) to study circumpolar climate change, land use & ethnicity.

Natalie Vasey spent Fall Term re-establishing her field site at Andranobe Forest in northeastern Madagascar for a study on alloparenting. The site has been protected for ten years within the Masoala National Park and the forest is now teeming with red ruffed lemurs! Very encouraging given that this primate is so endangered. She will attend the International Primatological Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland this August to present findings. In addition, Natalie recently became a Senior Research Associate at the Oregon Zoo and will appear on an upcoming episode of *Missione Natura* with host Vincenzo Venuto, Italy’s version of David Attenborough (only younger and sexier)..<br>

Doug Wilson continues to direct the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute (NCRI) at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site that conducts
research, educational activities, and public outreach at National Parks throughout the Pacific Northwest. This year the NCRI will sponsor the 8th annual archaeological field school. The NCRI is working closely with the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) to provide archaeological and museum collections assistance for the proposed Interstate 5 bridge project. Doug is also finishing a report on Lewis & Clark’s Station Camp/McGowan, an early historic-period Chinook Village (the Middle Village) dating to the late 18th and early 19th century, and gave a paper on that topic at the recent Society for American Archaeology Meetings in Vancouver, B.C.

**STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS**

**Biological Anthropology** at PSU has been growing by leaps and bounds with a wide range of research and applied work underway by Professor Vasey and the students she mentors. In their own words, here are some notes from our subfield.

*Cortni Borgerson, M.A. in progress:* I am a current anthropology graduate student at PSU researching primate ecology and conservation. I just returned from Madagascar at the beginning of this year after working as Professor Vasey’s field assistant and conducting my masters research on how resource distribution affects Red ruffed lemur densities. Red Ruffed Lemurs are beautiful! Now that I am back I am enjoying hot water, dry socks, Portland State classes, and writing up my thesis.

*Julia Ruppell, M.A. 2007:* In fall of 2007 I entered the PhD program in Biology at Portland State University. Since completing my M.A. degree with Professor Vasey, I have published three reports in *Gibbon Journal* and *The Gibbon Voice*. My thesis was on vocal diversity in the gibbon genus *Nomascus*, and I received grants from Primate Conservation Inc. and the International Primate Protection League to cover costs for travel to Vietnam to collect data on wild gibbons. How do I study vocalizations? By reading sonograms. Here are two showing differing characteristics of male (a) and female (b followed by male) white cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus leucogenys*).

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Heather Drought, M.A. 2006: Since graduation, I have worked for several archaeological consulting companies. Because of my interest in biological anthropology, the most exciting for me was the time I spent in Arizona, excavating prehistoric human burials and cremations. In the near future, I will be participating in a historic cemetery excavation in the Midwest, which I am eagerly anticipating.

*Kori Barnum, M.A. 2005:* Since graduation, I have been employed with the Oregon State Police Forensic Services Division as a Forensic Scientist. I process physical evidence for the presence of biological fluids. My musings on human variation and behavior have transitioned from the osteology and evolutionary genetics of graduate school to the microscopic screening of human spermatozoa and the ethnography of police reports (someone should really do a doctoral study on that one). It is rewarding, challenging, and highly entertaining work.

**Archaeology and Sociocultural Highlights**

Martin Adams won a medal and cash award for his poster at the national Sigma Xi Student Research Conference in Orlando, Florida, held in conjunction with the society’s annual meeting in November. The title of his poster was “Late-Pleistocene and Holocene Climate Change Reconstructed from a Willamette Valley (Oregon) Fossil Beetle Assemblage.” Martin also received the Oregon Laurels Scholarship to support his PhD studies in paleoecology at OSU.

Danny Gilmour, studying zooarchaeology with Virginia Butler, was awarded the Roy Jones Scholarship by the Oregon Archaeological Society for support of his M.A. thesis project investigating the chronology and ecology of extinct mammalian fauna from the Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene Willamette Valley.

Ross Smith will defend his MA thesis on “Structural Bone Density of Pacific Cod and Halibut: Taphonomic and Archaeological Implications,” on May 9 at 9 am (CH 41). Ross is currently working full time for a CRM company (Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.) in Seattle.


Anne Morrill will present the results of her internship with the Oregon Health Forum and her policy paper this spring (date and time TBA).

MA student Françoise Bourdonnec’s paper, “Dancing across the Diaspora: Technology and Identity in the Breton Diaspora,” has been accepted for presentation at IAMCR’s (International Association for Media and Communication Research) 2008 World Congress.

MA student Jamie Hebert eschewed warmer, sunnier climes this spring break, to help Tom Thornton carry out focus groups on the historical
ecology of Pacific herring among long-time residents of 3 Alaskan communities: Sitka, Juneau, and Ketchikan. It happens the herring were spawning, meaning commercial (sac roe) and subsistence egg harvesters were busy. Jamie is using GIS mapping to analyze changes in herring stocks areas over time.

Jamie Hebert with Ketchikan herring focus group members preparing to fly over spawning areas and fishing boats.

**Lambda Alpha Beta and ASA**

2007/2008 has been a very successful year for the student groups—Lambda Alpha Beta and Anthropology Student Association. In Fall 2007 faculty and students participated in a roundtable discussion about anthropologists in war zones. Winter 2008 featured a talk by Dr. Sharon Carstens about Chinese New Year and a critical viewing of *Apocalypto*. A book sale fundraiser is planned for May 20-21. Many of the group leaders are graduating, thus we are seeking interested students to carry the torch. FMI: anthrolab.psu@gmail.com

**Recent Student Presentations at Meetings**

Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, BC


Northwest Anthropological Association, Victoria, BC

J. Tait Elder and Virginia Butler presented the poster “Does the Absence of Evidence mean an Evidence of Absence? Applying Zooarchaeological Records to Fish Conservation Issues in the Similkameen River of the Okanogan Highlands.” Kristen Fuld

PSU Students Off to Graduate School

Congratulations to the following students for their recent admission to graduate programs: Martin Adams: OSU (PhD program, paleoecology); Rowan Cody: Tulane, SUNY-Binghamton (masters, public health); Shingo Hamada: Indiana University (PhD program, anthropology); Sarah Hanley: University of Vermont (law school); Summer Praetorius: MIT, Columbia, OSU (MS, PhD in Oceanography); Elizabeth Schech: University of Durham, UK (MA archaeology); Frances Wise: University of Manchester, UK (MA archaeology).

Stalled Faculty Contract Talks

On April 1st, about a dozen anthropology faculty and students joined an informational picket led by the PSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Contract negotiations between the PSU administration and the AAUP union have stalled over issues such as faculty salary, workload, and job security for fixed-term teachers. To raise community awareness, over 200 protesters (including anthropology folks; see photo below) converged on the Oregon Convention Center as guests arrived for the $250-per-plate Simon Benson Awards fundraising event. In January 2008, after 9 months of unsuccessful bargaining, the parties brought in a state mediator. The union recently declared impasse, opening the way to a possible faculty strike.
Anthropologists march in support of PSU faculty

Upcoming Activities -- Come Participate Alums!

Besides the Alumni Picnic on May 17th (see p. 1), consider the following:

Visit the field school at Fort Vancouver!

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, June 17 - August 2, 2008 (Tuesdays-Saturdays). This year’s project will build upon the 2007 Field School excavations of the early (ca. 1846-1880) history of the U.S. Army component of the fort, including investigations at enlisted men’s barracks, laundresses’ quarters, officer’s quarters and related kitchens. Part of the curricula involves students learning how to interpret the significance of the site and science to the public – so visit while the excavation is going on and ask good questions! The Lecture Series ties into the Archaeological Field School providing students and the public a more in depth look at the field of archaeology. FYI see: http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/public-archaeology-field-school.htm

Archaeology First Thursdays at Portland State

Stacy Schneyder (Jones and Stokes) June 5, Neighborhood Systems: Using the Compressed Approach to Section 106 Compliance for a 19th Century Neighborhood in Stockton, California Smith 338 (Vanport Rm), 4 pm. Contact Virginia Butler (butlerv@pdx.edu) for more information.

Great Basin Anthropological Conference at PSU

To be held at University Place, October 8-11. Website: http://gbac.wsites.net/meeting.html. Please contact meeting chair, Virginia Butler (butlerv@pdx.edu), to volunteer your services!

Other Announcements?

We want to hear from you! Contact Ken Ames (amesk@pdx.edu)

Alumni Feature

Myths, Landscape, & Rock Art of the Klamath Basin

Robert J. David (UC Berkeley, MA PSU)

Klamath Basin rock art and landscape are intimately connected. My Ph.D. research focuses on how indigenous notions of sacred places encoded in Klamath-Modoc myths provide the fundamental logic that underpinned shamanic rituals and the associated creation of rock art. In some instances, as illustrated below, this approach has led to direct interpretations of specific rock art motifs.

Like portable ritual objects (e.g., feathers, musical instruments, power stones), rock art provided the connective tissue between shamans and the powerful supernatural beings (medicine spirits) they sought to control through ritual. In mythical times, these powerful beings performed miraculous deeds all throughout the Klamath-Modoc landscape, including the resurrection of the dead. Klamath rock art played an important role in shamanic curing rituals, especially those that involved interaction with the land of the dead, which is located on the opposite side of the physical world. The primary player in these rituals was G’mokamc, who in Klamath-Modoc myth represents both the creator and the spirit of the sun. G’mokamc’s symbol in rock art is the sun disk. Notably, circular images constitute the majority of rock art images in the region (Figure 1).

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boy for a salmon and killed him. Realizing the mistake, the brothers returned to shore to cremate him. After the fire had died, all the remained of the blue boy was a bright disk. The brothers told Latkakawas to take the bright disk to G’mokamc who could use it to bring the boy back to life in his sweat lodge. She did as they told her. Initially, G’mokamc succeeded in returning the boy to life, but then, jealous of the disk, willed the blue boy dead again and stole the disk for himself.

Three main points of the story are relevant for this discussion. The first is the blue boy’s association with the sun disk. He wore it like a garment when he sought to woo the beautiful Latkakawas. The second is the blue boy’s appearance as a salmon, a case of mistaken identity that resulted in his death. The third point concerns the association between the disk, G’mokamc, and his ability to return the blue boy to life. Because this feat took place in a sweat lodge, we can infer that ritual healing was implied, since Klamath-Modoc shamans routinely performed their curing rituals in a sweat lodge.

The image presented in figure 2 shows a human form with a small head, arms, and legs, but with an exaggerated fish-like body bearing a disk symbol on its chest. In short, we are presented with the same dilemma faced by the brothers of Latkakawas: an image of a human that can be easily mistaken for a fish. I propose that this image, located near cracks that provide access to the supernatural world, represents the resurrected lover of Latkakawas. By extension, its expression in rock art connects it to a shaman’s curing ritual in which the life-bringing miracle from the story was deliberately invoked as part of the shaman’s ritual process.

While such an interpretation could hardly be considered exhaustive, the primary goal of my research is to demonstrate that Klamath-Modoc myth can provide an important informing context for rock art symbols. Seeing rock art as part of a larger, integrated system that was encoded in myth promises to bridge the gap between rock art, shamanic curing performances, and the landscape that was shaped by the powerful characters described in these tales.