Department of Anthropology

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

You’re invited!

During PSU weekend we welcome alumni and students to the Anthropology Department (Cramer Hall 141) Friday evening October 9th at 7 pm for a reception to introduce Dr. Jeremy Spoon, our new sociocultural faculty member!

Please join us when we have guest speakers! Check our website for postings about Anthropology Colloquium, Archaeology First Thursdays, or events planned by one of our student groups – the Anthropology Student Association (ASA) and Lambda Alpha (http://www.anthropology.pdx.edu/). Besides learning about an interesting topic, the presentations provide a great way for students (past and present!) to connect with practicing anthropologists in the Portland Area and beyond.

Faculty and Staff News

Ken Ames is ending his seventh year as Department Chair. He is continuing the Wapato Valley Archaeological project. His National Endowment for the Humanities grant has been extended a year, till August 2010, giving him and others working on the project more time to complete the Meier and Cathlapotle analyses and write it all up. This past year, he has had a paper on the large cellar features at the Meier and Cathlapotle houses published in the Journal of Field Archaeology, co-authored with Cameron Smith (PSU) and Alex Bordeau (USFWS). Ken also published “Slavery, Household Production and Demography on the Southern Northwest Coast: Cables, Tacking and Ropewalks” in an edited book Invisible Citizens: Captives and Their Consequences. He has also published two book reviews and presented five papers at various conferences, including an interdisciplinary workshop on the origins of institutionalized inequality at the Santa Fe Institute.

Virginia Butler has been on sabbatical the past year; since early March she has been a visiting researcher at the Geography Department at Bristol University in the U.K. She continues to enjoy her collaborations with many researchers. In the fall, Virginia helped PSU students organize and present the first ever Portland Archaeology Day. Virginia also organized, chaired (and survived) the Great Basin Anthropological Conference that was held at PSU in October 2008; she could never have done this without all the help from PSU Anthropology students.

Sharon Carstens has served as the curriculum coordinator for Asian Studies this year, teaching the Introduction to Asian Studies sophomore inquiry class for the first time. Her article, “Conceptualizing and Teaching Chinese Culture in K-8 Mandarin Bilingual Programs” has been accepted for publication in the Chinese Language Teachers Association Journal, where she hopes it will stimulate discussion and improvement in this neglected area of Chinese language instruction. She will lead a Chinese teacher training workshop focusing on the development of cultural curriculum sponsored by the PSU Confucius Institute in June.

Connie Cash, as always, is the sunshine of our lives in Anthropology – cheering us on, fielding our administrative queries, and never shying away from anything. Thank you Connie!

Anthropology students with PSU President Wim Wiewel on Archaeology Day

Michele Gamburd has recently authored a new book through Cornell University Press, Breaking the
Ashes: The Culture of Illicit Liquor in Sri Lanka. In wonderfully clear prose Michele offers readers an understanding of the cultural context for social and antisocial alcohol consumption, insight into everyday and ceremonial drinking in Naeaeegama, and an overview of the production of illicit alcohol. Breaking the Ashes includes a discussion of the key economic aspects that fuel conflicts between husbands and wives, moonshine-makers and police. Addressing Western and indigenous ways to conceptualize and treat alcohol dependence, Gamburd explores the repercussions—at the family as well as the community level—of alcohol's abuse.

Cameron Smith continues to be a treasured adjunct faculty member, collaborator, and a fantastic resource for our students.

Sarah Sterling (Extended Studies/Anthropology) continues her involvement in two related projects along the Port Angeles Harbor shoreline. She is the geoarchaeologist for a study of the role of seismic activity in the settlement and social status at Tse-whit-zen, a large precontact village on the shoreline of Port Angeles Harbor. She is also a collaborator in a joint Simon Fraser University/PSU geological coring project seeking evidence of earthquake events in the sediments of the Port Angeles Harbor tidal lagoon. In addition to her work in northern Washington, she anticipates the publication in June 2009 of “Pottery attributes and how they reflect intentionality in craft manufacture and reproduction,” in a monograph on Old Kingdom Egyptian pottery to be published by the Polish Academy of Sciences Press. She also continues her Capstone collaboration with the Marion County Historical Society, wherein students develop research skills using minimally provenienced historical objects housed at MCHS.

Tom Thornton is in Oxford, England this year on a Royal Anthropological Society Fellowship. He was recently promoted to Full Professor at Portland State. Congratulations Tom!

Virginia Butler and Tom Thornton reunite at Oxford University in front of the Sheldonian Theatre, built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1609.

Natalie Vasey co-authored an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences detailing a dramatic reunion—the joining of cranial elements from a single individual of Hadropithecus that were discovered 100 years apart by different expeditions to Andrahomana Cave in southeastern Madagascar. A description of the cave and the fauna that accumulated before and after human settlement of the island has also appeared in the Journal of Cave and Karst Studies. Natalie enjoys teaching biological anthropology at PSU, and received this year’s John Eliot Allen Outstanding Teaching Award! Her partnership with the Lemur Conservation Foundation has brought an exciting addition to the curriculum—a primatology field methods course taught at the Foundation’s Lemur Reserve in southwest Florida. During her upcoming sabbatical, she anticipates another field season on Madagascar’s Masoala Peninsula to gain further insight into the cooperative breeding system of Ruffed lemurs. She also hopes to travel into the roaring 40s and visit South Georgia.

Doug Wilson continues to lead efforts in regional historical archaeology through his affiliation with Fort Vancouver National Historic Park. He has attracted many graduate students to our program.

ALUMNI NEWS

We were delighted to hear from some of our alumni this year and weave together a narrative of your many accomplishments! If you would like to be featured in next year’s newsletter, please get in touch with your academic advisor or the Department Chair (amesk@pdx.edu) to update us!

Kori Barnum’s (MA 2005) one year anniversary as an official forensic scientist was on Earth Day. She is in the Forensic Biology section of the Oregon
State Police Metro Lab. Since her “CSI Myths” presentation at PSU in January 2007 (an alumni event), she has given many other presentations on how real forensic science is practiced to students, law enforcement, attorneys, and the general public. Most recently she presented at OMSI’s Science Pub at the Baghdad Theater. **Heather Drought** (MA 2006) spent several months excavating historic graves in Iowa, which was among the more fulfilling positions she’s had since graduation. Unfortunately, the field season ended with the onset of winter, and she moved to southern California for a position as a monitor for a wind power transmission project, watching disturbance areas for archaeological and paleontological resources. **Michael Martin** (MA 2006) and **Virginia Butler** are close to being finished with a manuscript reviewing the ethno-historical and archaeological records on Chinookan fisheries, that will be included in the book *Chinookan Studies* (University of Washington Press), edited by **Kenneth Ames** and **Robert Boyd**. **Julia Ruppell** (MA 2007) is working on her Ph.D. in Biology at Portland State University. She recently visited Lao PDR where she is setting up a field site to study ecology and behavior of white-cheeked crested gibbons in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the National University of Laos. **Ross Smith** (MA 2008) authored a paper in the *Journal of Northwest Anthropology* with **Virginia Butler** titled “Towards the identification of Lamprey (*Lampetra* spp.) in archaeological contexts”.

At the **Northwest Anthropology Conference** alumni continue to do us proud! There were presentations by **Thomas Becker** (MA 2004) of Applied Archaeological Research, Inc., **Paul Solimano** (MA 2008) of Willamette Cultural Resources Associates, and **Marielle Pedro** (BA 2007).

**RECENT M.A. GRADUATES**

We have a NEW Alumni page on our website: [http://www.anthropology.pdx.edu/alumni_page.html](http://www.anthropology.pdx.edu/alumni_page.html) where all Anthropology M.A. theses are listed. Please check it out! Since our most recent graduates are not yet included, we would like to feature the projects they have completed.


[Image: Julia Ruppell with White-cheeked crested gibbons at a wildlife sanctuary in Thailand]

[Image: Eric Wynkoop at the Andheri dabawala office with Raghunath Medge, President of Nutan Mumbai Tiffin Box Suppliers Charity Trust]
Eric Wynkoop (MA 2009) defended his thesis titled “Influences of Globalization on Local Economy and Middle Class Foodways in Mumbai”. Eric examines the effects of neoliberal economic policies on the new middle class in Mumbai, India, from the perspective of local food culture and domestic foodways. Food in the daily context is used to explain identity construction, shifting gender roles, and changing lifeways, including unintended health consequence, resulting from modern globalization and economic development.

**STUDENT NEWS**

**Student Groups**

PSU’s Anthropology Department currently has two very active student groups – the Anthropology Student Association and a chapter of the honors society, Lambda Alpha Beta, now in its third year on campus. Lambda Alpha has hosted many events this year, including guest speakers, roundtable-style journal club discussions, and social hours. They posted a HUGE event calendar in the Anthropology Department bay Spring Quarter for tracking these events, in addition to scholarship deadlines, conferences, field schools, First Thursday lectures, films, and so forth. Kudos to Lambda Alpha! And congratulations to this year’s inductees.

The crowning accomplishment of the Anthropology Student Association this year happened in Fall Quarter. On Saturday, October 25 the Anthropology Department and the Anthropology Student Association hosted the 1st Annual Portland Archaeology Day. The event was held next to the popular Saturday Farmers Market in the PSU Park Blocks. The event was a huge success driven by the leadership of twenty anthropology students, alumni, and many other community archaeologists. Hundreds of visitors, including PSU President Wim Wiewel, turned up to the event to learn about the scientific and humanistic methods of archaeology. For many this was the first time they heard about the archaeology right in their “backyard”. Visitors got hands on experience with Artifact Analysis; Atlatl Technology; Basketry Technology; Faunal Analysis; Flintknapping; and Groundstone Technology. The event was supported by 11 local organizations!

**Student Presentations**

Our students were very well represented in the professional meeting circuit this year. Dana Holschuh and Stephanie Simmons attended the Historical Archaeology meeting. At the Northwest Anthropology Conference, Wendy Ann Wright co-organized and chaired the Association of Oregon Archaeologists session “Oregon Archaeology”. The session included papers by Wendy Ann and Virginia Butler; and Ken Ames, William Gardner-O’Kearny and Lee Lyman. With Elizabeth Horton (Washington State University), Elaine Dorset co-organized the session “Collaboration, Consumption and Cultural Landscapes: Archaeological Research through Partnerships with the Northwest Cultural Research Institute (NCRI)”. There were contributions by Michelle Lynch, Dana Holschuh, Elaine Dorset, Stephanie Simmons and Katie Wynia, and PSU faculty member Doug Wilson. Tait Elder and Danny Gilmour gave poster presentations. At the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting, Cortni Borgerson co-authored a poster with Natalie Vasey.

**Student who Rock!** (Because we received news items from or about them)

Cortni Borgerson is nearing completion of her MA thesis on the ecological correlates of Red ruffed lemur social structure. After graduation, she looks forward to entering the Anthropology Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and continuing research on the conservation and socioecology of Madagascar’s lemurs. For her MA thesis, Jennifer Haynes-Clark is investigating ways American women’s belly dance experiences inform their sense of identity, community and their understanding of cultural issues. Jennifer will be conducting interviews and participant observation this spring and summer. Phil Sweeney is the first alternate for a Fulbright Fellowship to support his MA research in Taiwan in the coming year with a project titled “Multi-ethnic Linguistic Interactions at University Club Meetings.” Juan Esteban Zea is doing fieldwork in Colombia through September 2009. He is focusing on how internally displaced populations integrate into the social and economic spheres in the urban centers of Bogota and Medellin. A pilot project for this research was funded in 2008 by the Anthropology Department’s Thomas M. Newman Scholarship. Of the new Primatology Field School, recently declared undergraduate major Genevieve Blaettler writes “Describing my experience at the Field School at the Lemur Conservation Foundation’s reserve is no easy task; the course combined not only lessons of physical anthropology and observational study, but of strength and independence mixed with teamwork, all the while being the most fun class I have ever taken. I would recommend this experience to anyone, as long as they are forewarned of the one negative part: having to leave!

This year Jennifer Haynes-Clark, Danny Gilmour, and Josef Wieland received the Newman and Scheans Scholarships. Congratulations to Amy Sherwood, our Anthropology Senior of the Year!
Department Gift:

In order to continue and build on the department’s long record of success, we are seeking gifts to increase our PSU Foundation Gift Accounts. Gifts and the payout from our foundation accounts help support the Department’s activities and enrich the experiences of our students and the teaching and scholarship of our faculty. Right now we have four accounts:

- The Department’s General Account, which helps cover the expenses of events such as this one and the annual Outstanding Senior award;
- The Department’s two scholarships:
  - The Newman Scholarship for graduate students;
  - The Schean Scholarship for undergraduate students
- The Faculty Development fund which will be used to support faculty attendance to professional meetings and other activities crucial to their continued development.

We hope to initiate a Student Development Fund to support student scholarship, including meeting attendance, research costs and the like.

Your Gift Will Help Us Achieve These Goals.

Thank You

Gifts can be made by check, credit card, or cash. Also, gifts-in-kind can also be accepted by the Department.

Department of Anthropology
Attn: Kenneth Ames
P. O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207

Make checks payable to Department of Anthropology/Gift Account.

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While you’re filling this out, we’d also like an update on what you’re doing now:

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