Department of Anthropology

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

You're invited!
During PSU weekend we welcome alumni, staff, and students to the Anthropology Department (Cramer Hall 141) Friday evening October 22nd at 7 pm for a reception where we will share current activities in the department. We're also organizing a tour for Anthropology Alumni to Ft. Vancouver and the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on October 24th.

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.

Curious about our recent External Review and the Department's Strategic Plan? We will be posting information on both on the Departmental Website later this summer.

Faculty and Staff News

Ken Ames is completing his eighth and penultimate year as department chair. This spring, he was honored by being the 2010 recipient of PSU's Bradford Price Millar Award to a faculty member demonstrating excellence in the areas of scholarship, instruction, university service, and public service, and whose performance in the area of scholarship and research is judged to be exceptional. With two graduate students - Kristen Fuld and Sara Davis - he published a paper titled "Darts and Arrows on the Columbia Plateau of North America" in American Antiquity. The paper demonstrates that the bow and arrow were present on the Columbia Plateau several thousand years earlier than generally thought. He, with Cameron Smith, Greg Baker, William Gardner-O-Kearny, Kristen Fuld, Emily Shepard, Loren Davis (of OSU) and others, continued work on the NEH supported analysis of materials from Meier and Cathlapotle.

The funding ends this August, leaving the write up to do. Some of this research went off into unexpected but fascinating directions, including dog and elk DNA. Ken presented some of the results at this year's Northwest Anthropological Conference in Ellensburg, WA, and the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in St. Louis.

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 published "Archaeological evidence for resilience of Pacific Northwest salmon populations and the socioecological system over the last ~7500 years" in the online journal Ecology and Society (see paper- http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss1/art17/). She and Campbell also authored a chapter "Fishes and loaves? Explaining sustainable, long-term animal harvesting on the Northwest Coast using the 'plant paradigm' " in the book The Archaeology of anthropogenic environments (Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois Univ.). She has been working on the Herring Synthesis project in southeast Alaska (PI-former PSU faculty Tom Thornton; Madonna Moss [UO]; and graduate students Tait Elder [2010] and Jamie Hebert). They presented their work at the April 2010 meeting of the Society of Ethnobiology (Victoria, BC). Butler has received funding from the National Marine Fisheries (NOAA) to support archaeofaunal work in the Upper Klamath Basin of southeast Oregon, which will support thesis research by PSU masters student Alex Stevenson. Their project will document past distribution of salmon species using ancient DNA and geochemistry and results will be incorporated into the Dept. of Interior Secretarial determination regarding removal of four dams on the upper Klamath River.

Sharon Carstens has been venturing into the world of applied anthropology, using her anthropological skills in the development of bilingual K-8 Chinese language and culture curriculum. Meeting regularly
with a team of four Portland based K-8 Mandarin Chinese teachers this year, she has been working with them to identify useful and appropriate cultural knowledge and skills for K-8 Mandarin students. The team gave a joint presentation of their ongoing work in April at the Chinese Education Conference in San Francisco titled "Developing an Integrated Language/Culture Curriculum for K-8 Students." The project is supported by a grant from the PSU Confucius Institute, and the results are scheduled to be published in monograph form by Beijing University Press sometime in the coming year. Sharon has also continued serving as Curriculum Coordinator for Asian Studies at PSU and has recently been elected to serve as Director of the PSU Institute for Asian Studies beginning in September 2010. She will return to Malaysia for a brief research foray in September to set in motion plans for a new ethnographic research project for an upcoming sabbatical.

Connie Cash, still a pillar of loyalty serving our dedicated and growing student population as well as our professional and active faculty of Anthropology for 22 years now! If you are stopping by the Department don’t hesitate to drop by the office and gather in information or just enjoy a chat.

Bill Cornett worked on the 2009 NSF funded excavations at The Paisley Caves. Probably the biggest news was the discovery of a bone tool that radio carbon dated as early as the coprolite dates. (Another bone tool found later in the summer at the UO field school dated older than this one, so there are multiple lines of evidence that the coprolite dates were correct and that people were at the site over 14,000 years ago.) Bill continues his freelance work in an ongoing collaboration with a photographer friend combining oral history collection and landscape and portrait photographs of homesteads/homesteader descendants over in Eastern Oregon. OSU Press said they’d love to publish it if they could find grant money to help cover the printing costs. Bill taught a series of courses in the department this year including Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology, Culture Theory, and Culture and Ethnography.

Michele Gamburd has recently co-edited (with Dennis McGilvray) a book entitled Tsunami Recovery in Sri Lanka: Regional and Ethnic Dimensions, published in March through Routledge. In the new millennium, social scientists increasingly find themselves challenged to deal with violence and disorder in the aftermath of manmade crises and natural hazards. In this volume, contributing authors from four disciplinary perspectives – anthropology, demography, political science, and disaster studies – discuss the relief and recovery operations mounted in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The tsunami devastated 70 percent of Sri Lanka’s coastline and killed an estimated 35,000 people. A series of factors hampered reconstruction, including political patronage, the competing efforts of hundreds of foreign humanitarian organizations, and the ongoing civil war. As the world reels under the impact of more recent disasters in Haiti and Peru, this book provides timely lessons about the importance of local cultural context in the successful implementation of post-disaster projects.

Cameron Smith is currently writing his second popular-science book, "The Fact of Evolution" (Prometheus Books, Fall/Winter 2011) and continuing his writeup of the Meier and Cathlapotle analyses. His article about Alaskan native perspectives on polar bear populations and climate change--originally published in "Cultural Survival" magazine--has been reprinted in McGraw-Hill's anthropology text, "Annual Editions-Anthropology 2010/2011." He has also published a chapter about common misconceptions of evolution in the new anthology of popular-science essays, "Science Under Siege" (Prometheus 2009).

Jeremy Spoon started his first year as a faculty member in the Department in Fall 2009. This year his applied anthropology projects expanded to include three efforts with Nuwuvu (Southern Paiute and Chemehuevi), Western Shoshone, Owen’s Valley Paiute, the U.S. Forest and Fish and Wildlife Services, and the Department of Defense. These projects aim to revitalize ancestral connections with public lands in southern Nevada through the development of government-to-government consultation methods, resource management projects, and forums for public engagement such as visitors center exhibits and ethnographic films. This year Dr. Spoon travelled repeatedly to the southern Great Basin to facilitate meetings and conduct
research for these nascent projects and presented at various conferences and meetings including the Society for Applied Anthropology in Merida, Mexico.

Spring quarter Dr. Spoon’s Applied Anthropology class conducted a series of projects that engaged local, national, and international issues and organizations through the use of applied anthropology theory and methods. Each student analyzed an issue and an organization that addresses the issue with relevance to their career trajectory. The results of the linked issue-organization analyses will not only be submitted as an assignment, but also returned to interview participants and collaborating organizations. Examples of student projects include Latino day laborer rights in Portland, federal recognition for Native American nations in Nevada, local ecological knowledge of European immigrant populations in Portland, World Bank sponsored development projects in Southeast Asia, numeracy education in Portland, HIV/AIDS in Kenya, and many more.

Dr. Spoon with Nuwuvi and Fish and Wildlife participants in April 2010 meeting.

**Sarah L. Sterling** recently published a chapter in *Studies on Old Kingdom Pottery* entitled “Pottery attributes and how they reflect intentionality in craft manufacture.” She was invited to speak on the same topic at University College London in June 2009. She also continues her Capstone with the Willamette Heritage Center, and was pleased to be the recipient of this year’s WHC “Heritage Education Award” for this collaboration.

**Tom Thornton** has decided to resign his professorship at PSU to pursue a position as Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Masters program in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford, School of Geography and Environment. It is an exciting opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary institute with a outstanding and diverse group of committed students and researchers focused on key environmental issues, including climate change, energy and lower carbon futures, and ecosystem conservation. But it is also a big move and was not an easy decision for us to reach. (My wife, Tia, also was offered a position as University Lecturer in Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations, and our three children-- Mariah, Liam, and Roan--have successfully transitioned into Oxford schools.) We will miss Portland and PSU greatly and I want thank all of my colleagues, students, and the departmental staff (Connie!) for all your friendship and support over the years. I look forward to continuing collaborations in research and other areas and will remain a minor presence in the department as I finish work on several grant-funded research projects. I hope you will all follow Virginia's lead and visit us at Oxford sometime! My new contact information is: Thomas F. Thornton, Ph.D., Director, MSc Environmental Change & Management & Senior Research Fellow, Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and the Environment, Senior Research Associate, Christ Church College, University of Oxford South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3QY, UK Tel: +44(0)1865 275877; Fax: +44(0)1865 275850 Email: thomas.thornton@ouce.ox.ac.uk

**Natalie Vasey** spent the first part of her sabbatical on an expedition cruise to the island of South Georgia in the austral spring bearing witness to this Antarctic oasis. Then a contract with the BBC Natural History Unit helped fund her field season on Madagascar's Masoala Peninsula. The BBC filmed her study population of red ruffed lemur from a feature film on Madagascar wildlife that will go into production late this year. In December she photographed her study population from platforms high up in the rain forest canopy, creating visual documentation of the life of lemurs as never before seen. Backed by National Geographic's Waitt Institute, she will continue developing methods for observing lemurs from the rain forest canopy starting October 2010. Madagascar's political crisis, which began in January 2009, precipitated large-scale illegal felling and export of rosewood and mahogany from the very region where Natalie has worked for 20 years -- northeastern Madagascar. The canopy work is one way she hopes to bring public attention to the crisis and help end the exploitation of endangered hardwood forests and the life forms that depend upon them. She is staying in touch with student mentoring this spring by teaching two Primatology Field Methods courses at the Lemur Conservation Foundation's Myakka City Lemur Reserve in western Florida. Other than that, much of her sabbatical has been spent right here, in Portland!
Doug Wilson continues to work on historical archaeological projects at Fort Vancouver National Historical Site. This summer he will conduct the archaeological field school at the Hudson's Bay Company Village, a multicultural colonial community that served Fort Vancouver's diverse economic pursuits. The field school will provide a means to recapture the history of this unique worker's village and to engage the modern Portland/Vancouver area in the unique history of their closest National Park site. A new public archaeological component will integrate nontraditional and disadvantaged students in overnight and day programs that will interact with the field school. Dr. Wilson has completed work on two major reports/monographs that will be published this year: Fort Vancouver: History, Archaeology, and the Transformation of the Pacific Northwest is a multi-author edited volume that links artifacts in the Fort Vancouver collection with the long history of the fur trade and U.S. military post. Historical Archaeology at the Middle Village: Station Camp/McGowan Site (45PC106), Station Camp Unit, Lewis & Clark National Park, Pacific County, Washington is a technical report on the excavations at a contact-period Chinook Indian site at the mouth of the Columbia River. He has also had an article accepted for publication in Columbia, the magazine of history published by the Washington State Historical Society titled: Station Camp and the Historical Archaeology of the Chinook Middle Village. He currently serves as the Regional Historical Archaeologist for the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service and the Northwest Coast and Cascades Network Representative to the Cultural Resources Advisory Committee of the National Park Service.

ALUMNI NEWS

Martin Adams (M.A., 2008) is finishing up his second year of coursework for his Environmental Sciences (Ecology) PhD at Oregon State University. He just finished some contract work identifying insect remains from owl pellets for a Forest Service ecologist, and will be concentrating on his dissertation research this summer (proposal, research questions, location of additional sites, etc.). In addition, he just received some privy samples from Fort Hoskins and (time permitting) will be analyzing the insect remains found in those samples, not only to determine any differences in insects between the officers' privy and enlisted men's privy, but also looking at the timing of exotic insects introduced into the New World prior to 1866.

Shingo Hamada (M.A. 2006) presented a paper at the Japan Studies Association Annual Conference (Honolulu, HI) in January titled "Gone with the Herring: Ainu Geographic Names and a Reinterpretation of Histories of Coastal Hokkaido."

As part of his Indiana University PhD program Shingo conducted a pilot study in Hokkaido last summer and just submitted his first external grand proposal to the Wenner-Gren (wish him luck!). He will spend this summer preparing for his qualifying exam, while participating in the NSF Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology to refine his NSF proposal. If everything goes well, he will begin fieldwork in Hokkaido January 2011.

Michael Martin (M.A. 2006) continues to work at the Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, as project manager of the Tribal Cooperating Work group called Wanapa Koot Koot, a Sahaptin Indian word that means those who work on the river. His thesis on the historic fisheries of the lower Columbia River, working with Virginia Butler, has contributed to a depth of understanding of the ancient fishery. The Portland District is preparing to do a significant amount of environmental restoration work in Michael's thesis project area and he is looking forward to seeing if information in the thesis can be supported with some upcoming archaeological investigations of places that haven’t been surveyed since the early 1960s and 1970s’.

Anne Morrill (M.A. 2006) is a current volunteer with Girls Inc. of NW Oregon. In this position she is a co-facilitator for an after school program using gender specific curriculum to empower and enrich the lives of girls.

Leslie O'Rourke (M.A. 2005) has been working as field director for archaeological testing at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for the Columbia River Crossing project – the proposed new Interstate 5 bridge between Portland and Vancouver. Leslie was also a presenter at the 2010 Northwest Anthropology Conference.

Jennifer Poat (M.A. 2007) chaired a session "Current Research on Health Disparities" at the
Society for Applied Anthropology International Conference this year where she presented "Identifying Determinants of Trust in Patient/Health Care Relationships." She is also going to publish the following article and future poster presentation:


**RECENT M.A. GRADUATES**

Jennifer Haynes Clark (MA 2010) successfully defended her thesis titled "American Belly Dance and the Invention of the New Exotic: Orientalism, Feminism and Popular Culture."

Sara Davis defended her MA thesis "Projectile Point Variation at the Meier (35CO5) and Cathlapotle (45CL1) Archaeological Sites."


**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.

Lambda Alpha's chapter got off to a running start by inducting 18 new members! In fall quarter they were very excited to welcome Jeremy Spoon, Ph.D. as our newest professor in our department and to host a presentation to learn about his current work “Revitalizing People and Place: Nuwuvi & U.S. Public Lands”. They were also excited to have successfully included on their website the video recording of Cameron M. Smith, Ph.D.’s presentation “Cognitive Archaeology” from the previous academic year. As well as hosting their own events, they also played a supportive role to the United Indian Students for Higher Education (UISHE) student group to host Dennis Banks in a Fireside Chat which was very moving and educational.

During winter term they held a “Shake Your Rumba” event, led by Ricardo Linnell who taught Caribbean dance styles, as well as introducing us to the food and culture of the region. They also held the first “Anthropology Student's Presentation Conference” in which they had five of their own members present their research in 20 minutes segments. This mini-conference was conceptualized as a tool to allow undergraduate and graduate students the
opportunity to familiarize themselves with conference settings and to become comfortable presenting and returning their work to the academic and scientific community. The conference was so successful that they are hoping to host these mini-conferences multiple times per year!

Over spring break several Lambda Alpha members joined with the Anthropology Student Association (ASA) to attend the 63rd annual Northwest Anthropology Conference (NWAC). It was an amazing time, and one of our own graduate students, Juan Esteban Zea, won best student paper submission in the sociocultural area! We are truly honored to have him in our department and in Lambda Alpha. Juan Esteban was also asked to present at the annual National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) conference this year.

In spring term Lambda Alpha was fortunate to host Kilong Ung, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge Genocide in Cambodia, and author of Golden Leaf, to learn about this tragedy and how anthropology can be applied to understanding and perhaps healing or preventing these events. They hosted a round table to look more in depth at ethnographic field notes at which our own Sharon Carstens Ph.D. and Bill Cornett M.A. were generous enough to share their insights as well as their own field notes. They threw the first annual end of year party with ASA to officially recognize new members, say farewell to graduating seniors, and to pass the torch of officer positions to the next generation! (We also played some mean anthropology pictionary!)

The Anthropology Student Association also hosted many events this year. Each quarter they had a movie event, with titles such as "Qalunaat! Why White People Are Funny", "Year One", and a viewing of two documentaries relating to Dr. Spoon on the Stonewall Mountain and Flat Anthropology game night during Fall Quarter and Anthropology game night during Winter Quarter. During the Spring Quarter they also contributed a poster to the Association of African Students’ “Culture Night” event, and co-sponsored the First Thursday lectures with the department, as well as a talk with Growing Roots, another student organization. They also chipped in on Lambda Alpha’s induction ceremony and party.

Student Presentations

Our students were very well represented in the professional meeting circuit this year. Katie Wynia, Meris Mullaley, and Stephanie Simmons attended the Historical Archaeology meeting. The Northwest Anthropology Conference had many attendees, including both undergraduate and graduate students from the Anthropology Student Association. Ken Ames, Virginia Butler, Alex Stevenson, and Tait Elder gave paper presentations. Cassie Manning presented a paper co-authored with Stephanie Simmons. Juan Esteban Zea presented both at NWAC and the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies meeting. Jennifer Haynes-Clark recently attended the Western States Folklore Society Conference and presented a paper entitled, "The Quest for the New Exotic: Invention, Fantasy and Nostalgia in American Belly Dance", which was based on her thesis. At the Society for American Archaeologists meeting, Alex Stevenson presented a paper.

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

Cassie Manning was awarded the Oregon Archaeological Society Roy F. Jones Memorial Scholarship, as well as a $2000 scholarship from the International Order of Odd Fellows Morand Education Fund. Juan Esteban Zea won the student paper competition at the Northwest Anthropological Conference, and the paper will be published in this year's Journal of Northwest Anthropology. Karla Hambelton was awarded the Malcolm and Louise Loring grant through the Oregon Archaeological Society to subsidize fieldwork for her thesis research. Irene Alvarado was awarded a Miller Grant Student Sustainability Travel and Conference Award. Irene is collaborating Dr. Spoon on the Nuwuvi Knowledge-to-Action Project, researching the social and ecological dynamics of pinion harvest in the Southern Great Basin. She will be exhibiting a poster on her project Monday May 24 at the 3rd Annual Sustainability Celebration. Richard Stern was awarded a Miller Grant Leadership in Undergraduate Research Award: Sustainability Track. Richard is collaborating with Dr. Spoon on the Stonewall Mountain and Flat Ethnographic Project, researching visual anthropology techniques and indigenous film. Alicia Wright and Lydia Sheehy have been selected for the Youth Internship Program at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for the Summer 2010. They will be conducting public history and archaeology activities this summer in conjunction with the park's interpretive and cultural resources programs.

This year Cassandra Manning and Rebecca Hodgin received the Newman and Scheans Scholarships. Congratulations to Cynthia Martin and Alycia Wright, our Anthropology Seniors 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 Scheans 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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