

# ANTHROPOLOGY

## Chair's Corner

*The view from Williams Hall  
Chair Deborah Blom*



Welcome to another year in the Anthropology Department at the University of Vermont! As you read the pages of this newsletter, I hope you are as excited as we are to see photos of students and faculty doing research in the field all over the globe, to read updates from alumni on their education, jobs, and families, and to meet our newest faculty member (archaeologist Parker VanValkenburgh).

This year we are doing something in the department that probably won't sound familiar (or

even interesting) to most of you: an Academic Program Review. This is the time when academic departments review their vision, mission, and effectiveness in research and serving students (present and past).

Program review also means that now is the time to get in touch with us (by email, letter, phone, or in person) to talk about how being a UVM Anthropology student has played a role in your life. What did we do well when you attended UVM? What could we have done better? In what ways were you best prepared for your job, whatever it may be?

## FALL 2013

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What would you like current students to know about life after college with an Anthropology degree?

We sincerely hope that you will take some time this fall to share your thoughts with us (or if we contact you, to help us out!) as we walk through this important review process.

In the meantime, we invite you to sit back and peruse the pages here to get an idea of what we have been up to and what we are planning for the future.



## Welcome to UVM Anthropology: Parker VanValkenburgh

Parker VanValkenburgh, new Assistant Professor of Anthropology, grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma and studied anthropology as an undergraduate at Stanford University (BA, 2003), before pursuing advanced degrees at the University of Cambridge (M.Phil, Archaeology, 2004), the University of London (M.A., Latin American Studies, 2005), and Harvard University (Ph.D., Anthropology, 2012). Prior to joining UVM, he was Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry at Washington University in St. Louis.

Parker is an anthropological archaeologist whose core research focuses on the political dimensions of landscapes, built environments, and human

subjectivities -- or more broadly, political struggles lying at the intersections of where we live and who we are. His primary field project, the Proyecto Arqueológico Zaña Colonial (PAZC), has brought together archaeological settlement survey, archival research, geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, and the study of foodways to examine the impact of Spanish colonial forced resettlement on the indigenous populations of Peru in the 16th and 17th centuries CE. With support from the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the PAZC is providing a case study of how



Dr. VanValkenburgh laying down ground control points for an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle flight using an RTK GPS system.

imperial planning projects gain traction and lose ground in daily experience.

Parker's publications include *Territoriality in Archaeology* (2013), co-edited with James Osborne. His current book manuscript, *Building Subjects*, draws off fieldwork in Peru and case studies from the ancient and contemporary worlds to examine forced resettlement in historical and comparative perspective. Parker is also engaged in additional research on long-term environmental change in coastal Peru and colonial ceramic technology. In his spare time, he loves to bike, run, and play guitar, and he is an avid follower of NBA basketball and pro soccer, as well as an devoted fan of single origin coffees and small batch beers.



Dr. VanValkenburgh (left) and collaborator Chet Walker fly an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to map an archaeological site in Peru this summer.

## Claire Eaton ('11) on Anthropology and Careers

Chances are, if you graduated with a degree in anthropology and then took a job outside of the field, you have encountered some questions from employers or colleagues. Certainly many have heard, "How do dinosaur bones relate to market research, exactly?" Then comes my well-practiced explanation that, contrary to popular belief, there is more to anthropology than digging in the dirt or spending 10 years with an isolated tribal population.

After graduating from the University of Vermont, I took a position with a market research firm focused on corporate intelligence and strategy. A few years later, I transitioned into a new job and began work as a management consultant. During the interview process for each position, recruiters asked me about my academic experience as an Anthropology major. What had I learned from my studies? How did that work prepare me for the business world? Truth be told, most social science curriculums provide a fine foundation of skills for a budding career in business -- from research and writing to critical thinking and problem solving.

Anthropology studies often focus on matters of perspective, forcing students to think outside the box and adopt new ways of thinking about concepts that may seem familiar or universal. For example, in material culture studies, students learn about consumer decision making, perceptions of worth, and how culture shapes our understanding of what is desirable, attractive, or valuable. Industries such as market research, marketing, branding, advertising, consulting, investing - they are all driven by *human* behavior. And that behavior is dependent on the culture from which it stems. The choices we make every day are affected by our perceptions of societal norms and values, and understanding the source of those perceptions is a central element of a successful business

approach. While working in market research, I conducted studies on consumer choice and perception on a daily basis. Understanding how a set of values is formulated and



how it then drives decision-making was an important component influencing how I would consult a client in matters of branding, strategy, etc.

Anthropologists are also trained to be careful observers of human behavior. I often think of client interactions and management assessments as the business application of ethnographic surveying. Companies (and industries, for that matter) have very distinct cultures, and using one's observational skills to identify the subtleties or nuances in a specific organizational culture is a very important baseline to establish when working with a client.

The University of Vermont's anthropology program not only helps to develop perspective and provide an approach to how we think about society, but it also fosters a natural curiosity to learn and cultivate new understandings. Intellectual openness and the ability to see the world through different frames are capacities that will serve students well in their careers after college.

Claire Eaton is a consultant in the Management and Information Technology Consulting Group of BerryDunn (Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker)



## Out here in the field

John Crock had the pleasure of teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> archaeological field school in Anguilla. Anguilla 2013 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first UVM field school taught by Jim Petersen at the Ewing Site on Shelburne Pond in 1983. The Spring 2013 meeting of the Vermont Archaeological Society was dedicated to history of work at another field school site, the Winooski site, and the long term role of the Anthropology Department in Vermont Archaeology that began with the department's founding in 1968.



John Crock ('89), left, co-instructor Wetherbee Dorshow ('89), center, and the 2013 Anguilla field school on a field trip to archaeological sites in St. Maarten led by Jay Haviser of the St. Maarten Archaeological Centre (2nd from left).



September 2013 is Vermont Archaeology Month! Check out the schedule of events at <http://www.vtarchaeology.org/> and come hear UVM Anthropology's own faculty (including Professor John Crock) and CAP staff speak on important finds and ongoing work right here in our own backyard!



## Fieldwork in Ukraine



J. Dickinson and Max Roberts with V. Skurchinskij, author of the Ukrainian/Russian fingerspelling chart.



J. Dickinson with the 2013 high school graduating class, Lviv Special School for the Deaf, which has been in operation continuously for 150 years.

J. Dickinson traveled to Ukraine this summer to begin a new field project focused on the work lives and identity of Deaf Ukrainians. Along with research assistant Max Roberts (UVM class of 2014), J. traveled to the cities of Lviv, Kyiv and Xust visiting schools for the Deaf and meeting with Deaf adults in a range of workplaces, at events held by the Ukrainian Society for the Deaf and in schools. She plans to return to Ukraine in the coming year to conduct fieldwork at a sewing factory owned by the Ukrainian Society for the Deaf.

## Entrepreneurs in Cuba

This summer Ben Eastman conducted some preliminary field research on new economic reforms in Cuba aimed at encouraging entrepreneurialism while preserving socialism. Looking at a range of new enterprises, including clothing stores, bed and breakfasts, pet stores, beauty salons, and computer classes, among others, Ben observed first hand how Cubans are navigating some of the promises and perils of these market-based economic changes. Throughout this year, he will be applying for research grants in order to carry out a longer term study on these issues.



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## An NSF for work in Peru

**Deborah Blom** was awarded a National Science Foundation Collaborative Research grant, A Bioarchaeological and Biogeochemical Approach to Tiwanaku Childhoods: Intersecting Social Identities and Local Biologies in the Andes, with Kelly Knudson from Arizona State University. This three-year research project involves two field seasons of intense data collection, including two months each in Peru (2014) and Bolivia (2015) with support for student research included in the grant.

In the pre-Hispanic Andes, as in many regions, there is a tension between the relative importance of state and local communities in many aspects of everyday life. To better understand state-level organization in the Andes and its impact on lived experiences in the past, the project tests models of pluralism versus centralized control in the ancient Tiwanaku polity, which flourished ca. 500 to 1150 AD in areas as ecologically diverse as the Lake Titicaca Basin of highland Bolivia, the mid-altitude Moquegua Valley of southern Peru, the eastern lowlands toward the Amazon, and the desert oases of northern Chile.

Deborah's research shifts the debate from traditional questions about manifestations of state or local power in the public sphere to a consideration of the impact of the state in the private sphere, as viewed through childhood. The ways in which adults structure and shape the lives of children are integral to understanding the formation and maintenance of states and their impacts on the lived experiences of both children and adults. Ancient states, such as the Aztec empire, were overtly involved in the socialization of children. Although they did not have universal public education characteristic of modern states to shape their citizens, the Inkas recognized and tracked an elaborate set of gendered, social age categories, and chose groups of children,

especially those of the upper class, for state-sponsored training. Both Aztec and Inka adults actively shaped gender roles of children through everyday household practice or through institutions such as the Inka-run houses of "chosen women." Being a political subject started in childhood. The process by which children became Tiwanaku and the relative degree of state influence upon socialization in the Tiwanaku polity is unknown.

By incorporating preexisting archaeological collections from sites in the Lake Titicaca Basin in the Bolivian altiplano and the Peruvian Moquegua Valley, the project uses a cross-section of Tiwanaku ritual/domestic and elite/non-elite contexts in various types of Tiwanaku settlements.

To address the research questions, the project will investigate bioarchaeological indicators of everyday practices, such as cranial modification, labor and play, eating, and feeding children. Through mortuary contexts the project examines expressions of social identities, such as class, local community or age identities (i.e., social age categories) in ritual spaces. In addition to collecting data on mortuary contexts that have not been fully studied, the project will systematically compile a database of existing information on Tiwanaku mortuary practices dispersed in archives at multiple institutions in the United States and abroad. Finally, biogeochemical analyses will pinpoint changes in paleodiet and paleomobility over the life course and how changes in dietary practices and residential mobility intersect with the formation of different social identities.



## Student News

**Cecelia Ackerman** writes: I moved to Chicago 3 days ago and start classes in a couple of weeks. I'm doing the Master of Social Science program (MAPSS) with a focus in anthropology. I'm a little nervous after 3 years of non-academic work, but really excited.

**Cullen Black '02** is currently working on his doctorate in bioarchaeology at Syracuse University. Following the completion of his Ph.D. at the University of Florida,

**Joshua Toney '98** is now working as an archaeologist with the Army's MIA recovery group at JPAC's Central Identification Lab in Hawaii. He was joined at JPAC recently by **Rob Ingraham '06** who completed his MA at the University of Maine, Orono. John Crock got a chance to visit with the UVM archaeologists in Hawaii at this year's SAA meeting held in Honolulu.

**Jen Robins '87**, who has been involved in CRM archaeology in the Pacific for years, hosted at UVM Anthropology reunion that included **Peter Mills '84**,

who is the Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Hawaii, Hilo.

**Isaac Shearn '04**, a Ph.D. student at UF, recently completed his dissertation field work in Dominica, supported by a Fullbright and an NSF grant.

Anthropology graduates **James Allen (2010)** and **Heather (Bell) Allen (2010)** were married this summer! James is currently working for UVM Libraries while completing his Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of Kentucky. Heather recently moved to the Vermont State's Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired and VocRehab where she is a Program Technician II.

**Kate Pattison (2000)** is currently the Director of Grant Projects and Planning for Wake Technical Community College in North Carolina.

**Shannon Wilson (2009)** earned her Master's in Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and now works for Tetra Tech International

Development Services (formerly ARD) as a Monitoring and Evaluation/Public Communications Specialist.

**Sydney White (2010)** recently graduated with a second bachelor's degree from Duke University School of Nursing. She is currently involved in preparing a manuscript with Duke faculty investigating novel biomarkers in cardiovascular disease. Her interest in medicine began after she was exposed to medical anthropology. Currently she is in the process of relocating back to Vermont to work as a registered nurse.



## Student News

**Andrew R. Beupré 07** has gone onto Western Michigan University, earning an MA in Anthropology with a thesis entitled, *Sacred or Secular: Religious Materiality on the French Colonial Frontier*. He is continuing his studies toward a PhD at the College of William and Mary. His doctoral research centers on borderzone theory, culture contact, identity politics and heritage studies in the Lake Champlain/Richelieu River Valley. Fall semester 2013, Andrew holds a doctoral research fellowship from the *Association internationale des études québécoises*. Andrew is also currently serving a second term in a gubernatorial appointment to the Vermont Commission of Native American Affairs, where his work centers on cultural revitalization, education and management of archaeological resources, and was just married on August 10 in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.





## Student Awards

The Anthropology Department is proud to honor the following students:

### Honors College Scholars, 2013

Henry Cesari, Gathering Intel. Advisor:

Jonah Steinberg, Ph.D.

Sara Stanton, Images of Vermont:

Constructing Statehood through Pastoral Charm. Advisor: Luis Vivanco, Ph.D.

### College Honors, 2013

Riley Jean Duffie, Comparing Treatment Methods and Examining the Role of the Self in Eating Disorder Recovery. Advisor: Elizabeth Smith, Ph.

Zoe McKenzie, Testing the Polar Tooth Method: Childhood Health and the Tipu Maya. Advisor: Deborah Blom, Ph.D

### Office of Undergraduate Research Fall 2012 Mini-Grants

Joseph Friedman, junior, Anthropology, Whet Your Appetite: a Dietary Reconstruction (national conference presentation) (Deborah Blom)

Zoe McKenzie, senior, Anthropology, Testing the Polar Tooth Method: Childhood Health and the Tipu Maya, (Deborah Blom)

### Simon Family Public Research Fellowship.

Sammie Ibrahim conducted applied qualitative and quantitative research for Local Motion, the local bicycle-pedestrian advocacy group, on transportation attitudes and practices in Chittenden County.

### 2013 Recipient of the James B. Petersen Archaeology Award: Zoe M. McKenzie

This award is named for Dr. James B.

Petersen, a UVM graduate who later returned as a faculty member and Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Jim's enthusiasm for all things archaeological is legendary, leading to substantial intellectual contributions to the archaeology of the Northeast, the Caribbean, and Amazonia. The Petersen Award is presented to the graduating senior with a sub-disciplinary focus on Archaeology, who best exemplifies Jim's passion for archaeology.

### 2013 Recipients of the George Henry Perkins Award for the Outstanding Senior: Zoe M. McKenzie and Kate Lyn Morrissey

This award is named for George Henry Perkins, a UVM faculty member in Geology and later Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Perkins is credited with teaching one of the first formal courses in Anthropology at an American university. The Perkins Award is presented to the graduating senior who has demonstrated superior intellectual commitment to Anthropology during the completion of their degree.

### 2013 Recipients of the W. A. Haviland Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Anthropology: Henry Randall Cesari, Monica Ruth Johnson, and Meghan Louise O'Daniel

A Mayanist archaeologist by training, William Haviland served UVM for more than 30 years as a faculty member and Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Bill's career was characterized by his desire to apply anthropological perspectives to modern social problems. The Haviland Award is presented to the graduating senior who best exemplifies Bill's commitment to finding solutions for real-world crises through the use of anthropological perspectives.

## Faculty News

**Teresa Mares** spent the summer of 2013 developing her new ethnographic research project on the foodways of Latino/a dairy workers in Vermont, submitting an application to the National Science Foundation to support a three year study slated to begin in the summer of 2014. She also presented at the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Manchester, England in August and drafted a chapter for the forthcoming volume: *Off the Edge of the Table: Women Redefining the Limits of the Food System and the Experience of Food Insecurity*. In June, she had the pleasure of teaching her first graduate-level field course, "Vermont's Rural Food System: From Milk to Maple" which brought together graduate students from UVM and NYU for a week-long travel immersion which featured visits to local cheesemakers, maple producers, diversified farms, and food processing and distribution facilities. Finally, in collaboration with Dr. Amy Trubek and Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, Teresa launched a new faculty research collective and coordinated a two-day faculty workshop called "New Directions in Gender, Class, and Food Work," bringing together 12 faculty and doctoral students from UVM and Bennington College to share works-in-progress and develop collaborative research and publishing opportunities.

In the spring of 2013, **Jonah Steinberg** traveled to Detroit to accept the biannual Citizenship Book Award from the Center for the Study of Citizenship for *Isma'ili Modern: Globalization and Identity in a Muslim Community*, and with new funding continued work both on his research on street-dwellers in India, and on Roma (Gypsies) in the context of narratives of race and public space in southern Europe, where

he spent the summer with his family. In fall of 2013 he sponsored a visit from Indian research colleague Khushboo Jain, who presented to students and faculty across the university and community about street life in India.

**Scott Matter** writes that he participated in the Teaching Effectively Online course through CTL, which was a great way to rethink course design and improve his face-to-face courses as well as preparing for some online teaching. He also completed a co-authored book chapter, from research conducted in Kenya with colleagues at McGill University and Utrecht University (Netherlands). The book is scheduled to be available for January 2014. The citation is: Caroline Archambault, Scott Matter, Stanley Kimaren Riamit, and John Galaty, "Diversifying Maasai diversification: Macro-level factors and contrasting livelihood pathways in contemporary Kenya" in *Rural Economies and Livelihoods in the Twenty-first Century: Local Perspectives on Processes of Change*, Deborah Sick (ed), Routledge ISS Studies in Rural Livelihoods Series. London and New York: Routledge Press. He updates us that just completed "Debating belonging on contested land: cultural politics and territoriality in rural Kenya," in *Negotiating Territoriality: Spatial Dialogues between State and Tradition*. Allan Charles Dawson, Laura Zanotti, and Ismael Vaccaro, (eds), Routledge. (forthcoming, 2013-14) Scott and his wife Nikki also celebrated the arrival of baby **Eloise** in April 2013!

**Scott Van Keuren** published articles in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* and *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* reporting on his NSF-funded research at Ancestral Pueblo sites in east-central Arizona. He is currently writing a book for AltaMira Press entitled *Ceremony in the Ancient Southwest*. Scott and his wife Eliot also celebrated the arrival of baby **Miles** in April.



**Jeanne Shea** writes: Following up on my 2012 Fulbright research on family-based caregiving for the elderly in China, this summer I went to Shanghai for three weeks to present a paper about my findings and do follow-up research. It was a very productive trip! Presenting at the annual Shanghai Forum Conference, I had the opportunity to compare notes with scholars, physicians, and social workers on elder care policy, programs, and grassroots experiences in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. In terms of research, not only was I able to conduct follow-up home visits and interviews with a wide array of spousal caregivers, I also visited several adult day centers and nursing home facilities, interviewed elderly community volunteers about the meanings behind their social engagement, and conversed with widowed, remarried, and divorced older men and women about their experiences. This fall and spring I plan to present on this research at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association and the Association for Asian Studies. While in Shanghai, I found that UVM alum Elliott Dodge DeBruyn (2012) is there doing videography and photojournalism. It's a small world!



Prof. Shea attending the celebration of her student mentee Yan Shen's (center) completion of her Master's degree in Medical Anthropology at Fudan University in Shanghai. Prof. Shea mentored Yan on community-based field research in gerontology during her 2012 Fulbright-supported sabbatical.



Elderly Chinese man combing his wife's hair after a noon-time nap in their cramped one-room apartment in Shanghai. As Shanghai's population ages and youthful family caregivers become scarce under the Single Child Family Policy and the march of capitalist modernization, even Chinese elders are increasingly called upon to take care of each other. This is one of the many older couples Prof. Shea interviewed in her summer 2013 research trip.



