Human Origins Laboratory, Department of Anthropology

**Director:** Dr. Mica Glantz, General Services Building 342A

**Current students:** Rickey Kadlac, Andy Kruse, Lauren Denton, Katie Horton, Tyler Beeton, Anna Trainer, and Chris Davis

Dr. Glantz is a paleoanthropologist who specializes in Neandertal paleobiology and paleobiogeography. Her research has focused on hominin dental and craniofacial morphology as well as Paleolithic archaeology in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Currently, she is collaborating on a multi-disciplinary project the goals of which are to establish a chronological framework for Central Asian Paleolithic sites, survey for new sites, and test models concerned with the interaction between Neandertals and modern humans in the heart of Asia.

**Past Research**

1. Discovery and excavations of Anghilak Cave, Uzbekistan, 2001-04
   Middle Paleolithic site with hominin material

2. Analysis of hominin fossil, OR-1, from Obi-Rakhmat Cave, Uzbekistan
   Juvenile that shows mixed affinities with Neandertals and modern humans. 
   ~ 65 kyr old assemblages

3. A reanalysis of the taxonomic affinities of the Teshik-Tash Neandertal child from Uzbekistan. Results indicate, contradicting dogma, that the specimen is more like modern humans than other Neandertals.

**Present Research Trajectories**

1. Archaeological surveys for new stratified Paleolithic sites in the Karatau mountains of southern Kazakhstan.

2. Assessment of previously excavated Paleolithic sites in south Kazakhstan for intact materials critical to reconstructing Pleistocene ecosystems and their chronology.

3. Exploring the validity of the Neandertal range.

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