

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY



From the Chair



The Department of Anthropology is excited to begin the new academic year after some major changes as well as significant growth. Dr. Kathleen Sherman, our former

Chair, accepted a new position as the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs. As of July 1, I took on the role of interim Chair. Although I am enthusiastic about my new job and continuing the positive trajectory our Department is enjoying in terms of student interest and nationally recognized and funded research endeavors, it will be difficult to fill Dr. Sherman's shoes. Under her direction the Department has grown in numbers and visibility. We wish Dr. Sherman the best of luck in her new role and will miss her tremendously.

The new academic year in Anthropology commences with a cause for celebration as well. Expanding the number of biological anthropologists in the Department has been a long-term goal that we have finally reached with the addition of Dr. Michael Pante. Dr. Pante works at the iconic site of Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, studying the hunting strategies and dietary ecology of early *Homo*. His addition to the faculty will allow the Department to expand course offerings and involve our students in this important work. Join me in warmly welcoming Dr. Pante to our faculty and wishing him success in his new role as Assistant Professor.

Dr. Michelle Glantz
Professor and Chair

Department Highlights

Notes from the Field

Last summer, Anthropology students hit the road to four different field schools, each of which offered practical experience in three of the sub-disciplines within anthropology.

Students interested in cultural anthropology participated in an ethnographic field school at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and had the opportunity to do an internship on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in southwestern Colorado. Archaeology students worked with **Dr. Jason LaBelle**, exploring the high alpine environments of Colorado's backcountry. We also added a new field school this summer to support a growing student interest in paleontological studies concerning the origins of our primate family. The Paleontology field school took place in the fossil rich Eocene deposits of the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming.

Over a period of 6 weeks, students in the field learned mapping and navigation, survey techniques, how to identify artifacts and fossils, the best practices concerning the curation and analyses of these discoveries as well as the techniques used to assess the capacity for local community development projects and the implementation of those projects.

Our field schools make the Department of Anthropology unique; we are fortunate to be able to offer these learning experiences and encourage all interested students from any major to take advantage of our field schools.

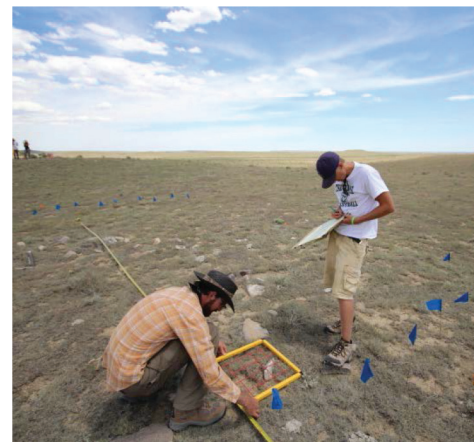
Faculty News

Our faculty members are always hard at work, making trips to further their research both around the globe and closer to home. Recently, two of our faculty members have been busy with a new project that has received significant international media attention.

Drs. Chris Fisher and Steve Leisz have spent the last several months working in the Mosquita Coast Region of Honduras to locate and identify a remote archaeological site long rumored to be the location of the mythical "White City." Using LiDAR technology, a remote sensing technique that measures distance by utilizing lasers, Fisher and Leisz are mapping ancient settlements in the area.

Fisher and Leisz have partnered with an international team as part of a broad collaboration with the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) and UTL Productions as well as the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM). Working together with the Honduran Government, Fisher

Colorado State University



"My time in the field gave me a true sense of identity. The Lakota culture teaches individuals the importance of generosity, respect, honor, and courage. There is a certain quality of richness that comes from working with people to establish community and a sense of well-being. In our time on Pine Ridge we built structures, fixed roofs, and prepared for ceremonies, but these are merely the physical manifestations of our time well spent. We were welcomed into the homes of people with open arms and began to understand their concept of *tiospaye*, roughly translated as extended family, but really much more. Trusting your intuition, patiently listening, and respecting others as fellow human beings were stepping stones to understanding the incredible culture of the Lakota people. We have built friendships that will last a lifetime and created meaningful stories that we will take with us. All are related. *Mitakuye oyas'in*."

Marie Kendall
Pine Ridge Field School participant

and Leisz have been gathering LiDAR imaging in order to search for what has been inaccessible to archaeologists working in the jungle cover of Mesoamerica until recently. We look forward to learning more about their results in the future.

In other news, **Drs. Mica Glantz** and **Jason LaBelle** traveled to Kazakhstan last May and taught an intensive two week seminar on new discoveries and perspectives in human evolutionary studies and topics in New World archaeology at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty. Glantz and LaBelle were hosted by Dr. Zhaken Taimagambetov, Dean of the Faculty of History, and the country's most significant Paleolithic archaeologist.

Capitalizing on her previous Paleolithic field work in Kazakhstan, Dr. Glantz worked closely with Dr. LaBelle to organize a multi-disciplinary, international team from Montrepos and Max Planck, German research institutes dedicated to human evolutionary studies, as well as Nazarbaev University in Astana and Wellesley College, MA. The goals of their work included collecting samples from two Paleolithic sites, Maibulak and Valikhanova, in order to develop the chronology of the sites and to reconstruct past environments and climates. This work will shed light on how Neandertals and the mysterious Denisovans, an archaic human group unique to Central Asia, adapted to climate change and interacted in the region.

Department Events

The Department of Anthropology was also host to the 2nd Front Range Neandertal Workshop. With funds from the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Glantz hosted 12 colleagues and local Neandertal scholars and their students for a day of presentations, student posters, and a round table discussion concerning new discoveries that have transformed our understanding of Neandertals and their relationship to us.

Alumni News

The annual Homecoming and Family Weekend was a great success this year. We hosted the Conference of Academic Alumni and celebrated the accomplishments of our alumni who have gone on to pursue educational or research careers.

We continued our Anthropology Connections Lecture series and enjoy seeing each of you at these events. Please let us know if there is a topic or event you would like to hear about!

Development Initiatives

The Department of Anthropology recently reached a milestone funding the first endowed **Anthropology Scholarship**. The endowment will allow us to provide much-needed financial support to our graduate students for many years to come. This achievement would not have been possible without the vision of our alumnus, **Dr. Terry Haynes**, who recognized the role financial support played in his own education and made the commitment to help other students.



Dr. Glantz being interviewed for a Kazakh documentary on the significance of Maibulak, a Paleolithic site in southern Kazakhstan. Her graduate students, Katie Horton and Tyler Beeton, are excavating the large central hearth.



Graduate student, Anna Trainer (left background) discussing her poster with other professionals at the 2nd Front Range Neandertal Workshop.

We also have a number of annual scholarship funds including the **Cultural Anthropology Scholarship**, established in 2011 in memory of Dr. Esther Pressel, the **Student Research Scholarship**, established by alumnus Michelle Austin in 2011 to help support research and fund conference participation of our students and finally, a brand new scholarship established this past spring by Katy Little, a 1989 graduate of the Department of Anthropology. The **Field School Award** will help support students attending any one of the numerous field schools we offer.

This past summer, we were able to award funds to the first two students to support their field school endeavors and we look forward to being able to continue this level of support in the future. The leadership and the generous support of our alumni and donors have helped to make scholarship support for our students a reality

and we extend our deepest gratitude. If you would like to help continue the legacy, there are a number of ways to contribute.

Keep in Touch!

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