

the Department of **Colorado State University**  

Anthropology

2014

From the Chair



If asked to come up with a single adjective to define the 2013-14 academic year, I would suggest *lively*. Wow, what a year it has been at the Department of Anthropology! We said goodbye to some of our beloved staff: Grant Polzer took a new job at Campus Services here at CSU, and Jaime King took a development position at the University of San Diego. And, as many of you

know, Dr. Kathy Pickering is currently serving as Vice Provost of Undergraduate Affairs. We were able to balance these departures with some exciting new hires: Sherry McElwain will be taking over from Grant as the departmental accountant, and Alison Baumgartner for Jaime as our communications manager. Also, we will welcome special assistant professor in cultural anthropology, Dr. Shaozeng Zhang in the fall. Dr. Zhang received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine in 2014 and specializes in science and technology studies, the carbon market, and global political economy. In addition, our geography program will grow with the addition of Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Lipton. Dr. Lipton received her Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Texas at Austin, and specializes in remote-sensing and the socio-economic systems particular to mountain environments. With these additions, the department has a robust and vibrant future. Look for new class offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels in cultural anthropology and geography (a geography major is on the horizon) as well as provocative content on our updated and dynamic website, and through our social media outlets.

This year also allowed me to settle into the position of Chair. I witnessed first-hand clear indications of our vitality, research excellence, and success in teaching and mentoring across the sub-disciplines, and in geography.

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CSU Hosts 71st Plains Anthro Conference

The Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology (CMPA) proudly sponsored the 71st Plains Annual Anthropological Conference, a three day affair in October held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland, Colorado. With 500 attendees, which was double the registration of the previous year, the conference was one of the largest ever held. Since 1931, the gathering has been considered the marquee event for archaeologists whose research is focused on the Plains. Last hosted by Colorado State University in 1978, the venue was an excellent debut for the CMPA, showcasing the tremendous research and engagement efforts of Dr. Jason LaBelle and his students. Dr. LaBelle and Chris Johnston, a senior MA student, organized over two hundred poster and paper submissions and entertained even more archaeologists with locally-brewed beer and music from Denver natives, Halden Wofford and the Hi*Beams. The conference was also supported by History Colorado, CSU, the Department of Anthropology, as well as local cultural resource management firms. All attendees had the opportunity to participate in a pre-conference tour of Late Pleistocene-Early Holocene Paleoindian sites of the Kersey Terrace...



**Colorado Archaeological Society
Annual Meeting**

Art by Dean Babcock

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Department News

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The stories featured in this newsletter describe some of the highlights with regard to faculty and student research and engagement, but are really only the tip of the iceberg.

I also had the time to think critically about those aspects of our mission that I want to highlight and promote. In my opinion, the key words to organize around in the next academic year are *engagement* and *diversity*. Although we already have many excellent examples of faculty/student engagement (see Flood Relief story), I spent some time reflecting on 'the anthropological voice' or 'perspective' this spring; specifically, what is our role as educators and scholars with regard to some of society's pervasive problems? For me this journey was personal, and I describe some of my thinking on engagement on our blog ("[Who's Afraid of Evolution?](#)"). If anthropology and anthropologists are to remain relevant, employed, and employable, then we must take an active role in defining our point of view and our potential contributions to the public.

I conceptualize encouraging and supporting diversity in our students and faculty, partially as a by-product of successful engagement. For a discipline that examines and celebrates human diversity in all of its forms, we do a poor job of recruiting diverse students into our major. Of course, this has far-reaching effects on the discipline as a whole and the size of the pool of PhDs from diverse backgrounds that are on the job market. I have this on my radar and hope to report next spring that we have made our discipline relevant to a more diverse student body than at present.

In early fall, look for our first annual Field Notes report and other announcements concerning our Anthropology Connections event during homecoming.

I wish you a happy and relaxing summer.

Best wishes,



Mica Glantz

Flood Recovery in Northern Colorado

Disaster recovery is something Dr. Kate Browne thinks about a lot. She was one of the first cultural anthropologists on the ground after Katrina, and continued her research over the 8-year course of recovery from the hurricane (Sept 2005- Sept 2013), the full post-disaster trajectory that very few researchers study. Based on that research, Browne identified the need for "culture brokers" to bridge the distinct cultural worlds of disaster recovery organizations and the local, affected population. This spring, her idea turned out to be relevant to her disaster seminar and to disaster recovery groups right here at home.

In a few short days in September 2013, Northern Colorado got the heaviest rainfall in recorded history. The flood damage statewide reached 2 billion dollars. One of the hardest hit communities was Evans, Colorado.

Dr. Browne saw this devastation to lives and property as a learning opportunity for her graduate students enrolled in the spring 2014 course, ANTH 532, *The Culture of Disaster*. Late last fall, she responded to an invitation from City of Evans Fire Chief Warren Jones who offered to help involve her spring seminar students in a research project. Browne recruited Trevor Even to serve as "deputy director" for the class project and together, the three laid the groundwork for a class study. With Trevor's valuable experience volunteering with the Longterm Recovery Group in Larimer County, and his MA thesis project focused on the High Park Fire recovery, he served as a generous and knowledgeable resource to the class.

According to PhD Sociology student, Stacia Sydoriak, the tour of devastation provided by Chief Jones really set up the semester's work, "For many of us, the trailer park was our first time viewing damage from a disaster," she said "It profoundly influenced how we thought about disasters, and kept the people who were affected at the front of our minds throughout the course of the project. When you see the way in which a disaster can turn a person's life upside down, it motivates you to help restore them and their community, especially when the disaster hits home."



Each student conducted interviews...

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Department News

Plains Conference

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...near Greeley, Colorado and then two post-conference tours led by Dr. LaBelle's former Masters students, Cody Newton and Michael Troyer. Newton led a tour of the 19th Century trading posts of the South Platte River, while Troyer visited the multi-component site, the Line Shack Draw.

Colorado archaeology and CSU archaeologists were front and center during the conference, and the Department of Anthropology is very proud of the tremendous amount of research and scholarship they have produced. In addition to some of the highlights listed below, the conference hosted a poster session for the Department of Anthropology's field schools, providing an opportunity for the Plains archaeology community to become familiar with the training we provide our students and the top-notch research that is the product of student engagement.



Some of the volunteers who helped make this event one to remember.

Twenty-seven students from CSU presented, four of which were honored by being invited to present for a symposium on 21st century advances in archaeology and supporting studies of the southern Rocky Mountains. The presenters were:

- Ben Perlmutter : “Old Site, New Eyes: Traditional

and Contemporary Approaches to Defining Cultural Components and Site Structure at the Kinney Springs Site, Larimer County, Colorado”

- Hallie Meeker with Dr. LaBelle: “Benedict’s Rock (5BL232): A Scottsbluff Waypoint Along the St. Vrain River, Boulder County, Colorado”
- Chris Johnston : Jumping with New Data: Recent Investigations of the Roberts Buffalo Jump (5LR100), Larimer County, Colorado”
- Spencer Pelton : “Old Rocks, New Approach: A regional Scale Analysis of Ground Stone Tools from the Colorado Front Range High Country”

When all was said and done, it was an impressive display, with special thanks going out to the fifteen student volunteers that helped make the conference go as smoothly as possible.

Keep up to date with CSU Anthro

CSU Anthropology Blog

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Department News

Flood Relief

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...with 1 of the 15 non-profit, governmental, or faith-based groups handling recovery for the flooding in Weld County. They then identified follow up questions and returned for a second interview. The sum of these interviews produced a robust dataset—29 interviews with 15 recovery agencies.



Damage at the trailer park

The recovery situation, they learned, was troubled by a persistent problem. Of the 350 FEMA disaster relief cases open in Colorado, 140 were in Evans. However, in one Evans trailer park alone, 200 mobile homes with a population of nearly 1,000 (more than the cases open in Evans) were irreversibly destroyed. Students sought to discover the nature of problems that had led to such disparities in the number of people whose homes were damaged or destroyed and the number of people FEMA was helping.

To gain a better understanding of the overall situation, students' next step required them to collaborate with each other and identify cross-cutting themes and findings across all the research they had individually collected.

The students folded in their insights into two products: a large poster timeline of activities by different groups, and a formal powerpoint presentation. These two products of their semester's research were delivered to City of Evans leaders and the many long-term recovery groups working in Weld County.

In the presentation prepared by students, they offered a number of insights about the challenges facing these groups in their goals of helping. Among the many challenges they presented to the recovery groups, the most significant one involved the need to identify and serve the affected population. Yet problems of coordination and communication undermined their collective goals and contributed to serious delays in getting help to impacted people.

That's where the culture broker idea came in. Students who analyzed the cross-agency data found that having a culture broker would have relieved many of the hardest challenges for the agencies, and lessened the suffering of the people hurt. The culture broker idea includes not only locating someone who can communicate in both the

language of the people impacted as well as the language of recovery authorities, but also someone who understands the cultural ways of doing and seeing that are invisible to these different groups.

This connection between academia and the community is rare in liberal arts, and represented an important opportunity for students to see how the theory and literature of disaster studies actually play out on the ground in a real catastrophe.

Trevor Even noted that, "In graduate school, as well as in academia in general, it's easy to become detached from the lives of those living and working in the community in which you live. This class was an amazing opportunity to step outside of the ivory tower, and give back, if only a little, to the communities of which we're all a part. It was an honor to work with a team of such dedicated, talented students, and the experience I gained in doing so is something I will definitely carry with me as I try to move forward as an educator and researcher."

The presentation was an overwhelming success. "One thing that the students illustrated," commented Greg Winkler, Regional Manager from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, "is that with every disaster, it brings about a sense of community within a community. But that changes, and it changes every time with every disaster. We need to be aware enough, responsible enough, and thoughtful enough to make sure that we listen to what the students said, because they shed some light on something perhaps we hadn't thought about before."

His appraisal of the information offered by the students was, "Wonderful. Really good stuff."

"The commitment and talent these students have poured into this project has surpassed my highest expectations," said Dr. Browne. "By putting their hearts and brains together, they created serious, important results and the proof of that came from the strong and positive responses from the attendees at the presentation—the community leaders involved in flood recovery."



ANTH 532 students present their findings in Evans, Colorado

Department News

New Paleoanthropology and Zooarchaeology Lab

Last fall, the Anthropology Department welcomed Dr. Michael Pante into its ranks. Dr. Pante currently conducts his research at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, where he is the senior zooarchaeologist for the Olduvai Geochronology and Archaeology Project (OGAP), a collaborator with the Olduvai Landscape Paleoanthropology Project (OLAPP), and co-director of the Olduvai Project Field School.

Under the direction of Dr. Pante, we've created a new research and teaching facility: The Paleoanthropology and Zooarchaeology Lab. In this space, Dr. Pante and his students research the earliest evidence of human carnivory, much like a forensic anthropologist would investigate a crime scene. The research has the potential to shed light upon the conditions that supported the huge increase in brain size that characterizes our species.

The Paleoanthropology and Zooarchaeology Lab is also a unique teaching resource where students can get hands on experience working with bones. They learn to identify different animal species from small fragments of bone, and to interpret the behavior of our ancestors from the feeding traces found on fossils recovered from prehistoric archaeological sites.



Dr. Michael Pante at the Paleoanthropology and Zooarchaeology

New Summer and Online Courses!

The Anthropology Department at CSU is happy to announce that we're dramatically expanding our summer classes!

Aren't here for the summer? No problem, we also have nine online courses available.

FIELD SCHOOLS

ANTH 442 Ethnographic Field School
ANTH 460 Archaeology Field School
ANTH 470 Paleontology Field School

ON-CAMPUS

1st session (5/19-6/15)
ANTH 340 Medical Anthropology
ANTH 375 Evolution of Primate Behavior
3rd session (7/14-8/10)
ANTH 200 Cultures and the Global System
ANTH 330 Human Ecology

ONLINE COURSES

ANTH 100 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 120 Human Origins and Variation
ANTH 121 Human Origins and Variation Laboratory
ANTH 140 Introduction to Prehistory
ANTH 200 Cultures and the Global System
ANTH 338 Gender and Anthropology
ANTH 343 Applied Medical Anthropology
ANTH 412 Indians of North America
ANTH 415 Indigenous Ecologies and the Modern World
GR 100 Introduction to Geography
GR 320 Cultural Geography

Student News

Anthropology Students Dominate CURC (Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity)



Kat Shrawder, Jessica Ericson, Natalie Sanford, and Gwen Kristy, won College Honors for their poster: “Late Archaic Bison Herd Dynamics: Investigating Herd Composition at the Kaplan-Hoover Bison Arroyo Trap (5LR3953)” (Supervisor: Dr. La Belle)



Natalia Clark won High Honors for “Total Body Mass Estimation in Eocene Primates” (Supervisor: Ms. Nichols)



Ashley Packard won College Honors for her poster on “Scraper Reduction Processes: Comparing Lighting Hill to Kinney Spring” (Supervisor Dr. La Belle)



Chrissy Charron won High Honors for “Poolitics Personified: Women’s Personal Perceptions of Sanitation in Mumbai’s M/East Ward”. (Supervisor: Dr. Snodgrass)

Congratulations Capstone Winners!



Capstone Presentation Winners

- Best Overall Capstone Presentation - Matt Spencer
- Best Use of Primary Data - Fran Waldman
- Best Biological Anthropology Capstone - Victoria Price
- Best Archaeology Capstone - Natalie Sanford
- Best Cultural Anthropology Capstone - Cheyenne Croy

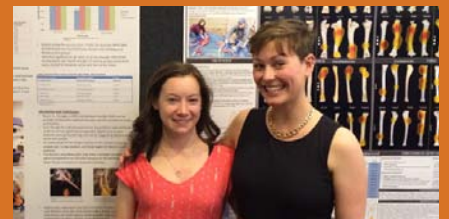
What are our students doing? Check it out!



Archaeology student, Ashley Packard, will be going to Indiana on a National Science Foundation Grant to work on Paleoenvironmental reconstructions at the Angel Mounds!



Grad student, Maisie Fraley, will be going to Belize this summer to study fishermen’s cultural interactions with manatees in order to inform conservations efforts.



Grad students, Aymee Fenwick and Kristen Welch, presented posters at the Paleoanthropology Society in Calgary, Alberta.

Student News



CSU Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club got together for its last meeting and made plans for next semester!

For more information, please contact the new Anthropology Club President, Celeste Tompkins at celeste.tompkins@rams.colostate.edu!

Congratulations to the Spring 2014 graduates!

Bachelor of Arts

Majors

Kaylan Campbell
Christine Charron
Kyle Cordain
Cristina Gannon
Jeffrey Guidotti
Savanna Hamilton
Gwendolyn Kristy
Brittney Mayfield
Zachary Nelson
Matthew Nugent
Victoria Price
Sonya Ropek
Rachel Schmitzer
Paulina Slimak
Zachary Thompson

Archaeology

Robert Brush
Michelle Dinkel
Jessica Ericson
Rebekah Hiatt
Crystal Jamison
Connor Johnen

Jonathan Kobey
Theodora Naqvi
Natalie Sanford
Katrina Shrawder

Biological

Samantha Erickson
Matthew Marcen
Abran Poot
Darcie Sweeney
Yessenia Valdez
Fran Waldman
Emily Warrington

Cultural

Jennifer Andrusin
Alexandra Caplan
Madeline Cepero
Samantha Clusman
Eric Clute
Alexander Colquhoun
Cheyenne Croy

Brittany Holzworth
Phylcia Kecskes
Michael Laurienti
Maxwell Mattisson
Madeline McCormack
David Southworth
Nicole Staples
Hillary Sugg
Namuyaba Temanju
Lindsay Thomas

Master of Arts

Michaela Frank
Chris Green
Michael Troyer

Minors

Anthropology

Adam Canessa
Brokk Christianson
Rebecca Eman
Anne Freyschlag
Sophanite Gedion
Rita Harris-Powers
Kandis Laponte
Kelsey O'Brien
Michelle Peck
Michael Rohsler
Elizabeth Sonnema
Caitlin Still
Abby Westover
Jaime Young

Geography

Andrew Dodds
Lara Fischlein
Alexander Forsthoff
Jeffrey Guidotti
Adam Jorck
Michael Laurienti
Matthew Nugent



Publications

Browne, Katherine E. 2013. Standing in the Need: Life After Katrina. *Anthropology Now*. 5 (1): 54-66.

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de Pinho JR, Grilo C, Boone RB, Galvin KA, Snodgrass JG (2014) Influence of Aesthetic Appreciation of Wildlife Species on Attitudes towards Their Conservation in Kenyan Agropastoralist Communities. *PLoS ONE* 9(2): e88842. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0088842

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Galvin, K.A. 2013 A Science and an art: What makes for an effective interview?, Aldo Leopold Leadership. Building networks to catalyze change. The Leopold Leadership Network blog about training the next generation of leaders on global sustainability.

Lynn Kwiatkowski. 2014. Domestic Violence, Ethnic Diversity, and Political and Economic Change in an Upland Community of Vietnam. Special Issue on Intimate Partner Violence and Cultural Diversity (Ghayda Hassan, ed.). *Alterstice: International Journal of Intercultural Research* 3(2):51-65.

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