From the Chair:
The past twelve months (since the last issue, volume 9, of Wa-jée-pa-na was distributed) have been busy for the University of Missouri-Columbia’s Anthropology Department. One exciting bit of news is that we recruited a new faculty member last year, a cultural anthropologist with strong interests in cultural transmission and cultural evolution to complement our strengths. Dr. Kanhik Panchanathan joined us in August. That means there are 12 full-time regular faculty for the first time in a decade. And we are recruiting for an archaeologist this fall!

There has been much activity in the past few months. Dr. Martin Daly, a noted psychologist from Canada, has taken up residence in Swallow Hall as a Research Professor. He will be teaching a graduate seminar in Spring 2013, and looks forward to interacting with faculty and graduate students. And a rumor is afoot that Dr. Napoleon Chagnon (of Yoromomo fame) might be joining us as a Research Professor in January 2013.

Once again, we have many new graduate students. That swells their ranks to a level not seen since the late 1990s. Swallow Hall is often buzzing as faculty discuss the latest published research, students seek advice from faculty, or graduate students discuss their thesis and dissertation projects.

This issue of Wa-jée-pa-na contains news tid-bits from many of our faculty and some of our graduate students. The reported activities of faculty and staff are symbolic of the renewed vigor that has been evident in Swallow Hall over the past couple years. It is truly a fun time to be an anthropologist at MU.

This is my thirteenth consecutive year as Chair, and it looks like I will be stepping down in August 2013. Mark Flinn will be taking over as Chair at that time, so do please give him all your support.

As noted last year, we are discontinuing circulation of Wa-jée-pa-na in hard copy and distributing it to our friends and alums electronically. Please send us your email address if you wish to continue receiving news of MU Anthropology.

R. Lee Lyman

Books recently published by faculty


FACULTY ACTIVITIES

During the 2011–12 academic year, the MU Administration asked Anthropology and several other degree-granting departments across the campus to draft a self-study focusing on strengths and weaknesses of curricula. One requirement of that study (reviewed by the Arts and Science Dean, Campus Provost, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Dean of the Graduate School in April 2012) was that plans for improvement of learning-based outcomes be included and acted upon during the 2012–13 academic year. Anthropology choose three initiatives: (i) to build a database that tracked careers of our alums at all degree levels (BA, MA, PhD), (ii) to solicit information from alums at all degree levels regarding their perceptions of the value of MU training in anthropology, and (iii) to form a Development Board of alums and others interested in assisting with furthering the aims of the MU Department of Anthropology. We are working on initiating implementation of the third initiative this academic year.

The first two initiatives have been put in place. In particular, we ask that you, our alums, visit our department web page: (http://anthropology.missouri.edu) and find the link “Important Alumni Survey.”

Gregory Blomquist has over the last year been working on several projects on primate mother-offspring interactions, mostly focusing on the genetics of birth weight and milk properties in captive gorillas, squirrel monkeys, and rhesus macaques. A research highlight of the last year were invitations to travel and speak at the American Society of Primatology’s Interdisciplinary Symposium in Austin, Texas last Fall and a pair of International Primatological Society symposia in Cancun, Mexico this past August. Greg’s home life is now full of mother and allomother-offspring interaction, too, with the birth of a daughter in July 2011. Recent publications include:


Libby Cowgill has continued to publish on the effects of childhood activity on human bone. She has also begun to develop new projects and research directions, focusing on immature adaptation to climate and juvenile responses to selection. Currently, she is working with an international group of collaborators to investigate two Upper Paleolithic burials from the Russian site of Sunghir. In addition to new articles on her primary interests, she has also been working on an edited volume on the bio-archaeology of Point Hope Alaska, which will be published this year with Cambridge Press. This year she presented three papers at the meetings for the American Association of Physical Anthropology in Portland, Oregon. She is currently working on several grants for new projects. Recent publications include:


Mark V. Flinn reports that 2011-12 was a good year, with lots of travel for talks up north in Montreal, Hamilton, and St. Catherines (Canada), and out west in Tempe, Stillwater, & Albuquerque, a National Academy of Sciences symposium in Irvine, several plenary lectures and a research trip to Dominica with post-doc Davide Ponzi. So far duties as president-elect of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society have not been onerous. He is writing up results from long-term research funded by the National Science Foundation on child stress, and starting new projects on the hormonal mechanisms for grandparenting and for coalitionary relationships.

Recent publications include:


Lee Lyman devoted the past year to completing his NSF-funded three-year study of the mammal remains from a terminal Pleistocene archaeological site in eastern Washington state. Lyman continued to pursue his interests in applied or conservation paleoanthropology (see publications below). He currently is working on initiating an archaeological reconnaissance project in the mountains of southeastern Washington. Most archaeological research in the area has been management-driven, and thus has focused on areas where construction activities threaten cultural resources, particularly river channels that have been dammed. Highlands and mountains, where ethnographically American Indians spent at least half of the year, have never been systematically examined for archaeological remains. If the project gets off the ground, it will mean many miles on horseback and many nights in coniferous forests sleeping on the ground. Lyman can’t wait! Recent publications include:


Craig T. Palmer, over the past year, successfully completed fieldwork on the labor migration of Newfoundlanders to the oil fields of northern Alberta, and the start of a new research project on the portrayals of individuals who rescued Jews from the Holocaust. The research on migration culminated in the publication of a book, Kindness, Kinship, and Tradition in Newfoundland/Alberta Migration by the Institute of Social and Economic Research. Dr. Palmer has been invited to give a talk on this research during the fall of 2012 at the Conference on Evolution and Traditional Religions at the Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University, and two talks at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem during the spring and summer of 2013.

The past year has also seen the publication of journal articles and/or book chapters with several other past and present graduate students: Christina Pomianek, Ryan Begley, Ryan Ellsworth, and Chris Cassidy. In addition, Dr. Palmer had the pleasure of being a mentor to Bethany Henry who was a McNair Scholar in MU Anthropology. Publications that have appeared during the past twelve months include:


The MU Paleoethnobotany Lab hosted Anne-Marie Faucher of Université Laval, Québec, for the spring 2012 semester. Anne-Marie is participating in the project, “Human Eco-dynamics in Barbuda: New Approaches for Caribbean Archaeology”, funded by the Research Council of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities (Project PIs: A. Bain, D. M. Pearsall, M. Burn, L. Kennedy, and came to MU to receive training in phytolith and starch grain analysis.

Pearsall and undergraduate assistant D. Banks (MU Anthropology minor) spent time during summer 2012 working on curation of botanical collections and documents of completed projects at the Museum Support Center. Over 900 lbs of foreign soil from completed phytolith research projects was autoclaved and disposed of, and 38 boxes of records were inventoried.

Recent publications include:
—Stahl, P. W. and D. M. Pearsall. 2011. Late Pre-Columbian agroforestry in the tropical lowlands of western Ecuador. Quaternary International 249:43-52. (**former MU students)

Lisa’s collaboration with Svenn-Erik Mameland on the mortality experiences of Alaska and Labrador during the 1918 flu, has also been progressing nicely. Along with Jessica Dimka, a poster based on this project was presented at last year’s Human Biology Association meetings. A paper on this work is in press at Social Science History, and another paper has been submitted. Lisa has also started an interesting collaboration with Alan Swedlund (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) and Richard Meindl (Kent State University) to adapt an existing agent-based simulation model, Artificial Anasazi, that is designed to explore possible reasons for the collapse of Anasazi communities in the Long House Valley of Arizona. The model was developed at the household level; adaptations involve extending it to the individual level so that age-related effects of fertility and mortality can be modeled. A poster on this work will be presented in a session to honor George Armelagos at the AAA meetings next spring. Finally, Lisa continues to work on her data from the Columbia cemeteries and has written a manuscript (with help from Becca Shattuck) that will soon appear in an edited volume. Besides these research activities, in the coming year Lisa will be completing terms on the Executive Board of the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) and the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

Recent publications include:

Mary K. Shenk continues to work on her three-year NSF-funded project studying the causes of the demographic transition to low fertility in rural Bangladesh. Fieldwork for this project was conducted in 2010, since which time she and her collaborators have three articles from project research accepted for publication or in review. She also continues to conduct research on marriage in Bangalore, India.

This year Dr. Shenk received an award for an NSF-funded Research Team Short Seminar titled “The Evolutionary Demography of Fertility: the Influence of Social Networks” which was held June 19-20 at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This ten-person workshop led to plans for a new collaborative project and grant proposal to be submitted in spring 2013.
Dr. Shenk presented papers at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Montreal, Canada, and the Human Behavior and Evolution Society meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico; she also gave one of the talks for this year’s A Taste of Arts & Science at the University of Missouri. In spring 2013 Dr. Shenk was elected to a seat on the Executive Board of the Evolutionary Anthropology Society, a section of the American Anthropological Association, for a four-year term.

Two of Dr. Shenk’s students graduated this year. Christina N. Pomianek Dames earned her Ph.D. in summer 2012 with a dissertation entitled “Gender, Ethnicity, Infrastructure, and the Use of Financial Institutions in Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia” and Melissa A. Steffan earned here M.A. with a thesis entitled “Father Absence, Paternal Investment, and Alloparental Investment Effects on Children’s Educational Attainment in Rural Bangladesh.”

Recent publications include:

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Todd VanPool and Christine VanPool have, over the past year, been overseeing the analysis of materials excavated from 76 Draw, an Animas Phase site just south of Deming, New Mexico. Graduate and undergraduate students have been aiding with the analysis, which has given MU students an opportunity to conduct novel research and prepare publishable manuscripts. Three student-led papers are currently in press or under review at various venues. Elizabeth McCarthy is analyzing the faunal remains from the site for her MA thesis research. Results of her preliminary analysis are being published as part of the Conference Proceedings for the 17th Biennial Jornada Mogollon conference, which is in press with the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. McCarthy is also helping to edit the proceedings volume. Analysis and sourcing studies of obsidian flake stone artifacts completed by Christopher Oswald (MA student) and Jason Christy (MA student) are being published in the same venue. Timothy Lambert, a recent graduate from the University of Tulsa and a prospective MU graduate student completed a microscopic use-wear analysis of obsidian artifacts that is under review by the journal Lithic Analysis. In addition to these projects, Christine had an article published in American Antiquity on anistic ontologies and the cosmology of Southwestern Indians. Todd has collaborated with Michael O'Brien on research that is in press with Evolutionary Anthropology discussing the impact of the bow and arrow on the development of political complexity in the Southwest.

Rob Walker recently received a National Geographic Society grant to study population dynamics for indigenous societies across Brazil. Recent publications include:

The Museum of Anthropology staff would like to thank the students who volunteered during the Art-i-Fact Museum and Gallery Crawl on September 6th. We couldn’t have shattered the previous Crawl attendance record without your help! Thank you to Jon Reddy, Thomas Larsen, Richard Kennedy, John Picray, Lindsey Marschka, Katie Stoops, and Aubry Baker.

Alex W. Barker (Director of the Museum of Art and Archaeology, and whose tenure will reside in Anthropology), was elected Treasurer of the Society for American Archaeology, and continues to serve as President of the Council for Museum Anthropology.

—Matthew Boulanger (Ph.D. student) published articles in American Antiquity (on the grip-ability of corrugated ceramics), Journal of Archaeological Science (on an obsidian source in Afghanistan), and Archaeometry (on drill-bit contamination of pottery samples). Last year Matt received a research grant from Digital Antiquity to fund the digitization of the archaeometry archives of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He continues working as a Senior Research Specialist at the Archaeometry Laboratory at the University of Missouri Research Reactor, and occasionally finds time for his dissertation work on eastern U.S. Paleindian point morphology.

—Jayme Cisco completed her Ph.D. comprehensive exams in August and is now working on her dissertation proposal. Her dissertation research will examine breastfeeding practices among the Mennonites. She is expecting her first child, a boy, to be born this month.
Katie Starkweather (Ph.D. student) spent 2 months last fall in Bangladesh conducting a pilot study for her dissertation work among the nomadic, boat-dwelling Shodagor of rural Bangladesh. In November 2011, she presented her paper “A Preliminary Study of Non-Classical Polyandry” at the AAA Meetings in Montreal, QC, which was awarded the Evolutionary Anthropology Society’s Best Student Paper. The same paper was published in the Summer 2012 issue of Human Nature. Katie spent 2 months this summer attending language school in Madison, Wisconsin, learning Bengali. She is currently in her last semester of coursework, applying for dissertation funding, and serving as Student Representative for the Evolutionary Anthropology Society.

Glenn D. Paige

Peter M. Gardner presented the paper “Understanding Anomalous Distribution of Hunter-gatherers” at the Society for Anthropological Sciences, Charleston, SC, in February 2011. He recently organized a session on “Dravidian Hunter-gatherers” for the Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies 10, to be held in England, June 2013 (12 session participants from England, Germany, India, Israel, Russia, Sweden, and USA).

Recent publications include:


Ralph M. Rowlett’s trip to Romania for archaeological research on the Iron Age Daco-Thraici in northeast Romania had to be postponed until December 2012 because of political revolution in Romania, which Hillary Clinton tried to suppress, much to the annoyance of most Romanians. In the meantime Dr. Rowlett continues research on the importation of rambunctious vervet monkeys from central Africa to Toxis Egypt and the Aegean islands during the Bronze Age. The vervet monkeys influenced the development of the alphabet and lurk behind our letter “M”, along with some cats from Egypt. He is also continuing writing and drawing a graphic novel about the disappearance of the “Peking Man” fossils after Dec. 7, 1941.

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**DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

The Department has adopted the goal of increasing the departmental support of graduate student research. Ever since about 1990, support of Anthropology graduate students has been woefully inadequate. Some seek extramural research grants, and a number of those applications have been funded. But many have not, and sometimes a small amount of money is all that a student requires.

The Clyde Wilson Fund for Excellence in Cultural Anthropology is not yet fully funded to the $25,000 necessary to generate funds we can distribute to deserving students. Please consider making a donation. The value to our students of a small grant to help them with their research far exceeds the dollar amount. We have, for example, been able to fund the research of 12 graduate students over the past five years with awards from the W. Raymond Wood Fund for Excellence in Archaeology. All of those awards have been less than $1000.

The Dorothy (Dot) Gelvin Fund for Physical and Biological Anthropology is nearly finalized and formal. Bruce Gelvin, Lee Lyman, and Mike O’Brien signed papers making the fund official early in Fall 2010. Please consider donating to this fund, aimed at supporting the research done by students specializing in physical and biological anthropology.

Contributions can be made to any or all of the funds identified above. Please make checks payable to the University of Missouri, and indicate which fund you would like your contribution to be added to. Mail contributions to: Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri, 107 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Mo., 65211. Your assistance, no matter its magnitude, is greatly appreciated by everyone affiliated with the Anthropology Department.

The James A. and Margaret S. Gavan Lectures in Anthropology recognizes outstanding contributions to all four subfields. Every other year or so, the Department invites an internationally known speaker in one of the four subfields to deliver a lecture.

For additional details on development, contact the main office (573-882-4731), or email the Chair: lymanr@missouri.edu.

The University of Missouri, Department of Anthropology, maintains a web site at (http://anthropology.missouri.edu). If you would like to put your information on our site or make suggestions, contact Cynthia Irsik at irsikc@missouri.edu. Please visit our web site, or, better yet, visit the Anthropology Department. The Anthropology Museum is open during most regular business hours. We would love to see you! If you can’t make the trip, then email us with news.