Study Abroad—Anthropological Field School in Belize

A new study abroad anthropological field school program focused on Maya Culture History will begin the summer of 2013. The program will be led by Dr. Gabriel Wrobel, a bioarchaeologist and a recent addition to the MSU Anthropology faculty. Students will actively participate in an established research program – the Caves Branch Archaeological Survey (CBAS) project. The program is open to both undergraduates and graduate students, provides participants with intensive, hands-on exposure to a variety of archaeological and bioarchaeological field methods. The CBAS project is located in the beautiful river valleys of central Belize. It will focus on a variety of sites, including ritual caves, civic-ceremonial centers, and rural settlement zones. During the five-week program, students will work closely with project directors and other staff members in small groups, and will rotate through and be directly involved in all aspects of the field research. Participation in the CBAS project will include instruction focused on the following learning outcomes:

Continued on Page 6

Dept Alums—Please Send Us Your Business Card!

We would like to use your business card to show prospective students the array of opportunities that a degree in anthropology can lead to. Please send to the attention of Sylvia Deskaj at MSU Department of Anthropology, Baker Hall, Rm 355, 655 Auditorium Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Contact the Editors

Dr. Jodie O’Gorman, Chair (ogorman@msu.edu)  Sylvia Deskaj, Ph.D. Candidate (deskajsy@msu.edu)
2012 Midwest Archaeological Conference

Our department hosted the **2012 Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference** (MAC), which ran from October 18th-21st, 2012. This year’s conference was co-organized by **Drs. Lynne Goldstein, William A. Lovis, Jodie O’Gorman**, and **Ethan Watrall**. The MAC is a regional organization with about 500 members from across the midcontinental U.S. and publishes **Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology**, a well-respected, peer-reviewed journal. Archaeologists from all levels of academia attend the MAC annual conference, thus fostering a connection between faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students; roughly 40% of the 340 people registered for this year’s conference were students! The event’s banquet featured **Dr. Judy Bense**, President of the University of West Florida, who delivered a lecture on “The Surprisingly Close French-Spanish Relationship Throughout the Colonial South.” A total of 122 paper presentations were given and 46 posters were presented – making this year’s MAC conference a huge success!

For additional highlights from the MAC, please go to page 10.

Please Consider Donating to the Department of Anthropology

Please consider donating to our department’s fund. Your kind donations will be used to help graduate students and faculty carry out their research and will also help students attend conferences where they can present their findings! To donate now, please click [here](#).

Note From the Chair—Dr. Jodie O’Gorman

Exciting developments are afoot in the Department of Anthropology! The search is on for a new physical anthropologist specializing in forensic anthropology; we hope to conduct on-campus interviews early in Spring Semester. In January we welcomed **Dr. Gabriel Wrobel** to the faculty (see cover story) and his new bioarchaeology lab in Giltner Hall should be completely remodeled this spring. We are in the final stages of curriculum revisions and look forward to changes that will allow us to regularly offer a local socio-cultural field school experience, new College of Social Science specializations, and upper level Museum Anthropology, among other changes.

I also want to take this opportunity to ask for the help of our alumni. Although we know that many of our alumni achieve successful and fulfilling careers, it is often difficult to portray this within the confines of institutional metrics. Anthropologists do not necessarily follow well-worn paths of academic or professional tracks that result instantly in high-salary positions. We need to tell the stories of our alums in more contextualized ways that better reflect the multiple realities of anthropological training. Whether you have become a professional anthropologist or have applied your anthropological training to another career, we want to hear your story. In the near future, alumni from five to ten years ago will be receiving an email invitation with instructions about how they can contribute their profile information to the new department website. We will then target earlier and later classes. **Share your story** and inspire new generations.

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Please consider donating to our department’s fund. Your kind donations will be used to help graduate students and faculty carry out their research and will also help students attend conferences where they can present their findings! To donate now, please click [here](#).
Grants, Scholarships, & Awards

Meskerem Glegziabher, graduate student, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad. Her research project is entitled "India Rising: Understanding Development, Gender and Urban Poverty Alleviation in Delhi’s Jhuggi Jhopris." She will conduct ethnographic and archival research in Delhi, India and will examine contemporary development and women's empowerment initiatives that target Delhi's slums by government agencies and NGOs. She will examine how understandings and applications of broader notions of gender, identity, and belonging bear upon the structure of these development initiatives and how such understandings rest upon and engender differential conceptions of citizenship in Delhi and impact ultimate access to public space and basic resources.

Rowenn Kalman, Ph.D. Candidate, was awarded a Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her research entitled “Cultivating ‘Conciencia’ for Conservation: Decentralized Governance and Gendered and Indigenous Environmental Subjects in Ancash, Peru.” Rowenn recently completed 18 months of research in Andean Peru focusing on how environmentalist NGOs and the vigilance committees they train encourage what they call "conciencia" (environmental consciousness) among individuals in rural villages, state, and mining organizations. Her research examines the tensions among their different motivations for conservation, and explains how and why different understandings of conciencia have traction in different contexts. Rowenn’s dissertation also demonstrates ethnographically how gendered and indigenous identities are categories-in-process that are reworked along with the roles, capacities, and knowledge people have in relation to their environments and each other.

Jessica McLeod, graduate student, was awarded a Dr. Iwao Ishino Memorial Fellowship. In conjunction with a Research Enhancement Award from the MSU Graduate School, Jessica was able to conduct pre-dissertation research in Japan this past summer. While there, Jessica collected interviews, attended community events, and identified potential sites for her dissertation. For more information about the Dr. Iwao Ishino Memorial Fellowship and ways that you can help, please contact the Department of Anthropology.

To read about the late Dr. Iwao Ishino, please go to page 9.

Amy Michael, Ph.D. Candidate, was awarded several grants to support her dissertation research entitled “Investigating Social Experience and Status of Non-Elites Interred in Ancient Maya Caves and Rockshelter Sites: An Interpretation of Health Using Dental Microscopy.” Amy’s research focuses on the use of dental histology to answer questions about the health experiences of individuals interred in both caves and rockshelters. Her research is funded by the following entities: Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Dissertation Research Fellowship; Caves Research Foundation; Tinker Field Research Grant for Dissertation Research (awarded by the Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at MSU; and the Kenneth E. and Marie J. Corey Research Enhancement Award. To read more about Amy, please go to page 8!

Emily Riley, graduate student, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad. Emily’s research, entitled "The Fight Against Wastefulness: Legal and Political Engagement in Senegal," will investigate the legal and political efforts for social change in Senegal. Her research specifically examines the history and current impacts of the law of 1967 that reprimands excessive spending for family ceremonies and subsequent campaigns to revive it. Emily will examine the state, religious, and non-governmental intersections regarding the law, and will then analyze them in relation to broader questions of economic development, gender relations, social change, fiscal policy, and state-citizen relations.

Kimberly Rovin, graduate student, was awarded a Fulbright IIE for her dissertation research entitled “The Conflicting Nature of Nurturing: Motherhood and HIV in Malawi.” Her research will explore shared models of good motherhood in Malawi and how HIV-positive women have modified their practices and ideas about good motherhood in response to the experience of having HIV.

Your generous donations to our department will help contribute to graduate student research.

To donate now, please click here.
Dr. Mindy Morgan has returned from fulfilling her duties as a Fulbright Scholar. Morgan was appointed in the Department of English for a period of four months at the University of Zadar – in Zadar, Croatia – where she taught two sections of a sociolinguistics seminar to advanced undergraduate students and, along with a Croatian colleague, co-taught a graduate seminar in multilingualism and multiculturalism. Since the awarded Fulbright was intended to teach American Studies to local students with an emphasis on ethnic studies, Morgan adapted a standard sociolinguistic course to include examples from Indigenous North American languages, the focus of her research. Even though Morgan’s research area is not centered in Croatia, she was able to see how ideas that she has dealt within the United States such as multilingualism and linguistic purity are at work within the Balkans. During her time abroad, Morgan and her family lived in Arbana-si, an old neighborhood in Zadar known for its Albanian-Croatian inhabitants who, up until the 1970s, spoke a form of the Albanian language that stemmed from a wave of 16th century Albanian immigrants. When asked about her overall experience in Croatia, Morgan said that she learned more than she taught and it felt great to be a student again, particularly in a place that she knew precious little about. Morgan is very grateful that Fulbright allowed her to bring her family along for the trip including her two young daughters (ages six and two). When she wasn’t teaching or exploring Zadar, Morgan and her family were able to visit several places throughout the region, including: Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Split, Opatija, Delnice, Ljubljana (Slovenia), and Mostar (Bosnia).

Terry Brock Launches New Digital Project

Although most people think of 17th century archaeology when they think of St. Mary’s City, its space contains many more stories from later eras. One is the 19th century story of slavery and freedom at a large slave plantation. This story is being told on a digital exhibit and blog, All of Us Will Walk Together, published by Terry Peterkin Brock, Ph.D. Candidate. Support for the project has been generously provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Ford Foundation, and the SRI Foundation.

Visit All of Us Will Walk Together to see the findings of Brock’s research and learn about how researchers use archaeology, history, and preservation to discover the African American past. The website and blog are designed for audience participation: please comment and ask questions on the site, and learn how you can participate by sharing your stories, see if you are a descendant of those who lived on the plantation, or help to preserve the duplex quarter. Follow the project on Twitter at @WalkTogether
**FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: Dr. William A. Lovis**

Dr. Lovis never started out to be an archaeologist - that was the kind of thing people in adventure novels engaged in - not the offspring of immigrants hailing from Madagascar and Greece, with Egyptian uncles who wore sandals, spoke Arabic, and danced the sifateli. His Corona, New York neighborhood, though, was a fertile spawning ground for his anthropological interests, rich with Puerto Rican barrios, Greek and Italian neighborhoods, and store signs in letters he couldn’t read, exposing him to multicultural diversity before it was vogue. Restaurant work introduced him to Asian and African American coworkers, teaching in a Cuban majority intermediate school (eating platanos daily at the corner bodega), and other urban experiences enriched the anthropology classes he took at NYU while on an athletic scholarship, even though he envisioned a career as a high school history teacher. By college graduation he spoke Spanish better than the rural street Greek of his family. And, through a serendipitous opportunity to do archaeological fieldwork in northern Michigan, he had decided to attend graduate school (after figuring out what that was) and become an archaeologist – for which he thanks Moreau Maxwell.

Dr. Lovis completed his PhD at MSU in 1973, and was hired on to the anthropology faculty with a dual appointment as an MSU Museum curator, where he now has primary responsibility for maintaining ethnographic and archaeological collections and also overseeing federal NAGPRA compliance. Four decades on, 21 students have completed advanced degrees with Dr. Lovis and are working in academia, government, and private enterprise. He is currently a major advisor for another half dozen. Lovis’ multifaceted research involves several collaborative research teams, which satisfies his eclectic tastes and keeps him from being bored. His interests include applied methods (particularly quantitative), experimental archaeology, hunter-gatherer archaeology and ethnography, and the changing natural environments of past societies (eschewing neo-Stewardian approaches), and he applies them to the Great Lakes and northern Europe; primarily to the time period between the last glacial and the transition to agriculture, i.e. the Archaic and Mesolithic periods. He also regularly engages in forensic archaeology.

Most recently Lovis, with colleagues Al Arbogast (MSU Geography) and Bill Monaghan (Indiana U), and funded by an ISTEA grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, completed *The Geoarchaeology of Lake Michigan Coastal Dunes* (2012 MDOT/MSU Press) reporting on multiyear fieldwork into the taphonomy and preservation of coastal Lake Michigan archaeological sites. This follows on the heels of a well-received book edited with Bob Whallon (U Michigan) and Bob Hitchcock (MSU Geography) on *Information and its Role in Hunter-Gatherer Bands* (2011 Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA). Lovis is currently engaged in research into the freshwater reservoir effect on AMS dates with John Hart (NY State Museum), a volume on his English Mesolithic research with Randy Donahue (U Bradford), and anticipates the release of an edited *Michigan Archaeologist* issue with Jan Brasher (Grand Valley State U) in memory of colleague Peg Holman (MSU Ph.D. 1978).

Professor Lovis remains active in fieldwork and in professional societies, chairs the Society for American Archaeology Committee on Excellence in Archaeological Analysis, and is the recent recipient of the Midwest Archaeological Conference Distinguished Career Award.
Undergraduate Student Highlight—Rebecca Richart

Last May, Rebecca graduated from MSU with bachelor degrees in anthropology and history, an additional major in Spanish, and a specialization in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. After graduation, Rebecca sought a position that would allow her to utilize the skills that she had acquired as an undergraduate here at MSU. Specifically, she sought to continue working with Hispanic immigrants. This quest led Rebecca to her current position at the Backside Learning Center of the AmeriCorps VISTA. Rebecca has been serving at the BLC for about four months now, and truly enjoys working with the equine community at Churchill Downs, where she is involved with the group’s larger effort to provide education, life skills development, and community building activities to people who work closely with the horses. Since Hispanic immigrants make up about 80 percent of the workforce at Churchill Downs, Rebecca uses her Spanish skills to begin to understand the intricacies of immigrant labor in the horse industry — a topic that Rebecca wishes to research in graduate school.

Anthropological Field School—continued from page 1

* Maya history: learn Maya history and the more specific local history of central Belize through readings, a series of lectures by the CBAS staff and guest-speakers, and tours of several archaeological sites and modern Maya villages.

* Bioarchaeology: learn bioarchaeological excavation, mapping, and analysis techniques within a large mortuary cave.

* Speleology: learn to map caves and distributions of artifacts scattered on the floor of a large cave used for ritual by the Classic Period Maya.

* Settlement Survey: excavate and map ceremonial and residential structures within and surrounding the Late Classic site of Tipan Chen Uitz. The relationship between past and present land use practices will be emphasized.

* Lab methods: learn methods used to process, organize, and analyze data in the form of ceramics, lithics, human and animal remains.

For further details about the program, visit the Study Abroad website or contact Dr. Wrobel directly by email: wrobelg@msu.edu

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS—Dr. Kashyap (2007 alumnus)

The work of Dr. Arunima Kashyap, a department alumnus from 2007, was recently featured in a news brief in Science. Arunima and her colleagues collected and tested residue from both human teeth and a cooking pot from the ancient town of Farmana, west of Delhi. The starch grains they recovered and analyzed provide the earliest known examples of cooked ginger and turmeric in the Indus.

Are you a Department of Anthropology alumnus? Would you like to be featured in our newsletter? Please send us your story! Contact Sylvia at deskajsy@msu.edu.
Michigan State University hosted an international graduate student research conference on migration this past October, showcasing papers on the theme, “Migration Without Boundaries.” This conference, which was co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, aimed to facilitate and foster an interdisciplinary, trans-institutional cohort of scholars interested in issues of migration and mobility. Several of our graduate students and faculty participated in this conference, including: Dr. Rosina Hassoun, Dr. Mara Leichtman, Dr. Andrea Louie, Dr. Chantal Tetreault, Linda Gordon, April Greenwood, Lynnette King, Jessica McLeod, and Ryan Maureen Tubbs.

Graduate student Katy Meyers is now the Associate Editor for the Bioarchaeology section of the Society for Archaeological Sciences, which is an online quarterly bulletin that includes information about upcoming conferences and current news in bioarchaeology.

Last summer, construction crews working by East Circle Drive came across something “interesting.” Once Campus Archaeology arrived onto the scene, they discovered – and later excavated – the old boiler building that was associated with Morrill Hall. Excavation was overseen by Dr. Lynne Goldstein (Director, Campus Archaeology) and was led by Katy Meyers (Campus Archaeologist). Former CAP intern and recent graduate Eve Avdoulos also assisted. The discovery of this building, which was erected in 1900 and torn down in 1904, provides us with a glimpse into an era in which MSU’s campus underwent massive growth and expansion. Site analyses are forthcoming.

Dr. Heather Howard was the keynote speaker at the “Connecting Communities: Developing Community Based Participatory Projects with Tribal Communities in Michigan” conference on November 2, 2012 here at MSU.

Dr. William Lovis presented the opening dinner presentation at the “Teaching Climate Change: Insight from Large Lakes” workshop in advance of the biennial meeting of the American Quaternary Association in Duluth, MN, on June 19, 2012. This was part of a series entitled "On the Cutting Edge – Professional Development for Geoscience Faculty". Lovis’ talk, co-authored with A. F. Arbogast from MSU Department of Geography, and G. W. Monaghan from the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, was titled "The Coastal Archaeology and Dune Geoarchaeology of Lake Michigan" and was based on their latest book "The Geoarchaeology of Lake Michigan Coastal Dunes" and associated American Antiquity article that appeared in July. This talk emphasized, among other topics, the role of climate change in the expansion of food crops. The audience for this event included earth science faculty and postdoctoral fellows from a variety of two and four year colleges and universities. The workshop was funded by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), National Science Foundation (NSF), American Quaternary Association (AMQUA), International Quaternary Association (INQUA), and was coordinated by the Science Education Resource Center (SERC) at Carleton College. The meetings were hosted by the Large Lakes Observatory and the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Mara Leichtman collaborated with Dr. Dorothea Schulz (Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Cologne, Germany) to co-edit a special issue of City and Society, the AAA journal of the Society for Urban, National and Transnational Anthropology. Muslim Cosmopolitanism: Movement, Identity, and Contemporary Reconfigurations (Volume 24, Number 1) was released this summer. This project grew out of a 2009 AAA annual meeting invited double session, sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion.

Ryan Maureen Tubbs (PhD Candidate) won the 2011-2012 “Outstanding Faculty Green Apple Award” for her teaching excellence by the first-year medical students of the College of Human Medicine.

Dr. Lynne Goldstein and Terry Brock (Ph.D. Candidate) received an honorable mention in the Blended Course category of the 2012 AT&T Faculty – Staff Award Competition in Instructional Technology at MSU. This competition serves to recognize and encourage best practices in the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Goldstein and Brock’s project, “Engaging the Public with Archaeology,” was based on two Campus Archaeology Program summer field school programs – ANP 464. Students were expected to contribute to the CAP blog developed by Goldstein and Brock, thus allowing the field school to serve as a tool for engaging the broad community who were interested in the results of the excavation.
GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHT—Amy Michael

Amy Michael is a Ph.D. Candidate that works in mortuary caves contexts and rockshelters in Central Belize. As a member of the Caves Branch Archaeological Survey crew directed by Dr. Gabriel Wrobel, Amy has participated in the excavation of ancient Maya burial sites with the intention of using biological data to answer larger questions about social complexity and change in the Late and Terminal Classic. Primarily interested in bone and dental microstructure, Amy incorporates technical microscopic methods to answer broader anthropological inquiries about both rural and urban populations. With a focus on the childhood health of commoner groups, Amy is accessing information that has been largely understudied in Mesoamerican bioarchaeology. Blending modern microscopic technologies, cave ethnohistory, and Maya mortuary archaeology, Amy looks forward to trying to tie these multiple lines of evidence together in her dissertation.

This semester she is helping to organize the new Maya Bioarchaeology Laboratory here at MSU, as well as make headway on several bone histology projects focusing on age at death estimations for poorly preserved burials. In addition to a chapter published in the 2012 book, “A Companion to Forensic Anthropology” (2012 Wiley-Blackwell), Amy is preparing a journal article detailing the mortuary patterns at a rockshelter she helped excavate in 2010-2011. Next summer she will head back to Belize with CBAS to investigate burials in a highly disturbed cave. As a Campus Archaeology Program Fellow, Amy has also worked on a sustainability project for the past three semesters and expects to publish a paper with Drs. Lynne Goldstein and Jennifer Bengtson detailing the sustainability of the historic campus.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - Recent PhD Graduates

Dr. Duane Quates (2012) is a Federal Archaeologist for the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Drum, NY. Quates is part of a team of archaeologists that is responsible for ensuring that the garrison at Fort Drum is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as other federal preservation laws. Quates is also involved with creating initiatives surrounding the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Quates recently helped establish the Military Archaeological Resources Stewardship (MARS) interest group with the Society for American Archaeology at the 2012 annual meeting in Memphis, TN. The MARS group seeks to bring together members of the SAA who have interests in the archaeology of military lands and to provide these members with an environment to meet and discuss initiatives to identify and protect cultural and historic resources during military operations.

Dr. Nicholas V. Passalacqua (2012) is a forensic anthropologist for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Central Identification Laboratory (JPAC CIL). He recently returned from Vanuatu – his first mission in which he and his colleagues were deployed in an effort to search for and recover the human remains of four unaccounted for Americans from WWII.

Dr. Jennifer Bengtson (2012) is an Instructor in the Department of Global Cultures and Languages at Southeast Missouri State University where she teaches Archaeology and Physical Anthropology courses. This summer she will begin work on a long term field and laboratory research project on the Hunze-Evans Site, a Mississippian village near Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
In Memoriam—Dr. Iwao Ishino

Iwao Ishino, 90 (born in San Diego, 1921), passed away February 29. He was an emeritus professor both in our department and in international studies here at MSU. He earned his PhD at Harvard in 1954. His dissertation, *The Oyabun-Kobun Institution: An Introductory Analysis of a Ritual Kinship System in Japan*, was the first dissertation on Japan in anthropology that was written by a Japanese-American. In 1963 John Bennett and Iwao Ishino co-authored *Paternalism in the Japanese Economy: Anthropological Studies of Oyanbon-Kobun Patterns*.

Ishino’s road to anthropology began during WWII when social scientists, including anthropologists, were doing cultural research in support of the war effort. While he was interned in the Poston, Arizona Relocation Center (1942–43), he conducted opinion surveys used by Alexander H Leighton in *The Governing of Men* (published in 1945). Subsequently, while working in the Office of War Information (1944–45), he met Ruth Benedict who was writing *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. Benedict furthered his interest in anthropology.

Between 1949 and 1951 Iwao Ishino was a social science analyst during the occupation of Japan. Along with others, he had a major influence on cultural anthropology in Japan because the studies conducted during the World War II occupation introduced anthropological concepts and methodologies that were current in American anthropology (see Katsumi 2007, “*Shared Abodes, Disparate Visions: Japanese Anthropology during the Allied Occupation.*” Social Science Japan Journal 10 [2]: 175–96).

He joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of Ohio State University in 1952 and moved to Michigan State University in 1956, retiring from the anthropology department in 1991. His influence was widespread. He was a noted scholar of cultural patterns of immigrants into industrial societies and of contemporary development in East Asian Societies. In 1958–59 he was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to teach at the University of Tokyo. In 1964–65 he was the project leader in the development of the University of the Ryukus. Ishino was chair of the MSU anthropology department between 1969 and 1973. He served as director of the Anthropology Program of the National Science Foundation between 1973 and 1975. His period at NSF was highlighted by the beginning of the Afar research in Ethiopia and the discovery of “Lucy.” Between 1975–81 he was assistant dean of International Studies and Programs at MSU and director of the Institute of Comparative and Area Studies. In addition, Ishino spent four months as a visiting scholar at the Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan.

In retirement, he continued to give lectures and helped produce a documentary video program with Michigan Government Television (MGTV) to teach secondary school students about the Japanese internment camp experience (“Beyond the Camps”). He was also a consultant on the “Work Practices Diffusion Team” in the MSU School of Labor and Industrial Relations. In 1999 Knowledge-Driven Work was published by this team; a title that could also apply to the career of Professor Iwao Ishino. He is greatly missed by his wonderful family, many friends, students and colleagues. (*Dr. Lawrence H Robbins*—Published in the November 2012 issue of Anthropology News)

To donate to the Dr. Iwao Ishino Memorial Fellowship, please contact the Department of Anthropology
Midwest Archaeological Conference—highlights

Professor Emeritus Dr. Charles E. Cleland (at left) received the 2012 Midwest Archaeological Conference Distinguished Career Award from outgoing President George Milner at the Annual Business Meeting. The recipient of this award last year was Dr. Lovis!

Andy Upton (pictured above, third from left) was awarded 2nd place in the Annual Student Paper Competition for his paper entitled: “Preliminary Testing of the Efficacy of Shell Tempering as a Proto-Hominy Processor.” Dr. Rob Cook, department alumnus, is pictured in the far left.

OUTREACH

This summer, graduate student Adam Haviland worked at Fenner Nature Center in Lansing, Michigan throughout the course of a two-week nature academy for students, grades three through six. The focus of the academy was to create a multidisciplinary approach to learning about the environment that integrates math, science and history while building critical thinking skills. Part of the time was spent learning about Native American life ways in addition to the early history of Lansing, Michigan. Activities included building an underground storage pit and storing different foods for two weeks—which they later cooked and ate. The students also investigated a turn-of-the-century stone foundation and discovered artifacts that taught them about how people lived in the 1900s.

Department Says Farewell to Nancy Smith

Nancy Smith served as our department’s Graduate Secretary from January 2001 until August 2012 and has been a university employee for a total of 25 years! “I have really enjoyed getting to know the graduate students—it got to the point where I felt that I had 98+ members of my family.” The Department of Anthropology wishes Nancy all the best as she embarks on her new journey in the Athletics Department. We’ll miss her!
Forensic Anthropology Outreach at MSU

This year has been the busiest year on record for the MSU Forensic Anthropology Laboratory (MSU-FAL). MSU-FAL is a consulting, research, and training laboratory that focuses on human identification and the analysis of skeletal trauma. In 2012, Drs. Todd Fen- ton and Norm Sauer, along with their graduate students, have consulted on over 80 medico-legal cases from medical examiner offices and law enforcement agencies from across the state of Michigan. The 2012 consultations are as follows: 31 positive identifications, 12 trauma analyses, 13 skeletal analyses, 4 search and recoveries, and 24 human vs. nonhuman analyses. In the positive identification of unidentified human remains, the MSU-FAL employs comparative medical and dental radiography to match antemortem radiographs to postmortem films. Trauma analyses are typically homicide cases and involve differentiating between different forms of trauma, such as blunt force, sharp force, and gunshot wounds. Search and recovery cases encompass surface scattered remains and buried bodies. In such cases, systematic pedestrian searches as well as archaeological field recovery methods can be employed. This high volume of forensic anthropology cases represents one of the strengths of the physical anthropology program at MSU, as it provides unparalleled opportunities to train graduate students in the practice of forensic anthropology.

Michigan’s First Farmers—Latest Exhibit at MSU Museum

Drs. William Lovis and Maria Raviele (alumnus) co-curated an exhibit at the MSU Museum, which ran from September 23rd – November 30th, 2012. “Michigan’s First Farmers” presented key new findings on 4,000 years of indigenous agriculture. “Learning more about this part of our past gives important insights into the different paths that societies around the world took toward food production and illustrates the contributions these societies made in the eventual establishment of large-scale production practices,” Lovis notes. In reference to the multidisciplinary nature of their work, Dr. Raviele notes: “Scientists from different fields collaborate to develop new and better ways to identify and observe information, gather it, and analyze it, often producing the most useful results.” Support for this exhibit was provided by the American Indian Studies Program, the Conference on Michigan Archaeology, and the MSU Museum Endowment.
“The Geoarchaeology of Lake Michigan Coastal Dunes,” the recently released book coauthored by Drs. William Lovis, Alan Arbogast (MSU Geography), and G. William Monaghan (Indiana U.), is the culmination of almost seven years of research and writing.

Published in the Michigan Department of Transportation Environmental Series, edited by MSU alumnus James Robertson, and produced by MSU Press, the volume explores the taphonomy and differential temporal and spatial preservation of archaeological sites in the Lake Michigan coastal dunes.

The research employed by Lovis et al. presents innovative approaches to paleoenvironmental reconstruction focusing on the relationship between changing climate and the activation of coastal sand supply. With funding from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA), through the Michigan Department of Transportation, the research reported in this book has significant policy implications for land managers responsible for the protection of Michigan’s archaeological and heritage resources on public lands at the federal, state, and local levels. The research complements prior work carried out by Lovis and colleagues on site preservation on the alluvial floodplains of southern Michigan.

Give to the Department of Anthropology

Your gifts to the Department of Anthropology at Michigan State University empower us to better fulfill our mission of publishing and providing excellent instruction and research opportunities to our students. Thank you very much for your support!

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