

Dr. Fujita supervises Sabrina Perlman prepping an assay

The Biomarker Laboratory for Anthropological Research

In 2011 Dr. Masako Fujita founded the Biomarker Laboratory for Anthropological Research, where she and her students could conduct cutting edge anthropology research using biomarkers: measurable biochemical substances in bodies that can indicate various aspects of health. Recent grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the National Science Foundation are funding two separate projects that together will address how variations in the beneficial contents of human milk, like antibodies and vitamins, relate to maternal health and the sex of the infant. There are substantial disparities in child mortality related to household income and sex of the infant, particularly in places in the world where gender discrimination and malnutrition are common. One contributing factor may be the level of protection that

children receive from their mothers' milk. One of the components now being measured in the lab is milk sIgA, an antibody that helps with immune protection for infants.

The study uses archived samples from rural communities in Kenya where the overwhelming majority of the mothers breastfeed their infants long-term. Dr. Fujita collected the samples as a doctoral student while investigating the link between the vitamin A levels of mothers and that of their breast milk. Vitamin A deficiency is one of the leading global health problems. It can cause night blindness and other serious complications such as compromised immune protection against infectious

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Message from the Chair: Dr. Jodie O’Gorman



Welcome to the Spring 2017 newsletter! As usual, there is a lot going on at this time of the year. I am happy to announce that we have hired Dr. Fredy Rodriguez as our new teaching professor. He will

be an important link to new undergraduate majors, mentor teaching assistants, and bring a strong interest in cutting-edge pedagogies to our faculty. While serving as the interim undergraduate advisor this past year, Dr. Rodriguez initiated an Anthropology Showcase that will highlight work that undergraduates have produced in different anthropology classes and lab experiences. We will host our first showcase this coming fall, open to the public. This will be a great way to celebrate our students’ accomplishments and highlight Anthropology.

In the last newsletter I indicated we were in the early stages of searching for a new archaeologist. We

had many excellent applicants and we are now in the final stages of the hiring process – stay tuned! Also on the archaeology front, I am very pleased to announce establishment of The Alumni and Friends Expendable Fund for Archaeology (page 4).

The department has always enjoyed a strong linkage with the MSU Museum, and we are looking forward to a new phase of that relationship. We welcome the new MSU Museum Director, Dr. Mark Auslander, to the department. Dr. Auslander joins the faculty this July as an Associate Professor in Anthropology and History. He is the author of “The Accidental Slaveowner: Revisiting a Myth of Race and Finding an American Family,” for which he received two national academic awards. His research intersects with many of our faculty and students across the sub-disciplines and we look forward to working with him.

Finally, I want to thank Rowenn Kalman for all the great work she has done on the newsletter and in other aspects of her job as the department assistant. Nicole Raslich, a graduate student in archaeology, is taking up the job and has contributed to this newsletter. You’ll be hearing from Nicole on Facebook and other social media as we move forward. Be sure to check us out.

CAP Recognized by Governor

Editors & Contact



Above: MSU Department of Anthropology, Office of the President, and Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities receive 2017 Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation for the MSU Campus Archaeology Program (Photo courtesy of Michigan State Housing Development Authority).

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Success stories in anthropology come via many different paths. However anthropology informs your career, whether you are a practicing anthropologist inside or outside the academy, we want to hear from you. Email: anpdept@msu.edu

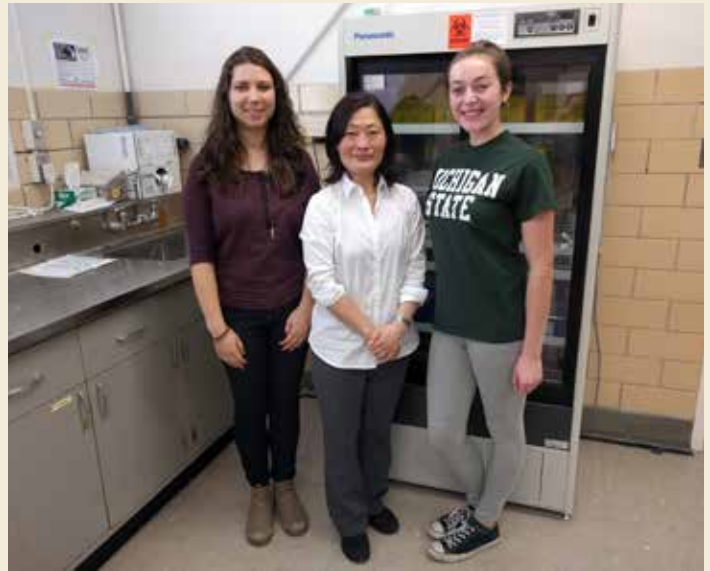
The Biomarker Lab (continued)

diseases. At the time of her dissertation research, the World Health Organization was recommending that all postpartum mothers be given a single high dose vitamin A supplement in the hopes of increasing infant vitamin A intake through breast milk and reducing child mortality. Dr. Fujita's research, along with other studies, helped clarify that the vitamin A levels of breast milk depleted rapidly despite the supplementation, so the intervention was not significantly increasing vitamin A levels or reducing mortality in infants. The WHO has subsequently abandoned this recommendation based on the accumulating evidence that this pharmaceutical approach was not effective or sustainable.

Dr. Fujita wanted to investigate how other milk components might further shed new light on maternal and infant health. In rural Kenya, mothers are living in difficult conditions. Droughts, famine and infections are common, straining women's ability to maintain adequate nutrition. Her overarching research interest focuses on how women "make do" nutritionally under these harsh conditions. Mothers have to manage their own and their children's nutrition through behaviors, diet, and food allocation, but their bodies also "manage" nutrients through lactation. She hopes to better understand the conditions that affect the transfer of biological resources, like antibodies and micronutrients, from mothers to infants through breastmilk.

The Biomarker Lab currently employs two graduate (Nerli Paredes and Sabrina Perlman) and four undergraduate students. With blood and milk samples from 220 individuals to assess for six different biomarkers (sIgA, protein, lactose, and folate binding protein in milk, and folate and prolactin in blood), there are over a thousand specimens to be processed for assays in the current projects. Students learn to make serum from milk, prep the assays, run the centrifuge, manage data, label samples, and keep the lab organized.

This training opens new possibilities for the students. Savannah Sass is one undergraduate with an interest in forensic science. She's considering a career as a medical examiner and is now getting first-hand lab experience and invaluable mentoring from Dr. Fujita. Grad student Nerli Paredes plans to conduct



Sabrina Perlman, Dr. Masako Fujita, and Savannah Sass (left to right, above). Other students currently working on the projects are grad student Nerli Paredes and undergraduates Mary Corbit, Sabrina Shingleton, and Izzy Yabes. Former students who helped with the development of the projects include Janine Baranski and Allison Apland.

research on breast milk herself, and is designing a pilot study to assess milk iron levels from which she will build her dissertation project (see her article on page 6).

Sabrina Perlman, another grad student, just returned from her own dissertation fieldwork studying self-management of diabetes in Ghana. Sabrina investigated how gender and poverty affects diabetes self-management. While poverty and gender roles are known to impact health outcomes, these two have not been examined together in the context of diabetes. While her research primarily applied sociocultural methodology (she conducted interviews and participant observation with patients, doctors, and nurses), her co-chair Dr. Fujita encouraged her to incorporate a biocultural approach. Sabrina collected fasting blood sugar, blood pressure, height and weight data on 60 patients at a hospital diabetes clinic, and will be working with Dr. Fujita to analyze how these health outcomes relate to the qualitative data on the experience of self-managing diabetes in Ghana. For Sabrina, learning to link biological and sociocultural data will help her speak across different disciplines in her work.

2017 Fieldwork Photography Winners



First Place, Above:
“Stone Skipping in Matemwe”
Zanzibar, 2016
Jessica Ott, Graduate Student

Second Place, Right:
“Fishing Boat on the
Zambezi”
Zambia, 2014
Robert Billette
Undergraduate



New Alumni and Friends Fund for Archaeology

The Department of Anthropology is proud to announce the creation of The Alumni and Friends Expendable Fund for Archaeology. The purpose of this fund is to target the needs of MSU archaeology students at the undergraduate and graduate levels and enhance the visibility of MSU’s archaeology program at home and abroad. Through the funds accumulated by donations from our alumni and friends we will be able to offer student assistance for professional development in the forms of scholarships for fieldwork, research, travel and fellowships. By enhancing the recruitment of a diverse archaeological student cohort and establishing an annual, invited lecture series in archaeology, this fund will serve to strengthen and carry on the strong tradition of archaeology at MSU.

Our first event sponsored by the fund brought Dr. Donna Yates, lecturer in Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime at the University of Glasgow’s Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research to campus for a week. During this time, she visited archaeology classes, met with faculty and students, gave a public lecture, and offered a graduate workshop. Over 90 people attended her lecture from campuses and cities across the state and over two dozen watched it streaming online. The fund provided the lecture with the foundational funding to secure co-sponsors for the event. Needless to say, it was an enormous success and we are excited to be in the planning stages for our next annual lecture.



Kate Frederick lining one of her experimental cache pits (photo courtesy of Kate Frederick)

This spring, research proposals from two graduate students, Susan Kooiman and Kate Frederick, were selected for awards from this fund. The support will enable them to expand and enhance their dissertation research projects. Kooiman will use the funds to analyze diet from lipids, isotopes, and microbotanicals extracted from pottery at the Cloudman site. Frederick will use her award this summer as she maps and conducts test excavations of possible cache pits just south of Cheboygan, Michigan.

This fund is a concerted effort by our archaeology alumni to offer enhanced opportunities to current MSU archaeology students as they start their careers, become alumni, and continue the well-established heritage of archaeology in the Department of Anthropology at MSU. Contributions to the fund may be sent directly to the Department with the note “Archaeology Alumni and Friends donation.”

Featured Faculty: Dr. Beth Drexler

Dr. Beth Drexler has been very research active recently, thanks to an American Institute for Indonesian Studies Luce Fellowship (2014-2016) and a Fulbright (2015-2017). Her current project explores human rights and memories of violence in the aftermath of authoritarian rule in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (known as East Timor during its occupation by Indonesia). Her next book, tentatively titled “Human Rights, Transitional Justice and History in Indonesia,” analyzes the process of producing and circulating knowledge about past human rights violations in and through public culture, film, fiction, art, courtrooms, documents, and efforts to write new histories. She’s conducted archival research, interviews, and participant observation in relation to the past, and is also working with organizations to explore new issues in the democratic present.

One focus of her current project addresses the commemorations and the materiality of history following the authoritarian Suharto era. Her dissertation research was conducted during a moment of national euphoria following the change in government, and substantial human rights legislation was passed at that time. Now nearly 20 years later, her research has a longitudinal aspect. In Indonesia there has been no formal, state-led process examining the authoritarian past. Instead, people have been working in more diverse ways throughout civil society to reconcile the country’s violent past and democratic present. For example, last year she observed events related to the 50th anniversary of mass killings of suspected members of the then legal communist party. She has interviewed victim support groups and student activists to understand their memory practices and how these reflect the present moment and people’s aspirations for the future. What do activists see as victories and milestones in human rights and the processes of memory? She is particularly interested in



Dr. Beth Drexler

how ‘knowing’ plays a role in these practices, since the authoritarian era was a time of propaganda. What does truth recovery and the ‘end of lies’ look like for people and for their social relationships?

On an upcoming visit, she will work with colleagues at the University of Indonesia on a series of seminars related to human rights and ethnography, which will further her exploration of how Indonesian millennials view human rights norms. Although they were born after the Suharto years, millennials get drawn into justice and memory projects as they learn their country’s history. Young people are particularly savvy about online resources, and are collecting

and curating their own collections of stories. In the process, they are participating in global human rights networks and producing history, using new media to tell stories differently and contribute to innovative archives of past voices.

Dr. Drexler’s research feeds into her teaching at MSU as she hopes to inspire her students to be engaged global citizens in classes such as Ethnographic Methods, Globalization and Justice, Human Rights, and Anthropological Approaches to Peace and Justice Studies. Undergraduates in her classes have kept “justice journals” in which they integrate theoretical readings with examples from their own lives that they deem important, such as song lyrics, bumper stickers, and graffiti. At some point she hopes to have her MSU students interact with her Indonesian students so they can share their methods of using social media to record and tell stories, map historical sites, and create their own narratives of history.

For Dr. Drexler, working with graduate students in MSU’s Department of Anthropology is one of the best parts of her job. She’s often taught the first year theory class (“Roots”) and has appreciated the opportunity to think more broadly about the

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Featured Grad Student: Nerli Paredes

Nerli Paredes Ruvalcaba is a second-year graduate student who received an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship last year and is now preparing to conduct her pre-dissertation research. Nerli was awarded support to participate in the NSF diversity program, IDEAS, which she describes below:

I first became interested in anthropology as an undergraduate at the University of California, Riverside. A class with Dr. Robin Nelson introduced me to topics related to parent-child interactions. I had recently become a mother and I was extremely interested in those topics. Dr. Nelson's class also assured me that even though biological anthropology had a dark history of institutional racism, new scholars are actively changing the discipline to be more inclusive. Hence, pursuing a degree in anthropology would allow me to ask challenging questions that would be relevant for marginalized communities. Dr. Nelson also gave me the opportunity to discuss with her research articles I would find outside of class. After reading the work of Dr. Fujita, I was attracted to the idea of studying breast milk components from a biocultural perspective.

I began working in Dr. Fujita's Biomarker Laboratory for Anthropological Research my first semester at MSU. I helped with literature search and writing for grants submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, both of which were successfully funded. This year my role expanded to include processing whole milk to milk serum, which is then used to run assays.

During my first year I was awarded the NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship. This was thanks to the advice of multiple mentors, but mainly thanks to the endless help of Dr. Fujita, who read multiple drafts and offered generous feedback. I stated that I am interested in assessing changes of iron levels in human milk from short-term to long-term breastfeeding. Research suggests that iron-deficiency is a predictor of child stunting, which is associated with impaired health and cognitive development.

Having a supportive community is imperative; as Latina in a predominately White institution it is easy for me to feel excluded. Therefore, I try my



Nerli in the Biomarker Lab for Anthropological Research

best to make sure that I am involved in programs that are committed to working with marginalized communities. I have been involved with the Michigan Indigenous/Chicanx Community Alliance (MICCA), where I help organize culturally relevant events that bring together students, staff, and community. By creating events such as the celebration for 'Dia De Los Muertos', we hope to give students a sense of belonging and form a community at MSU. I have also participated in conferences and workshops targeted at emboldening students from underrepresented backgrounds to apply to graduate schools. I am also a mentor for the MSU Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program, where we help young students with academics and cultural activities.

Fortunately, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA) are also dedicated to increasing and supporting diversity within our discipline. This year, I have been selected to be part of a new program titled Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropology (IDEAS). This program aims to support underrepresented minority students who are committed to diversity with additional training and mentorship. The IDEAS Program provides students with a stipend to attend the 2017 AAPA meeting in New Orleans to attend a one-day

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Adjunct Feature: Dr. Terry Martin

Dr. Terry J. Martin joined the MSU Department of Anthropology as an Adjunct Professor in 2016 shortly after his retirement from the Illinois State Museum where he had been a Curator for 31 years. He completed his PhD. in archaeology from MSU in 1986 under the direction of Dr. Charles Cleland. A Michigan native, Dr. Martin's interest in archaeology was sparked in junior high school when he visited his first archaeological excavation at a plantation over summer break. The interest that would one day become his career continued through high school, his undergraduate years at Grand Valley State University, and his graduate years at Western Michigan University. The opportunities afforded him at Michigan State University gave him the methods and museum experience that formed the foundation for his diverse career in anthropological archaeology and archaeozoology.

Although he has worked at many sites around the Midwest, Dr. Martin considers his most important work to be the years spent working on the archaeology of African-American sites in Illinois, some of which functioned in the Underground Railroad. He was co-director of the New Philadelphia project in Pike County, Illinois from 2002-2011; the principle investigator for the Jameson Jenkins Lot in the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois from 2013-2015; and currently works on the Springfield Railroad Relocation Project examining city lots of African American homes destroyed in the Springfield Race Riot of 1908. He and his wife Clair enjoy sharing these projects with the public at venues such as The Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum and the National Museum



Dr. Martin (left) instructing MSU archaeology student Yiru Gao at the Illinois State Museum Zooarchaeology Lab (photo courtesy of Doug Carr)

of American History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D. C.

Over the past thirty years as a zooarchaeologist, Dr. Martin has focused on the historic uses of animals throughout the Midwest, particularly late prehistoric and early historic Native American and eighteenth-century French colonial archaeological sites. These sites provide unique perspectives on diverse topics such as the history of Lake Sturgeon within cultures of the Great Lakes people. This fish's common appearance in prehistoric sites ignited his curiosity about the current conservation status of these ancient fish as well as their economic and spiritual significance to Native American populations around the Upper Great Lakes. While this work sparked his interest

in the natural history of sturgeon, his interdisciplinary methods allowed him to work with fisheries biologists in the Muskegon River to learn firsthand about these magnificent, endangered, ancient creatures.

Now, as Curator Emeritus for Illinois State Museum and Adjunct in Anthropology at MSU, Terry has a great deal more flexibility when establishing his own priorities, such as traveling. He is currently enjoying working with Dr. O'Gorman and graduate students at the Morton Village Archeological project in central Illinois and working once again with the MSU Museum to re-establish and expand their zooarchaeological reference collection. Currently, he is working on three manuscripts and a book about the importance of zooarchaeology within anthropological archaeology. We look forward to the continued and expanding relationship between Dr. Terry Martin and the department.

Undergraduate Updates

Undergraduates Present Research

Anthropology undergraduates presented their excellent research in the form of poster presentations at the 2017 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF). This is a university-wide event focused on highlighting unique and creative research endeavors of undergraduates across disciplines. Students at UURAF are mentored by faculty, and have the opportunity to present a poster or paper (oral presentation). Thirteen MSU students mentored by Anthropology faculty participated, covering topics as diverse as the racialization of Arab Americans post 9/11 (Breanna Escamilla, mentored by Najib Hourani), the analysis of carbonized food residue on ceramics (Rebecca Albert, mentored by William Lovis), and the limitations of race categories in skeletal remains identification (Erik Rose, mentored by Joseph Hefner). We are delighted to congratulate Funmi Odumosu for winning first place in the Poster Competition for her category. Her poster is titled “Race, Risk and Responsibility in a Diabetes Clinic” and she was mentored by Dr. Linda Hunt.

Rebecca K. Albert Wins Paper Award

Undergraduate student Becca Albert was honored at the 2017 Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meeting for her paper on pre-contact maize in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Becca was awarded the “Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award” jointly by the Institute for Field Research (IFR) and the SAA. This award, which includes a \$1,000 cash prize, acknowledges exceptional scholarly work among undergraduate archaeology students. In Becca’s case, the award committee wrote that “[Rebecca’s paper] employs a methodologically rigorous microbotanical analysis to demonstrate that carbonized residue on pottery from the Winter Site, AMS dated to 100 cal B.C., contains maize phytoliths. This finding pushes back the earliest date for maize in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan 800 years earlier than existing dates.” Rebecca is mentored by Dr. William Lovis.



Undergraduate Funmi Odumosu, Poster Contest Winner at UURAF

Update from the Undergraduate Anthropology Club

“Our Club has been very engaged in activities over the past year. Our primary focus is to facilitate undergraduate engagement so that students can further develop their knowledge across anthropological topics, explore opportunities within the department and socialize with fellow Anthropology majors and minors. The continued support of the faculty, many of whom have joined us for our biweekly meetings, is greatly appreciated. The club had several professors speak about field school opportunities, including the Art and Archaeology Field School, the Maya Cultural History Field School in Belize and the Campus Archaeology Program. We also held a Graduate Student Panel where current graduate students in Anthropology answered questions about the application process and graduate school in general. We are also preparing to announce the winner of our annual paper competition and Professor of the Year. The winners are announced at the annual student vs. faculty jeopardy game. Besides our regular meetings, we have gone on several field trips, including a visit to Uncle John’s Cider Mill, as well as to the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and the Natural History Museum in Ann Arbor. We also held several socials throughout the year, including coffee hours, board game nights, crafting parties, study nights and more on a biweekly basis. These events give students the opportunity to network and make friends with other students in the club.”

-The Officers, 2017

discipline while sharing perspectives with the many bright students from various subdisciplines. She also enjoys teaching thematic graduate seminars on State Violence as well as Knowledge, Memory and Archives. Working with graduate students she mentors on their own projects also helps her think comparatively about human rights and public anthropology. Directing Peace and Justice Studies at MSU has enabled her to work with undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, alumni and community members to create curricular and co-curricular opportunities for engaging shared thematic interests. The Department of Anthropology has also been very supportive of her research and interdisciplinary initiatives on campus, for which she is grateful.

workshop with mentoring groups. I will participate in discussions with other experts in the field of biological anthropology who are also interested in supporting diversity. I hope to learn to be a successful scholar while simultaneously advocating for underrepresented communities. I am also looking forward to conversations on how to become an ethical anthropologist within academia and the broader community. I am hopeful that the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of biological anthropology during my first years of graduate school will prepare me to reach my future goal of becoming a professor at a research institution.

Overall, I feel incredibly honored to have supportive mentors and in the future I plan to give back to the community that continuously supports me, and to the students of color who will come after me.

Update from the GSA

The Graduate Students in Anthropology (GSA) is a student-run organization with the goal of fostering community and academic opportunity among graduate students in the department. Caitlin Vogelsberg, GSA treasurer, summarizes the past year's accomplishments:

The GSA has continued to focus on providing academic support for anthropology graduate students. We awarded two more \$100 Academic Enhancement Scholarships in the Fall of 2016 and just recently selected the recipients of the Spring 2017 awards. These small but helpful scholarships provide financial support for students for such things as travel funding and academic necessities (i.e., books, equipment, etc.). This January we held the Second Annual Graduate Research Symposium with great success. We were able to continue the one-day event with student-led sessions in the morning and faculty presentations in the afternoon. Students and faculty from each subfield created a diverse and interesting program that we look forward to continuing in the future.

We continued our fundraising traditions in order to support the student scholarships and symposium. The Chili Cook-off and Cornbread Bake-off was once again a great success with several faculty and student participants, all vying for the coveted best chili and cornbread trophies. In conjunction with the Cook-

off, we collected nonperishable food to donate to the Greater Lansing Foodbank. We held our Spring Raffle and Bake Sale fundraiser on March 15th to support our organizational needs and to donate to charitable groups in the area.

To help balance the lives of our graduate students, the GSA also held several events to have some fun and support our community. We held a "Yule Ball" for students in December, where we provided free food and a space for students to enjoy good bites and bits as well as getting a little fancy. The GSA was happy to assist newly-minted Ph.D., Dr. Amy Michael, in her organization of several charitable events such as the collection of bras and donations for local women's shelters in the Fall and the Book Drive for Prisoners collection this Spring. Several GSA members represented MSU and the GSA by volunteering at the Refugee Development Center in Lansing this spring. We embrace these opportunities to give back and support our community, especially in our current political climate.

The past year we have been glad to see new and returning students join our meetings and help us create a fulfilling experience, not only for us, but also the department. We hope that we can keep the momentum rolling in future years and expand our impact.

Alumnae Feature: Dr. Sue Schneider

Dr. Sue Schneider's career as an applied anthropologist has brought her new opportunities to learn and allowed her to impact the lives and well being of the communities in which she has lived and worked. Her interests have always included community health, prevention and health promotion, and her dissertation research at MSU reflected those interests: she examined women's grassroots health organizing in Mexico, and the strategies of health promoters as they merged different healing traditions within their communities. She published a book on this research, titled "Mexican Community Health and the Politics of Health Reform" (2010). Now, she works as an applied anthropologist with Larimer County Extension at Colorado State University (CSU) where she promotes community health and well-being herself! (Although the circumstances are much different from what she studied in Mexico.)



After graduating from MSU, Dr. Schneider held a teaching postdoc at Moravian College, but came to the decision that she really wanted to do applied work with communities. She took a position at Duke University in the Division of Community Health, running a program called Durham Health Innovations. The focus was on addressing health disparities, and she was able to put her community organizing skills into action conducting neighborhood-level interventions in chronic disease prevention. While at Duke, she also pursued training and certification as an integrative health coach and began a private consulting practice working with physicians within the medical center. After stepping into the throes of motherhood, she adjusted her career more towards her private coaching practice in order to better maintain her own wellness.

In 2015 she moved to Fort Collins, Colorado with her family and began working for CSU Extension, where she builds community programming and provides education in Larimer County. After

conducting a needs assessment, she has focused her work largely on healthy aging and age-friendly communities. One grant she helped write funded a program called Senior Access Points, which is creating a county-wide network and outreach strategies to better connect individuals and their families with aging-related resources. Another grant funds work to support the self-care of grandparents raising their grandchildren. She also draws on her certification as a health coach to provide community-

based training on topics such as behavior change and mindfulness.

Fort Collins is a community full of motivated people, so the impacts of her work are gratifyingly easy to see. Dr. Schneider especially enjoys bringing practical strategies and resources to people who are struggling with stress and everyday life challenges. "Grandparents are suffering because the conditions that cause them to need to step in and raise their grandkids tend to be devastating," she says. "It is powerful to see them get support."

Dr. Schneider identifies herself as a lifelong learner, and her career has in many ways been a "winding road" full of interesting surprises. For new anthropology graduates, Dr. Schneider suggests keeping your curiosity alive and pursuing what you find interesting and what makes you happy. "We can create new spaces for Anthropologists, but we have to be a little bit fearless about it and trust the value that we bring." Dr. Schneider credits Dr. Linda Hunt for helping her understand and appreciate the value of applied anthropology, although all of her mentors offered unique and helpful lessons and supported her throughout her studies. She also appreciates the solid foundation in anthropological theory and training that she got through the department.

This summer, Dr. Schneider will be stepping in as Interim Director of Larimer County Extension, and looks forward to getting a chance to see a larger horizon from that position.

Bill Derman Enjoys a Productive Retirement



Dr. Bill Derman retired from MSU in 2006, but has hardly slowed down. In fact, since moving to Norway and joining the faculty at the Norwegian University of the Life Sciences (NMBU) in the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric), his academic life has flourished. He's started new collaborative projects and published prolifically thanks to funding from the Research Council of Norway. In 2010 he even "retired" a second time (from NMBU which has a forced retirement age), but continues to teach. His research since he left MSU has taken four tracks: land reform and land restitution in South Africa, the migration from Zimbabwe of Zimbabweans to Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, Integrated Water Resources Management and water governance in Zimbabwe, and water, gender and human rights in southern Africa. This research has led to new international collaborations and new publications. One edited volume entitled *In the Shadow of a Conflict: Crisis in Zimbabwe and its effects in Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia* co-edited with Randi Kaarhus Harare, came out in 2013. Another volume co-edited by Dr. Derman came out that same year, this one called *World of Human Rights: The Ambiguities of Rights Claiming in Africa*. This latter book project began with a symposium honoring him on the occasion of his MSU retirement, and features MSU alumni

such as Kari Bergstrom Henquinet, Andrea Friedus, and Natalie J. Bourdon.

Dr. Derman's most recent publication is a special issue of *Water Alternatives*. He is co-author on five of the articles as well as a guest editor. Additionally, he has co-authored a book with a PhD student at NMBU (Shai Divon) analyzing US development assistance policy in Africa since WWII (Routledge 2017). Their historical analysis demonstrates how the development policy was based upon US strategic interests rather than the needs of people in Africa.

At NMBU, Dr. Derman continues to teach on the topics he's always loved including International Development Studies, human rights and political ecology. He fondly recalls working with CASID and the African Studies Center to teach capstone and graduate courses at MSU. He enjoyed fruitful collaborations at MSU as well, with colleagues such as Anne Ferguson and David Wiley. While at MSU, Dr. Derman served on around 20 dissertation committees and has been gratified to see most of his former students get tenure track jobs.

Dr. Derman's research has always been driven by a commitment to the rights and well being of poor and disenfranchised Africans, but his optimism about social change is tempered by his understanding of the complexities of their world. While he consistently works for social justice during his research, the results have been partial. In the 1980s, he and colleagues helped halt a dam project in the Gambian Basin which would have had a disastrous human impact, but he notes that it was largely the economic analysis that convinced officials. He also tried promoting a human rights based approach to water in Zimbabwe, and although human rights language was eventually incorporated into the constitution, he questions whether it will be implemented. The customary rights to water he documented remain unrecognized. "Over time you realize you can't change the power relationships where you work; it's their lives, connections, and networks." But the privilege of entering the lives of people has allowed him to observe human resilience, even in oppressive conditions. "In the places I have worked, I see a highly problematic future. But when you scratch the surface and view the lives that people lead it's always much richer, less bleak, and filled with hidden potentials."

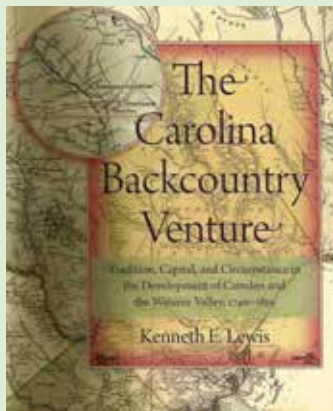
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