



Photo courtesy of Sean Dunham

## Alumnus Update—Dr. Charlotte Marie Cable

“I live and work at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bat and al-Ayn, in the northern interior of the Sultanate of Oman. Bat, a 5000 year-old archaeological site, is celebrating 25 years on the World Heritage List. And when I say “living and working at” I mean this almost literally: my office and my residence are within easy walking distance of the site. For the past 7 years I have returned to this site, first as a member of an excavation team, then as a field director, and now as a co-Director of the American-Japanese Bat Archaeological Project. This team is full of research projects, from geophysics and hydrogeology, to photogrammetrical documentation, to excavations of mudbrick and stone buildings, to survey devoted to prehistoric remains. Researchers currently involved with the

project are based in 4 different countries and 10 different institutions – and (new this year) include a geophysical team from Michigan State University. To accommodate everyone, the research season – which runs in the winter months – can be anywhere from two to five months long. At various times we work alongside the Ministry of Heritage & Culture. As a contracted employee of the Ministry of Heritage & Culture, I am responsible for local outreach, education, and – one more little thing – determining the path of a new paved road through the area. This is where archaeology in Oman has become truly exciting. While it may seem that outreach and education have little to do with road construction, Bat demonstrates the integration of past,

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## Contact the Editors

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Sylvia Deskaj, Ph.D. Candidate (deskajsy@msu.edu)

## Please Consider Donating to the Department of Anthropology

**Please consider donating to our department's fund. Your kind donations will be used to help undergraduates begin to engage with research and support other learning activities, and support graduate student research. Funds also support undergraduate and graduate travel to professional conferences. To donate now, please [click here](#) and select the Department of Anthropology.**

## Cultural Heritage Informatics (CHI) Initiative

Since its 2010 launch, the **Cultural Heritage Informatics (CHI) Initiative** has been a platform for interdisciplinary scholarly collaboration in the domain of Cultural Heritage Informatics at MSU. Based in the Department of Anthropology, the CHI Initiative is a platform for interdisciplinary scholarly collaboration in the domain of Cultural Heritage Informatics at Michigan State University. In addition, the initiative strives to equip students with the practical and analytical skills necessary to creatively apply information and communication technologies to cultural heritage materials, influence the current state of cultural heritage informatics, and become thought leaders for the future of cultural heritage informatics. The Director of the CHI Initiative is **Dr. Ethan Watrall**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Associate Director of MSU's MATRIX—the Center for Human Arts, Letters, & Social Sciences Online.

CHI Initiative has two primary activities. First, the **Cultural Heritage Informatics Graduate Fellowship Program** is designed to provide an opportunity for selected graduate students to collaboratively develop a significant and innovative cultural heritage informatics project. Through collaborative project development as well as guided instruction, fellows gain the theoretical and methodological skills necessary to creatively apply information, computing, and communication technologies to cultural heritage materials, questions, and problems.

The second major activity is the **Cultural Heritage Informatics Fieldschool**, which is an immersive five-week summer program offered every other year to graduate and undergraduate students, as well as existing professionals in the cultural heritage sector. Based on the pedagogical model of the archaeological fieldschool, the Cultural Heritage Informatics Fieldschool is an intensive theme-based program that leverages collaborative development to teach skills needed to build applications and digital user experiences that serve the domain of cultural heritage – skills such as programming, media design, project management, user centered design, digital storytelling, and more.

This year, there are seven CHI Fellows – two of which are graduate students in the Department of Anthropology! **Sylvia Deskaj** (Ph.D. Candidate) is working on her project, entitled “Tumulus” – which, in its immediate form, will serve as a digital repository through which her dissertation data collected for prehistoric northern Albanian burial mounds will be made available to a wider audience, including the local Albanian community and other researchers working in the Balkans. **Tazin Karim** (Ph.D. Candidate) is working on a project, entitled “Visualizing Adderall,” which uses data visualization to examine how people talk about pharmaceuticals through social media networks such as Twitter and various online forums. Previous fellows from the Department of Anthropology include: **Jennifer Bengtson** (Ph.D. 2012), **Katy Meyers**, **Emily Niespodziewanski**, and **Fayana Richards**.

## Tribute to Dr. Peg Holman

The most recent issue of *The Michigan Archaeologist*, Volume 54, is a special issue titled "The Tie That Binds: Essays in Honor of Margaret B. Holman", edited by Drs. **William A Lovis** and Janet G. Brashler (Grand Valley State University). This memorial volume contains 13 papers in 222 pages, covering various aspects of **Peg Holman's** career by her colleagues and friends, including a dozen contributors who received their PhDs from MSU - many using MSU Museum archaeological collections for their dissertations. A long standing adjunct faculty member who mentored numerous graduate students, this is a lasting and fitting tribute to Peg Holman and her many contributions to Michigan archaeology and MSU programs in Anthropology and the MSU Museum, and comes at the same time that Al Holman is being honored at the state level.



## THE MICHIGAN ARCHAEOLOGIST

VOLUME 54 • 2008



THE TIE THAT BINDS: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF MARGARET B. HOLMAN

Edited by Janet G. Brashler and William A. Lovis

Peggy Holman with colleagues (from left to right, Jan Brashler, Betty Garland, Peggy Bill Lovis, and Terry Martin).

Margaret (Peggy) Holman (1940-2006) was a dedicated and humble archaeologist who was a friend to all with whom she interacted. She is the Tie that binds many of us who contributed to this volume. The final sentence of her obituary reads: "... [she] will live in the memories and lives of those she touched and shaped in her unique way."

## Grants, Scholarships, & Awards

**Dr. Todd Fenton** successfully completed board certification as a forensic anthropologist. He is now a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (D-ABFA). Diplomate status denotes the highest achievement in the field of forensic anthropology, based upon a personal and professional record of education and training, experience and accomplishment.

**Sabrina Perlman** (graduate student) is this year's recipient of the Rita S. Gallin Award for Best Graduate Paper on Women and Gender in Global Perspective from GenCen for a paper she wrote last semester entitled *Native American Woman and Diabetes: Voices in Suffering and Solutions*.

At the 2013 annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington, DC, several of our graduate students won awards. **Carolyn Hurst** was awarded the Ellis R. Kerley Scholarship from the Kerley Foundation. This scholarship is awarded based on character, personal and academic merit and commitment. Merit is demonstrated through leadership in school, civic and extracurricular activities, academic achievement, and motivation to serve and succeed. Recent graduate **Nick Passalacqua** (Ph.D., 2012) was awarded the J. Lawrence Angel Award for best student paper from the Physical Anthropology section, along with his co-author Kyle McCormick. Their winning paper, presented at the 2012 meeting, was entitled: *A Comparison of Age-Related Macroscopic Traits of the Ilium and Sacrum*. **Julie Fleischman** and **Cate Bird** were awarded Student Travel Grants by the Forensic Sciences Foundation. Travel grants are awarded to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting.

**Kaitlin Scharra**, an undergraduate anthropology major, received a 2013 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) Award for her poster, entitled: "Exploring the Use of Prehistoric Stone Box Graves and the Role of Burial Treatments: A Reanalysis of the East St. Louis Stone Quarry Site Cemetery (ca. AD 1300)." Kaitlin was mentored by **Dr. Lynne Goldstein**.

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

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## Department Wishes Dr. DeLind a Happy Retirement



*Photo Courtesy of Dr. Laura DeLind*

making and community empowerment. She was president of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Association in 1998 and former editor-in-chief of the journal *Agriculture and Human Values* from 2004 – 2006. In 2010 she was one of two scholars nominated by Michigan State University for the C. Peter Magrath/W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award. She was honored for her work by Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement in 2010 and 2012.

After retiring from MSU, Laura expects to spend more time working with her Lansing-based non-profit as well as researching and writing about the relationship among urban agriculture, neighborhood organizing and social justice. Laura says she “expects to read more, continue working with students, and teaching the occasional course. She will also pursue her artwork more seriously. Retirement will be a change in tempo rather than content with a bit of traveling and a beer or two thrown in for good measure.”

**Laura B. DeLind**, Senior Academic Specialist, has served as the Anthropology Department’s Undergraduate Advisor for 35 years. During that time, she has also been the Advisor for MSU’s Peace and Justice Specialization and more recently taught courses in civic engagement in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.

Laura is a practicing anthropologist who studies and writes about the contemporary agrifood system, paying particular attention to the long-term costs, and inequities at the local level. She is an advocate of more place-based and democratized systems of food production, distribution, consumption, and waste management. She co-founded and co-directs the Lansing Urban Farm Project, a 501c3, whose mission is to raise and market fresh produce in urban neighborhoods and to use this earth work as a tool for place-

## Undergraduate Research

The annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) provides Michigan State undergraduate students with an opportunity to showcase their scholarship and creativity. Mentored by faculty members, several of our undergraduate students presented their research. The following posters were presented at this year’s UURAF:

*Campus Archaeology Program* – Dana Nyquist and Kaitlin Scharra - (mentored by [Dr. Lynne Goldstein](#))

*History of the Women’s Building* – Bethany Slon (mentored by [Dr. Lynne Goldstein](#))

*Food Insecurity and Coping Strategy Among Ariaal Mothers in Kenya* – Allison Apland (mentored by [Dr. Masako Fujita](#))

*The Skeletal Analysis of 4 – M – 142: A Medieval Nubian Cemetery at Michigan State University* – Valerie Leah (mentored by [Dr. Todd Fenton](#))

**Are you a [Department of Anthropology](#) alumnus? Would you like to be featured in our newsletter? Please send us your story! Contact us at [anthropology@ssc.msu.edu](mailto:anthropology@ssc.msu.edu)**

## ALUMNUS UPDATE: Dr. Charlotte Cable

*Continued from Page 1*

present, and future. For the Sultanate of Oman, the site of Bat has become the centerpiece for the development of a distinctly Omani prehistory, aimed at both global and local audiences. The modern and ancient villages of Bat sit side-by-side, and both the local people and the Omani government are actively negotiating between their histories and their futures. As with the entire country, the village of Bat is growing at an extraordinary rate, which could endanger the archaeological site. My role in this program is to translate archaeological research – from Academic and from English – into pictures and stories of the past that can be integrated with those of the local community today. Working with me on this are two clever, passionate and graceful young Bat ladies, Asma al-Jassassi and Samia al-Shakhsi. While I understand the archaeology, they understand the community.



Pictured above: Dr. Cable gives a tour of the Bat 3rd—millennium B.C. cemetery, 2011. *Photo courtesy of Kristen Hopper*

*“The story of the paved road is surprisingly long, but the gist is that the archaeology and community are beginning to work together towards a common goal: a permanent future in Bat. I’m excited to be both partner and witness to this.” – Charlotte Marie Cable*

## MSU’s Undergraduate Anthropology Club

MSU’s **Undergraduate Anthropology Club** would like to thank the Department of Anthropology for their support this year! With support from faculty, students, and staff, the Undergraduate Anthropology Club was able to raise funds for their most recent fieldtrip. The Undergraduate Anthropology Club, accompanied by **Dr. Bill Lovis** and graduate student **Nicole Raslich**, recently visited the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. While there, they received a behind-the-scenes tour of the anthropology collections, in addition to a tour of the



Lascaux Cave exhibit, by Dr. James Phillips. In other news: **Autumn Beyer** and **Valerie Leah**, both members of the Club, volunteered for the **MSU Museum** and taught hominid evolution to middle school students in Williamston, Michigan. Additionally, several members attended the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington, D.C. and also volunteered at several events, including the 2012 Midwest Archaeological Conference, which was hosted by our department, Darwin Discovery Day, and at MSU’s Science Festival. Our Undergraduate Anthropology Club would like to thank everyone for making this past year such a great success!

*Photo courtesy of Autumn Beyer*



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT—Dr. Najib Hourani

As an Assistant Professor appointed in the Department of Anthropology and the graduate Global Urban Studies Program (GUSP), **Dr. Najib Hourani's** research and teaching reflects the commitment of both the College of Social Science and the Department of Anthropology to furthering interdisciplinary research at MSU. Trained in Middle East Politics (PhD NYU, 2005), and having taught History at Fordham University and International Affairs at the New School, Dr. Hourani engages in historically-anchored research that addresses the larger questions anthropologists today ask concerning the formation and transformation of cities, states and economies in post-colonial settings. "I feel lucky to work and teach at MSU," Hourani says. "GUSP has been wonderfully supportive, and I am constantly impressed by my colleagues in Anthropology, who are doing research that is cutting edge in terms of the field and relevant to real world issues."

Hourani's primary research – in urban anthropology – examines the internal relations between the political and the economic in the production of space, place and power. He draws upon tensions between political economy approaches, Foucault's notion of governmentality and Actor-Network Theory's concept of assemblage to investigate why neoliberal policies – such as those the World Bank and USAID advocate – not only fail to bring about the promised prosperity, but actually strengthen decidedly illiberal politico-economic forces instead. His work on neoliberal landscapes of consumption in Beirut and Amman – shopping malls and other elite enclaves – reveals that these are not simply "deterritorialized" spaces of global capital. Rather, he shows, they are produced by and, in turn, productive of powerful oligarchic networks that operate within Lebanon and Jordan and across the region. It is precisely the struggle against such 'territorialized' forces, Hourani argues, that animates the Arab Uprisings today.

While Hourani has been busy writing and lecturing on the Arab Uprisings, his focus remains upon the urban agenda. In addition to a book chapter appearing in Peterson and McDonogh's *Global Downtowns* (2011



*Photo Courtesy of Najib Hourani*

University of Pennsylvania Press), he is co-editing, with Ahmed Kanna (Anthropology, University of the Pacific) a special issue of the *Journal of Urban Affairs* on neoliberal urbanism in the Arab World that features his most recent research on Amman. He is also co-editing a book with Edward Murphy, an Anthropo-Historian (History, MSU) that explores how notions of house and home – central to internal relations between state and society and polity and economy – are pivotal in struggles for space, place and dignity in neoliberalizing cities around the world. "I was delighted that Ed asked me to help on this project. It is a fascinating topic; and never having edited a volume such as this, I have learned a great deal from him in the process." Both projects will be published in 2013.

Hourani's other research track, on the anthropology of civil conflict in the context of globalization, focuses on the Lebanese Civil Wars (1975-90). Rather than examining questions of sectarianism, Hourani's work, published in *The New Centennial Review*, *GeoPolitics*, *Middle East Policy* and a forthcoming volume on post-conflict environments (Monk and Mundy 2013), traces the transnationalization of the militia economy through financial networks that extended from Lebanon to Europe, the Persian Gulf and the United States, and explores the role of such networks in perpetuating the conflict, and, even today, obstructing the achievement of positive peace.

## News From Around the Department

With the support of a Muslim Studies Research Grant and the Department of Anthropology at MSU, **Dr. Najib Hourani** conducted three months of research on the development and redevelopment of Amman and Beirut. Upon his return, he presented his research at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada and at the First International Conference on Anthropology and Urban Conflict, University of Barcelona, Spain. Most recently, he presented his research at Ethical Engagement with Globalization, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Conference, Texas A&M University, in Doha, Qatar.

The **Campus Archaeology Program** hosted a workshop, led by **Katy Meyers** (graduate student & Campus Archaeologist), for Digital Learning Day 2013. At this workshop, Meyers discussed various social media tools that anthropologists could find useful in maintaining their digital identities and their uses in research and teaching.

**Dr. Barbara Rose Johnston**, an adjunct professor in our department, is the Editor-in-Chief of the recently released book entitled "*Water, Cultural Diversity, and Global Environmental Change: Emerging Trends, Sustainable Futures?*" (2012 Spring; UNESCO)." A product of the UNESCO-IHP project on Water and Cultural Diversity, this book represents an effort to examine the complex role water plays as a force in sustaining,

maintaining, and threatening the viability of culturally diverse peoples. This book was recently released by UNESCO as an eBook on the United Nations website and is free!

This spring, **Dr. Mindy Morgan** will be presenting aspects of her new research project concerning the periodical, *Indians at Work*, at the **D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian Studies** at the **Newberry Library** in Chicago, IL. She also presented a paper entitled, "*Visions and Visages: Constructing Indigeneity in Indians at Work, 1933-1945*" in the **American Indian Studies Seminar Series**. She will return to Chicago in May to present at the symposium, "*Why You Can't Teach U.S. History without American Indians*" which is commemorating the 40th year of the McNickle Center. Additionally, she has a chapter entitled, "*Acts of Inscription: Dialogism in the Archives*" in press in *Transforming Ethnohistories: Narrative, Meaning, and Community*, an edited volume from the University of Oklahoma Press (2013).

**Blair Zaid** (graduate student) assisted in the coordination of **Michigan State University's 1st Annual Science Festival**. This 10-day event, which involved the participation of over 150 MSU faculty and students, attracted approximately 8,000 people from across the state of Michigan. Stay tuned for the next issue of our newsletter for an update on our department's participation!

## Alumni News

**Dr. James Bielo** (2007) is a lecturer in Anthropology at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Since receiving his Ph.D., he has published two books and an edited volume.

**Dr. Keri Brondo** (2006) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Memphis and her latest book, "*Land Grab: Green Neoliberalism, Gender, and Garifuna Resistance in Honduras*" (The University of Arizona Press)," will be out soon.

**Dr. Charlotte Cable** (2012) has been contracted with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (Sultanate of Oman) as Manager of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bat, al-Khutm, and al-Ayn**. She has recently received a grant from the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, which was used to fund geophysical survey carried out in March by **Dr. Remke van Dam** (Assistant Professor, Geological Sciences) and **Alexandra Conell** (graduate student, Department of Anthropology). Charlotte is also the recipient of this year's Student Membership Award from the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association.

**Dr. Tricia Marie Redeker Hepner** (2004) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee and is currently the Vice Chair of Africana Studies. Her research and teaching interests focus on forced migration, transnationalism, political conflict, peace building, and human rights activism in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region of Eastern Africa.

## Graduate Student Highlight—Tazin Karim

**Tazin Karim** is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Her dissertation, which was funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, is an ethnographic exploration of Adderall use among U.S. college students and examines the boundaries between mental health, illness, and cognitive enhancement. Currently, she is writing up her findings and hopes to pursue a post-doctoral research position in Science and Technology Studies or Bioethics next year.

During her time at MSU, Tazin has held assistantships in a number of departments, including the Center for Integrative Studies in General Science and the School of Criminal Justice and has received three teaching awards for her work in these departments. Currently, she serves as the Department of Anthropology's Online Course Development Assistant, and in collaboration with **Dr. Ethan Watrall**, Tazin has shepherded the development of eight courses. Working with the Medical Anthropology faculty and teaching assistant **Linda Gordon** (Graduate Student), Tazin developed and instructed *ANP 204: Introduction to Medical Anthropology*, a brand new course, last summer. Additionally, she just finished her first article in General Anthropology titled "*Teaching Anthropology in the Digital Age*," which will be published in May 2013.



Photo Courtesy of Tazin Karim

Recently, Tazin has also become interested in Digital Anthropology and is currently a Fellow with the **Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative**. She is also a member of the Digital Anthropology Interest Group of the American Anthropological Association and a regular contributor to several digital journals, such as *Somatosphere* and *Anthropologies: A Collaborative Online Project*.

In addition to her studies and research, Tazin is heavily involved in professional organizations such as the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA). She currently serves as the Chair of the Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Study Group and is running for office on the SMA executive board. In 2012, she received the Disciplinary Leadership Fellowship from the MSU Council of Graduate Students (COGS) for her work in these professional organizations.

Beyond academics, Tazin is very active in the athletic community at MSU and in the greater Lansing Area. She is an avid soccer player and has captained several intramural teams for MSU's Teaching Assistant Program from 2009-2012. She was also named 2011 athlete of the year for the M.A.C Lansing soccer club. Tazin has been an avid rower/coxswain since her college days at UC Irvine. During the summer, you can find her on the Grand River where she runs an adult learn-to-row program for the Lansing Rowing Club.

## 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. Send to the attention of **Sonia O'Connor** at MSU Department of Anthropology, Baker Hall, Rm 355, 655 Auditorium Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.



## Update From the Field—Heather Yocum

**Heather Yocum** (Ph.D. Candidate) recently returned from spending nine months conducting her dissertation research on the creation of carbon offsets and reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) projects in Malawi. Heather's research was supported by a Fulbright IIE Student Scholar Award and a grant from the Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Program from MSU's Center for Gender in Global Context. Her research engages with critical questions about how new types of commodities—carbon credits—are being created and what this means for the lives of forest-dependent communities.

While in Malawi, she spent time in three different protected areas working with community members, NGOs, state officials, and carbon developers exploring the impacts of these projects on social relationships and environmental management. Heather's research examines the technical rationality employed by "experts" as they produce carbon credits as objects which can be enumerated, mapped, and managed, as well as the community's attempts to understand the concept of carbon commodities and "selling air" to foreign investors. Her research also considers the role of public aid money in subsidizing the creation of these projects, as well as the importance of investor preference in shaping carbon projects and determining their ultimate success or failure. Heather's research would not have been possible without the collaboration of three research assistants and one community organizer who helped her set up meetings with communities, translated, and, in the case of one organizer, took her everywhere on the back of his motorcycle.

Although it was not her first time in Malawi, living and conducting research there still held many surprises. Heather had two close encounters with elephants during her research. One was with a tiny baby elephant that had been rescued by park staff; the other was a narrow escape from a very large, very angry elephant on the way to a village meeting. When not doing research, Heather and her husband, Jim, who accompanied her to the field, were able to relax and hang out with friends by Lake Malawi, have weekly dinners with local teachers, and travel to some of northern Malawi's most beautiful places. Heather is currently serving as a Fulbright Student Alumni Ambassador and living in Colorado while writing her dissertation.



*Photo courtesy of Heather Yocum*



## Update From the Field—Adrianne Daggett

Photo courtesy of Adrianne Daggett



From July through mid-October 2012, **Adrianne Daggett** (Ph.D. Candidate) carried out archaeological fieldwork near the village of Mosu in Botswana. Her work was funded by a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, an MSU Alliance of Graduate Education and the Professoriate Scholar Award, and a small crowd-sourced funding initiative on Petriedish.org. During fieldwork Adrianne and her crew surveyed and excavated three Early Iron Age sites as well as carried out additional surface survey and surface feature mapping using GPS. Although she has worked on several field projects and held supervisory roles in some, this project was the first time she was responsible for the planning and execution of an entire archaeological endeavor. “I’d thought I was prepared with a research plan once I submitted my research proposal to NSF – but then once I was funded, the real work began! It was truly an education in itself. I don’t have enough space here to describe the many kinds of prepping, planning, arranging (and worrying) I did to get the necessary equipment, vehicle, and other requirements for a successful field season.” Adrianne adds that she is very fortunate that Botswana provides a welcoming environment to foreign researchers and that its National Museum and the University of Botswana were very accommodating.

## MSU’s Graduate Academic Conference

Several of our graduate students gave poster and paper presentations at this year’s Graduate Academic Conference, which was held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Kellogg Center.

The following paper presentations were given: **Georgia Beilmann** – *Religion, Identity and Language: Studying Chinese Youth Conversion in the U.S.*; **Adrianne Daggett** – *Preliminary Findings From Thaba di Masego, an Early Iron Age Site in Northeastern Botswana*; **Eddie Glayzer** – *Globalization in China: An Anthropological Approach*; **Natalie Petersen** – *Menefee* – *Lean Production in Health Care*; and **Katy Meyers** – *The Archaeology of Archaeology: Lessons from Excavations of Isola Sacra Cinerary Urns*.

The following poster presentations were given: **Emily Niespodziewanski** – *Testing Stature Regression Equations on a Medieval Sudanese Population*; and **Sabrina Perlman**, along with **Katy Meyers**, co-authored *The Heart of Michigan State University’s Campus: Investigation of MSU’s Changing Landscape, Identity and Priorities*.

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

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## Department Included in Praxis Network

The Department of Anthropology is delighted to announce that the newly launched [Praxis Network](#) includes the department's [Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative](#).

Part of the Mellon Foundation funded Scholarly Communication Institute's current work on rethinking graduate education, the Praxis Network features a highly selective group of programs that have taken unusual and effective approaches to core humanistic and social scientific methods, while also addressing how best to equip budding scholar-practitioners for a range of careers. The goals of each unique program are student-focused, digitally-inflected, interdisciplinary, and frequently oriented around collaborative projects.

In addition to the Anthropology Department's Cultural Heritage Informatics Initiative, the Praxis Network features graduate programs at the University of Virginia, CUNY Graduate Center, University College London, and Duke University, as well as undergraduate programs at Hope College and Brock University. The Praxis Network website, which is the first product of the partnership, takes the important step of sharing information about the commonalities and unique properties of these programs that are making effective interventions in the traditional models of humanities and social science pedagogy and research.

## Graduate Research at Fenner Nature Center

**Kate Frederick** (graduate student) is carrying out an experimental archaeology project that aims to better understand the effectiveness of food storage and how it relates to the management of food shortage risks. In collaboration with the Fenner Nature Center, and with the help of **Dr. Bill Lovis**, her experiment considers just how well food can be stored throughout a winter season in Lansing, Michigan.

Known as cache pits, prehistoric peoples used food storage pits in order to evenly distribute their food resources throughout the year. Food availability throughout the late winter/early spring in Michigan is relatively low and storing food becomes an important way to minimize hardship. To counteract potential food shortages, people have collected surplus food during times of harvest, such as berries and acorns, and dried them to be stored. Then, during late fall, before the first snow, they would bury their surplus food.

Cache pits are found all over Michigan and, today, they look like small circular depressions in the ground. Archaeological excavations of these storage pits have been able to tell us a lot about prehistoric peoples, such as population size, concepts of territoriality, decision-making, and the social networks that existed.

Drawing from archaeological and ethnographic data, Kate constructed four cache pits and has been monitoring them throughout this past winter. With the help of **Dr. William Lovis** and graduate students **Anneliese Bruegel**, **Sylvia Deskaj**, **Sean Dunham**, **Adam Haviland**, **Frank Raslich** and **Nicole Raslich**, Kate constructed these cache pits at nearby Fenner Nature Center. Each pit was lined with birch bark, filled with dried berries and acorns, and insulated with dried straw. Each pit was then sealed with a mound of dirt in order to keep the critters out and to create an anaerobic environment. The pits were excavated this spring and we await the results of Kate's experiment!



*Photo courtesy of Kate Frederick*

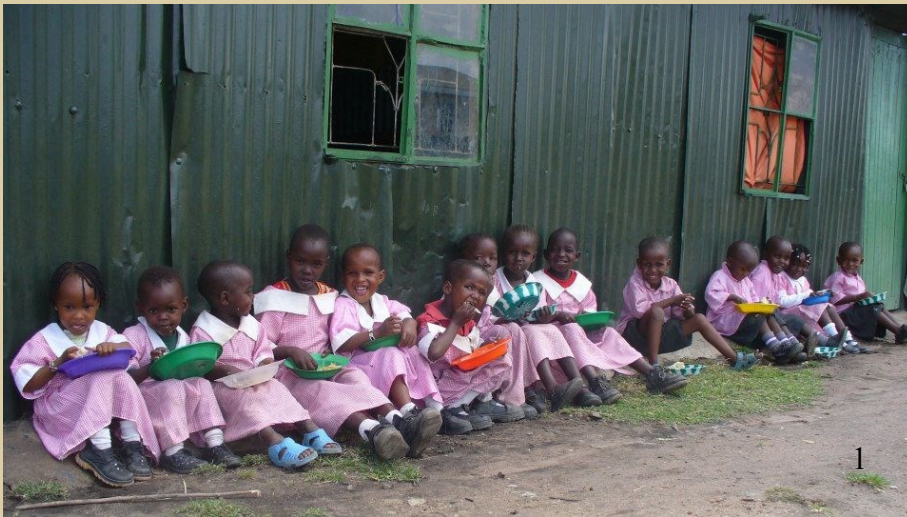
# 2012 Department of Anthropology Photo Contest Winners



**1st: Brian Geyer**, Graduate Student "*Lunch Time*"  
- Maasai Mara, Kenya (2011)

**2nd: Eddie Glayzer**, Graduate Student, "*The Cycling Balloon Man*" - Taiyuan, China (2011)

**3rd: Cate Bird**, Graduate Student, "*Coffins of Executed Prisoners*" - Tuskulenai, Lithuania (2012)



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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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