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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to all our alumni, friends and former colleagues, and welcome to the second edition of our annual newsletter, Being Human. As we end the academic year, it’s a good time to reflect and share with you news from the Department. This has been the year of renovations in Machmer Hall! We have been investing in our infrastructure and facilities and we have a lot to show for it. Last year we refurbished the mail room and lounge with new seating and framed black and white fieldwork photographs to make it more inviting. This year we put our focus on our research laboratories in the east wing of the building, our collections storage, and two new fabulous conference and seminar spaces in Machmer Hall, the E-21 seminar room, and E-24 with a state-of-the-art digital display and camera that will give us the capacity to stream in guest lectures and have video conference meetings with colleagues and students who can join us remotely. We are especially proud of the makeover of Machmer E-14 into a new Human Anatomy & Forensic laboratory that has made it possible for us to introduce new lab-based classes. And, just under the wire for our deadline, we have completed the refurbishing of the former Archaeology Fieldschool Lab, now the Community Archaeology Lab (CAL) — a project two years in the making. Look for more news of events in the CAL on our webpage soon. Repainted and spruced up (with filtered water stations!), Machmer is definitely looking better.

I continue to be truly impressed by the incredible caliber of our faculty and students whose research and publications put us on the map nationally. Our web page, umass.edu/anthro, is the best place to see the continual amount of good news. In this year that marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of W.E.B. DuBois, the Department is proud to count the Director of the DuBois Center, Whitney Battle-Baptiste, among us. She was just named a campus Spotlight Scholar. Both Brigitte Holt and professor emerita Laurie Godfrey were awarded research grants from the National Science Foundation. Jason Kamilar is on his first year as the Editor-in-Chief of Evolutionary Anthropology. Last year I described a “Bonanza” of graduate fellowships from some of the most prestigious national funding agencies, and this year is no different. Take a look at what our students have done on pages 7-8!

We are edging towards the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Department, and planning is already underway. We have included a teaser of the gems we are finding about the Department’s past in the section titled “Time Capsule”, on pages 16-17. We are planning a big celebration in the Fall of 2019 and we hope you will be able to attend! More news on this will be coming, but in the meantime, I invite you to rummage through your albums, files, and drawers for anything you would like to share about your time in the department! ...Help us remember and send memories to umassanthroturns50@gmail.com.

A Growing Major and a New Accelerated Master’s.
Increasing our major and getting the word out to students about the value of an anthropology degree continues to be a high priority. I can say with pleasure that we have made important progress on this goal. Majors are up by a solid 20%, and perhaps even more importantly, we have been making substantial enhancements to our experiential learning opportunities. We have made it possible for more students to take advantage of our in-house cultural resource management firm, Archaeological Services, to gain professional experience. We are also offering exciting new summer internship opportunities with local organizations, including Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield, the American Friends Service Committee of Northampton, and the Wellspring Cooperatives in Springfield. Students have the opportunity to do meaningful work during the summer with groups addressing problems of poverty and social injustice and then do follow up research and writing on their experiences in the Fall. Gifts dedicated to summer internships (most of which are unpaid) are a great way that alumni can help us enhance our student success and experience.

We are also very pleased to announce the launch (in Fall 2018) of a new accelerated master’s concentration in Community Based Research and Practice. A faculty committee spent a full year designing this innovative new masters. At the core of the program is a new graduate level “Theory & Method” course in Community-Based Research to be taught by Professor Julie Hemment, a specialist in Participatory Action Research, as well as a suite of new methods workshops in digital storytelling, photovoice, Basic GIS, collaborative data analysis, meeting and focus group facilitation, and more. By adding one year to their studies, our goal is to offer undergraduate students an opportunity to prepare themselves for diverse careers in applied anthropology, non-profit and non-governmental organizations as well as in the private sector.

Jacqueline Urla
Chair, Department of Anthropology

Jacqueline Urla
Anthropology

AT A GLANCE

The Anthropology Department is home to 18 distinguished full-time faculty members, 147 undergrads, and 56 graduate students.

3:1 Grad/Faculty Ratio

8:1 Undergrad/Faculty Ratio

1.4% of students are pursuing degrees in Anthropology

When it comes to job placement, UMass Anthropology ranks #21 out of the top 84 graduate programs in the nation - just ahead of Duke and the University of Chicago! *

WORKING WITH FACULTY

38% of our majors have research experience with a faculty mentor - more than any other group in SBS.

Highly Awarded

Our faculty and student (grad and undergrad alike) have been acknowledged time and time again for their accomplishments, by prestigious awards/organizations as the Dean’s Opportunity Scholarship, the Chancellor’s Rising Researcher Award, Fulbright Scholars, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and the National Science Foundation.

SENior SATISFACTION

*The National Research Council/ dads.org/rankings/anthropology
ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

The Department has recently welcomed new colleagues and bidden farewell to others.

**Rae Gould** joined us in a new joint position as University Tribal Liaison and Senior Lecturer. Rae served as Repatriation Coordinator for the Department (2010-2014) before taking a position at the Office of Native American Affairs in Washington, DC. In her new position she will be organizing a new Tribal Advisory Council for the University that will do outreach with Northeast Tribes. She will also be overseeing Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance for the whole campus and contributing key courses in Native American studies, cultural property, collections and resource management.

**Soren Gigler** will be joining us in Fall 2018 as a joint appointment with the School of Public Policy (SPP). Soren was hired as part of a search the SPP for a specialist in cybersecurity and digital technologies. He has experience on a variety of international development projects through the Innovation Lab at the World Bank in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He brings specific expertise in digital information technologies and indigenous peoples.

Our visiting lecturers last year, **Paulette Steeves and Lynette Arnold**, departed for exciting new job opportunities, and we welcomed two new visiting lecturers.

Maxine Oland, a specialist in Mayan archaeology, is the co-editor of *Decolonizing Indigenous Histories: Exploring Prehistoric/Colonial Transitions in Archaeology.* Maxine is teaching our popular courses Ancient Civilizations and Introduction to Archaeology.

**Ge (Gladys) Jian**, has been with us this year teaching linguistic anthropology and a new course on Muslim Cultures in China. Gladys received her masters from our Department, and a PhD from the University of Washington.

We were saddened to see our colleague **Dr. Emiliana Cruz** leave in December to take a new position as Profesora Investigadora en Antropología at CIESAS-DF in Mexico. CIESAS is the premiere anthropology research institution of Mexico and she will be able to continue conducting her important work in Chatino language documentation. Emiliana was a huge source of support to our Latin American students and helped deepen our expertise in the Americas, linguistic anthropology, and indigenous studies. Every Fall she and her class decorated our lounge with a ‘Dia de los Muertos’ altar. We will miss her teaching and her spirit sorely.

Our friends and colleagues **Elizabeth Chilton and Michael Sugerman** left UMass to take new positions at Binghamton University this past summer. Elizabeth, Professor of Anthropology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement accepted a position as the new Dean of Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, and Michael was offered a position as Senior Lecturer.

We have a lot to thank them for — Elizabeth chaired the Department for six years. During her tenure, she created the Center for Heritage and Society, bringing new faculty to campus, and helping us fulfill our cluster hire in Race and Inequality in the Americas. She has done a lot in her administrative positions at the University both in SBS as Assistant Dean and at the Office for Research and Engagement. We have her to thank for the **Little Archaeology Lab**, established through a generous donation from Little family in honor of Elizabeth Alden Little.

Michael has been a very valuable undergrad advisor, teacher, mentor, and course scheduler. He collaborated in establishing an archaeology fieldschool in Akko, Israel for several summers as well. Anyone who worked with Michael also knows he was very active in the Massachusetts Society of Professors and a go-to person for so many things it is hard to name them all.

It is a great opportunity for them and yet we will feel the loss of their many contributions to the Department. We wish them the very very best in this new stage of their careers.
Alumni Profile: Dolores Root (PhD '84) uses anthropological training in community program development

As an anthropology graduate student at UMass, Dolores Root knew she wanted to communicate beyond the academy. Today, she weaves threads of her anthropological training throughout her work in community based programming, working with museums, public education, municipalities and more.

Root pursued her doctorate under the guidance of Martin Wobst, and wrote her dissertation in archaeology, on the material dimensions of social inequality in non-stratified societies. During her time as a graduate student at UMass, she learned to critically question the status quo — not only in anthropology but in other disciplines as well. But what she came to value most was teaching anthropology to undergraduate students, where she discovered her passion for engaging students in critical thinking, opening perspectives on the past and the present.

Upon receiving her PhD, Root went to work as assistant director, and then director, of a community/regional museum in Brattleboro, Vermont. It was there, she realized, that she could translate her knowledge and interests in anthropology and teaching into civic engagement.

**As she remembers,**

“I had an ‘aha’ moment, and realized museums are really one big classroom for exchanging ideas and encouraging dialogue!”

The first major exhibition Root produced was formative in her development. The theme of the museum that year was technological innovation and social change. Root and colleagues chose to focus on a familiar aspect of daily life, kitchen technology from 1830 – 1985. Drawing on scholarship from the 1980s that technological innovation does not always mean less work for women, the exhibit created five vignettes of kitchens representing different historical moments. By inviting community members to contribute objects to the exhibit they were able to see themselves reflected in the “story” and to engage with the questions posed throughout the exhibit.

The Brattleboro Museum experience informs Root’s on-going work, be it creating a community museum with an indigenous community in highland Bolivia, leading a team to develop a place-based curriculum for a new community college, or working with a multi-discipline design team to re-imagine an urban waterfront to better reflect the people and place. Root recognizes that her work grew out of basic anthropological concerns for cultural diversity and social inequality. As she said, “It is very important for me to feel grounded in anthropology…. It informs the questions I ask.” Moreover, she sees many possibilities for future anthropologists within the burgeoning field of community engagement.

“Anthropologists have something substantive to bring to community engagement,” she says, adding that “Anthropological thinking and practice can be brought to bear on many different issues and contexts in the public realm.”
Our graduate students continue to demonstrate that our department is producing some of the highest caliber researchers in the discipline. Last year, they won a number of external grants from some of the most competitive national and international funding agencies — the list below is only a sample! We are very proud and congratulate them all on their outstanding performance.

Adam Zimmer was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, as well as a fellowship from the Leifur Eiriksson Foundation to conduct research in Iceland for one year, where he will be affiliated with the University of Iceland.

Kasey Jernigan won a competitive Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship to fund her remaining year of dissertation writing and has also been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in American Studies at Wesleyan University’s Center for the Americas for next academic year.

Evan Taylor was awarded the Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction from the Government of Alberta (valued at $20,000 CAD, around $15,500 USD). This award recognizes academic excellence by students from Alberta, Canada.

Dana Johnson won the Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her dissertation project based in Belgrade, Serbia. Besides funding dissertation writing, the fellowship also involves presenting at the Council for European Studies International Conference for Europeanists, as well as serving on the Editorial Committee and contributing to the publication of the journal EuropeNow.

Dana Conzo was awarded a $25,017 National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (BCS-1756087) to support her research on food sovereignty and food security in the Caribbean. Her dissertation project, “The Cultural and Economic Logic of Small-Scale Farming,” is a political economic study of local food production within a primarily tourism-driven economy. The grant supports one year of ethnographic research on the island of St. Kitts. Under the supervision of Prof. Krista Harper, Conzo will investigate the economic niche of local farmers, who continue to farm even as economic benefits wane. She will investigate why people continue traditional livelihoods and self-sufficiency even when it seems to counter economic self-interest.

Brittni Howard was awarded a $24,800 Fulbright U.S. Student Award to support her research on the working, playing, and learning experiences of children and youth living in fishing villages in the Central Region of Ghana. Howard’s dissertation project, “Political Economy, Social Networks, and Community Organizing of Children and Youth Working in Ghanaian Fishing Villages,” is a community-based participatory action research project undertaken in partnership with the Cheerful Hearts Foundation in Ghana. Under the supervision of Prof. Krista Harper, Howard will investigate the experiences of children and youth in the fishing village. Specifically, she seeks to understand how the social networks and relationships of youth influence the decisions they make with regard to working, playing, and learning.

Lauren Woodard was awarded a Title VIII Summer Research Scholarship of $7,000. She will spend two months as a resident fellow at the Kennan Institute in Washington D.C. to use the Institute’s library, attend events related to Russian foreign policy, and to be in dialogue with scholars at the Institute.

Erica Kowcz won several awards to aid in her dissertation research in Massachusetts and Norway, including the NSF GRFP Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) extension grant.
AWARDS & HONORS

Scholar at Risk: Ahmad Mohammadpour

This Fall the Department welcomed as part of its incoming graduate student cohort *Kurdish Iranian scholar Ahmad Mohammadpour*. Ahmad came to the United States with his wife and two children via the Scholars at Risk Network that helps threatened scholars worldwide. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Shiraz University in Iran and spent eight years teaching at Bu-Ali-Sina University in Iran and Salahaddin University in Iraqi Kurdistan. Ahmad taught a course on Kurdistan and the Contemporary Middle East this year and will be completing a second PhD in cultural anthropology on state policies of assimilation and annihilation of the Kurds of Iran.

**Elias Capello** was named a *Visiting Research Fellow* at the University of Victoria Chair in Transgender Studies for the Summer and Fall of 2017.

**Cecilia Vasquez** was selected to be a member of the *UMass Amherst Interdisciplinary Studies Institute* to participate in their annual theme of “Dissent”.

**Marc Lorenc** and his community partners were awarded the *Mark E. Mack Community Engagement Award* for their work at the Dr. James Still site in Medford, New Jersey. Marc has worked closely with the Dr. James Still Historical Commission and the descendants of Dr. Still since 2013, and has led the Dr. James Still Community Archaeology Project for the past two years on Dr. Still’s homesite and office. He has worked to teach community members and descendants the methods of archaeology while they learn about Dr. Still, the town, and one another, together. Congratulations Marc!

DEPARTMENT AWARD WINNERS

**Nathalie F. S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Award**
Adam Zimmer and Ana Del Conde

**Richard B. Woodbury Travel Awards**
Ana del Conde, Adam Zimmer

**Art Keene Leadership Award**
Elias Capello

**Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award**
Adam Zimmer

**Nat Smith Community Service Award**
Justin Helepololei

A big congratulations to the following students who received Master’s and PhDs last year:

**Master’s Degrees:**
Brie Adams, Elias Capello, Caitlin Homrich, Mackenzie Jackson, Roman Sanchez, Berra Topcu, Erin Whittey, Cecilia Vasquez

**PhDs:**
Gina Agostini, Anthony Martin, Lindsay Meador, Bonnie Newsom, Sarah Reedy
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Community Building and Community Engagement in the Undergraduate Program

Over the past year, the undergraduate program has strived to build community through the development of new academic programs, service projects, and departmental fun. In late October, we organized the first annual Anthropology Department Roller Skating, Disco, Costume Party. Well over 100 undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members skated, fell over, skated again, danced, talked and generally had a ball.

Following last year’s successful service trips to a pay-what-you-can community kitchen, the undergraduate program is organizing a department-wide service trip this spring to a community-owned farm to learn about the organization and help prepare and plant gardens. Like the Roller Skating Party, this trip intends to bring together undergrads, graduate students, faculty, and staff in a shared project.

In the summer of 2017, we facilitated four community-based, credited internships with local community development organizations. These internships are designed to 1) provide meaningful learning opportunities that can advance students’ academic, civic, and career goals, 2) forge deeper relationships between the department and community organizations, and 3) contribute to community well-being.

If you would like to support our internship program with a monetary donation or with a proposal for an internship opportunity please contact Boone Shear, bshear@umass.edu

Krista Harper teaches anthropology by playing and designing games!

This past fall, Anthropology and Public Policy Professor Krista Harper continued to teach her wildly popular class called “Anthropology of/through Games.” Engaging the exciting field of game-based teaching, students use tabletop, card, and computer games to explore anthropological themes such as play, cooperation, evolution and change, symbols, and power. Over the course of the semester, students read assignments examining the anthropology of colonialism, racism, and heritage in games, while also doing homework that involved playing board games like Settlers of Catan and video games such as Diner Dash. The students’ final projects involved taking part in an event called #AnthropologyCon 2017 in which one student team designed a game about helping Syrian refugees, while another team designed a board game about eco-tourism. Harper began offering the course in 2014, and recently received an Innovative Teaching Fellowship from UMass for her work in game-based teaching. Harper sees game-based learning as a vital focus for her, going forward. In the future she plans to author a book on the process with two collaborators, and further expand Anthro 297 in the Fall of 2018.
Student Research on Medieval Skeletal Collection

Last year, the department acquired a collection of medieval skeletons from Noli, Italy, and UMass undergraduates have wasted no time in discovering the stories the bones have to tell! Anthropology undergrad Emma Berthiaume (2018) is one student conducting her research on the skeletal collection for her Commonwealth Honors College thesis on medieval mortality. Using the skills she acquired in Brigitte Holt’s osteology lab, Berthiaume is working to determine the ages of the individuals in the collection, and will then compare the mortality profiles of people in Noli to medieval mortality in London. She explains, “I’m hypothesizing that because they most likely had more food and less disease in Noli than in London, where living conditions were much more crowded and difficult, that these coastal people may have lived longer.” This year in Machmer Hall, six undergraduate students have spent the fall semester cleaning and making an inventory of the bones for future study. “We are fortunate to have this collection,” says Holt. “Now we can begin to tell their stories.”

-Photos by John Solem, UMass Photographer

Professor Brigitte Holt next to the newly acquired collection of medieval skeletons from Noli, Italy

Students Emma Berthiaume ’18 (left) and Megan Savoy ’19 study skeletal remains in Professor Brigitte Holt’s lab
New Human Anatomy and Forensic Teaching Lab

This Spring, the Department inaugurated a new Human Anatomy Teaching Laboratory. If you happened to be walking through the ground-floor halls of Machmer this past summer, you would have seen workers installing new lab tables, a digital display and storage for a full range of anatomical study models. The lab was ready for use in January, just in time for Dr. Brigitte Holt’s new undergraduate course on Human Anatomy. We are excited by this new addition to the Department as part of our growing focus on Medical Anthropology and Global Health. The lab also offers much needed space for Dr. Pérez’s popular Forensics course.

Renovated Community Archaeology Laboratory

Our efforts to update our laboratories continues. On April 12, Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste opened the doors to the newly upscaled Community Archaeology Laboratory. The lab, located in E-17, is the site of the former Archaeology Fieldschool. Renovations took place over the course of two years as collections were relocated, classified or purged. This was a big project! Now it houses the ongoing work that Dr. Battle-Baptiste carries out on the W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite, in the Caribbean, as well as collections from the work of her various graduate students in historical archaeology.

At the new lab opening, Dr. Battle-Baptiste encouraged students and faculty of all subfields to use the new lab as a hub for transformative research and teaching in anthropology and archaeology. She highlighted the exciting new forms of archaeology already taking place in the lab, like Marc Lorenc’s research on the Dr. James Still homesite in Medford, NJ, and Elena Sesma’s digital mapping and photo survey work in Eleuthera, Bahamas. We also heard from Dr. Alexandra Jones, founder and CEO of Archaeology in the Community, who spoke on the investment in local youth and wider communities in her home of Washington, DC, and using archaeology in the classroom to teach young people about history, the sciences, and their own communities.
European Field Studies Program inaugurates new “Europe Lab”!

The European Field Studies (EFS) program had an exciting year full of new events and planning for the future. We initiated the Europe Lab, an inclusive area-studies event series about place-based knowledge and transregional connections. Labs included a workshop about the bibliographic software called Zotero, and a session on archival research methods. As the EFS program is approaching its 50th anniversary, this year we established an archive in the Special Collections and University Archives, housed in the Du Bois Library. Once complete, the archive will be partially hosted online here: http://bit.ly/EFSarchive

We were also thrilled to host a workshop on digital storytelling, thanks to our NSF grant “Cultural Heritage in European Societies and Spaces” (CHESS). As part of the workshop “Fieldwork Stories,” facilitated by Alice Fiddian-Green of Community Health Education, graduate student participants produced digital media that focused on crafting personal narratives using sound and images from their fieldwork data. EFS is continuing to fund student research, and this summer, four graduate students, Lauren Woodard, Dana Johnson, Rebecca Bartusewich, and Gabriela Quijano will travel to Europe to conduct fieldwork, through new funding opportunities in the program.

Emily Dickinson Museum Walking Tour

On October 21, 2017, students and directors of the UMass Field School in Historical Archaeology, joined by archaeobotanist Chantel White and her students from the Center for the Analysis of Archaeological Materials (CAAM) at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology gathered to present findings from their work on the grounds of the Emily Dickinson Museum. The event, well-attended by followers of Emily Dickinson’s life and work, combined a presentation of findings with a walking tour of the Museum grounds. Findings from the summer 2017 field school shed new light on the location of a former Dickinson family barn and well, and on the Dickinson gardens. Through the particular lens of archaeobotany, the botanical and soil samples which were collected during the 2017 field school, also illuminated what Dickinson’s 19th-century environment may have looked like. The Field School will take place again at the Dickinson Museum in the summer of 2018.
Increasing Internships in Cultural Resource Management

In the last year, Archaeological Services has increased opportunities for students to gain unique hands-on archaeology, preservation, and collections management experience through internships in the Fall and Spring semesters. Supervised by Eric Johnson and doctoral candidate Julie Woods, students learn about and develop a particular piece of a larger ongoing project. While students gain extensive skills, make contacts in the world of professional archaeology, and receive real-world training in working with communities, Arch Services also benefits from students’ creative perspectives and ideas. Student projects have focused on exciting areas of community outreach and engagement, as well as technological innovations in the field of public archaeology. Last year for instance, intern Joshua Andrade ’20 spent a semester scanning artifacts and lithics to make 3-D printed models that will allow more people to interact with material culture in new ways. Gone are fears of fragility and age. These artifacts, reproduced in plastic, allow the history of the site to be handled, touched, and examined — paving the way for exciting interactive exhibits. Fellow Arch Services intern Jessica Loebel ’19 spent a semester photographing artifacts from excavations at the Emily Dickinson Museum, which will be made publicly accessible as a Digital Image Collection through the W.E.B. Du Bois Library in 2018 — available not only to interested scholars, but also followers of Emily Dickinson’s life and writing. These internships will help students go on to pursue graduate degrees, and to find post-graduation internships and employment. And they have already helped connect department alumni with undergrad interns, helping strengthen the active network of UMass alums.

Intern Joshua Andrade makes 3-D scans of artifacts.

Intern Jessica Loebel photographing artifacts found during excavations at the Emily Dickinson Museum.

Printed replica of a small redware bank. Part of an artifact collection that includes archaeological material from 19th century tenement houses in Roxbury, MA, excavated by UMass Archaeological Services.
Department alums will remember the tradition of bringing scholars to campus as part of our Department Colloquium Series (formerly “701’s”), and in 2017, we spanned the subfields! Erin Kane of Boston University visited to talk about Ecology, Behavior, and the Conservation of Diana Monkeys in Côte d’Ivoire; Elyse Singer from Brown University delivered a fascinating presentation on reproductive governance in abortion reform in Mexico; and we heard from our own Krista Harper and her research associate, Ana Isabel Afonso from Universidade NOVA de Lisboa on their participatory research in urban gardening in Lisbon, Portugal. Graduate student Marc Lorenc organized the visit of Anthony Oliver-Smith, a disaster anthropologist, who explained the ways that disasters, as systematic processes that unfold over time, require longitudinal and holistic approaches so central to anthropological research. Karen Rosenberg of the University of Delaware discussed the evolution of childbirth practices, and UMass College of Education faculty Sally Campbell Galman presented her work on arts-based ethnographic research with children. The lectures and workshops visiting scholars offer is just one of the ways we expand our networks and enhance the intellectual community of the Department.

Alumna Debra Martin returns to give the Annual Armelagos Lecture

We were delighted to have Debra Martin (‘80 MA, ‘83 PhD) back in the department for our annual Armelagos Lecture in Biological Anthropology. Martin, who worked with Professor George Armelagos during her time at UMass, now teaches as an anthropology professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. For the past 30 years, her work has focused on connecting the dots between ancient violence and today’s society. In her talk, “Biocultural Approaches to Ritual Violence,” she argued that while violence can be a disruption from which communities must recover, violence also operates in sync with ideology and symbolism to sustain and restore balance. Drawing on 35 years of research on indigenous forms of violence in the Pueblo Southwest, Martin explored a long-standing tradition of ritual violence as a culturally specific practice that cannot be mapped onto modern Western notions of violence. A prominent takeaway from her research, says Martin, is that even using the term “violence” to describe certain actions or behaviors varies from culture to culture. Furthermore, one should not assume that trauma left on the bones is always a sign of physical violence due to war or ill-intentioned plans. “Looking at violence in a more nuanced way, you can see how diverse it is, so it can’t possibly be reduced to, say, testosterone or any single biological component,” she remarks. “Usually if something has a biological origin, it’s quite universal across all cultures, but violent behavior is expressed in many different ways. It’s important to me to give students an alternative to reductive thinking about violence and its intentions.”

A heartfelt thanks to Dr. Martin and a special congratulations on receiving the 2018 Distinguished Professor Award at UNLV.
Alum Kamela Heyward-Rotimi Discusses Nigerian Digital Scam Culture and its relationship to the Nation

Anthro alum Kamela Heyward-Rotimi (PhD ’12) visited the department to discuss her work on African diaspora communities’ access to, and creation of digital knowledge. Her talk, “Reimagining Nigerian Digital Scam Culture, the Nation, and the ‘Yahoo Boy,’” examined topics from her new manuscript, “Yahoo boys and girls” — the young people involved in 419 online fraud, and its impact on Nigerian communities. She has studied people of color and African-descended communities’ navigation of the internet, content creation, and racial themes that frame discussions on new media technologies. Heyward-Rotimi holds a Senior Research Scholar affiliation at Duke University, and Visiting Research Scholar affiliations at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria.

Cool Anthropology Collective visits UMass Anthropology Colloquium Series

The department got a little cooler this year with a visit from the Cool Anthropology Collective! As a part of the department’s Colloquium Series, Kristina Baines and a group of undergraduate students from Guttman Community College presented their interactive installation, titled “Shifting Stereotypes: Confronting the Collision of Power and Assumption.” With the goal of making common stereotypes “strange,” the interactive installation reframed problematic assumptions about the Black Lives Matter movement, the Change the Name campaign, and Donald Trump’s portrayal of Mexican immigrants. Baines, Assistant professor of Anthropology at CUNY Guttman Community College, is the founder of the Cool Anthropology Collective, which seeks to communicate anthropology to a wider public. By probing common stereotypes, the interactive installation explored how “stereotyping becomes a familiar response to the strangeness we see in others,” and prompted viewers to “consider the words of those in power, and what scholars and artists have to say about these words.”
In the Spring of 1968, plans were already well-underway for an intrepid group of UMass Anthropology professors, then housed in the joint department of Sociology and Anthropology, to strike out on their own and form a separate department. A search through department archives reveals the excitement for new courses, a new doctoral program, and the recruitment of new colleagues to the new Anthropology department. But there were challenges too!

According to a memo sent to the faculty in the Spring of 1968, the department separation was a multi-step process that progressed slowly through the UMass bureaucracy. T.O. Wilkinson wrote in the memo that although the departmental separation and the establishment of a PhD program had been approved by the University Graduate Council, and the Faculty Senate, the plan still needed the rubber stamp of the Academic Matters Committee of the Board of Trustees. Nonetheless, the department moved forward with its preparations, establishing a four-member executive committee in June 1968 and beginning the search for a department head. And then, as a handwritten note in the margins of a department meeting agenda some months later confirms that Richard Woodbury, the future first Anthropology Chair, had been “contacted and interested.”

**How else would we get our news but through the infamous Megamemo?**

The October 1978 edition shows a growing interest in alternative careers in anthropology—a concentration that remains today!
This story will be continued in next year’s full Anthro Retrospective! Let’s relive and remember the volleyball games and picnics, the April Fool’s Megamemos, and yes, even the classes, that have made our department an intellectual home to so many!

Over the course of the next year, we will celebrate the founding of our department, collecting memories, photographs, and even ditto copies! Please send your memories, whatever form they take, to umassanthroturns50@gmail.com.
18 the cyclical nature of the world we live in.”

As Battle-Baptiste says, “Our goal is to become a beacon for scholars, community members, and curious young people, to center has expanded its reach into the community, bringing scholars of all ages to campus. Programs at the Du Bois Center has brought new life to Du Bois’s works. The interdisciplinary research on the life and impact of Du Bois accessible to the public. Under her direction, the scholarship and activism don’t have to be for social and political change. As she says, “More archaeologists need to be in conversation with commissioned essays, the journal provides reviews of recent research, discussions of theoretical issues, and changing perspectives on human evolutionary biology in a concise, readable format. It is one of the most influential journals in the field of biological anthropology, with an impact factor that ranks 3rd out of 82 anthropology journals during the past 5 years.

Assistant Professor Brigitte Holt was interviewed by NPR’s Michaeleen Doucleff for her story, “Working Moms have been a ‘Thing’ Since Ancient History.” The segment explained the ways that women have historically been responsible for manual labor, particularly in the early days of farming, at which time women had incredibly strong upper bodies. In response to recent studies out of the University of Cambridge that documented prehistoric women’s relative strength, Holt said, “I don’t know why we’re surprised that women work hard. It’s been like this for thousands of years.” But, Holt notes, this study shows that women started performing manual labor at a very young age. In other words, it was not only adult women contributing to the rise of agriculture, but also children. Based on subsistence farming communities today, Holt said, you can speculate about what types of tasks ancient women were doing: “Hoeing, planting, harvesting, chopping wood, grinding grain and getting water — and all this while raising small children.” She concludes, “They’re ancient working moms. Things have not changed.”

Congratulations to Associate Professor Whitney Battle-Baptiste who received theUMass Spotlight Scholar Award in recognition of her scholarship and expertise in African American cultural heritage and black feminist theory, as well as for her public engagement and leadership. In her work as a historical archaeologist focusing on the African Diaspora through the lens of race, gender, and class, she always finds ways to use archaeological interpretation as a tool for social and political change. As she says, “More archaeologists need to be in conversation around museums, around Confederate monuments. Scholarship and activism don’t have to be separated.” As the director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Collection, Battle-Baptiste has worked to make research on the life and impact of Du Bois accessible to the public. Under her direction, the programs at the Du Bois Center has brought new life to Du Bois’s works. The interdisciplinary center has expanded its reach into the community, bringing scholars of all ages to campus. As Battle-Baptiste says, “Our goal is to become a beacon for scholars, community members, and curious young people, to explain, “Why is race so important?” The issues Du Bois spoke about — environmental justice, equal pay, universal health care, equitable distribution of wealth — are just as relevant today. We want to bring Du Bois to a new generation so they can see the cyclical nature of the world we live in.”
With Russia in the news so much, Professor Julie Hemment, author of *Youth Politics in Putin’s Russia: Producing Patriots and Entrepreneurs* (Indiana 2015) has had a busier than average year speaking at Harvard, the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg, Russia and several other conferences, on Russian youth politics, political satire, the hacking scandal and US-Russian relations. She has also recently been named the new Director of the Slavic, East European and Eurasian major.

In October, Professor and Chair Jacqueline Urla was the invited scholar in residence of University of Fribourg (Switzerland) Institute of Multilingualism. She lectured and ran a workshop as part of the Institute’s Fall School: “Reclaiming History and Politics in the Study of Language.”

This year we welcomed Rae Gould, an anthropologist and member of the Nipmuc Nation, as UMass Amherst’s first Tribal Liaison, providing the administration with an in-house advisor on Native American issues and an opportunity to develop stronger relationships with tribes in the region. Gould will also oversee compliance with the federal Native American Graves Repatriation and Protection Act (NAGPRA) and teach courses in the anthropology department and Native American Indian Studies certificate program. Rae previously worked in the anthropology department as a lecturer and repatriation coordinator from 2010-2014, going on to spend three years at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Office of Native American Affairs in Washington, D.C. We are thrilled to have Rae back on campus. Already since her arrival on campus in October, Gould has been laying the groundwork for a Native American Advisory Council to advise the Chancellor’s Office, which will help broaden ties between the tribes and the university. She will also advise Student Affairs and Campus Life about activities in support of Native American students, including recruitment, outreach and climate initiatives as well as programs, policies and services, such as the Josephine White Eagle Cultural Center.

Professor Ventura Pérez was featured in the *Valencia County News-Bulletin* in Belen, New Mexico, where he and collaborators will soon begin work to excavate the old site of the Nuestra Senora de Belen church. The church, which fell more than 160 years ago, constitutes an important site to the local community, where people are excited to learn more about their town’s heritage. Pérez and his colleagues will be studying the skeletal remains of the people he expects to find at the church site and accompanying cemetery. As Pérez explains, “Studying the skeletal remains tells us not just how people died but more importantly how they lived. What their nutrition was like as a child, the type of work they did.” Preparations have already been made for the respectful consideration of any remains found, which will be safeguarded and curated until the excavation is done, then reinterred at the new church cemetery. “My goal for any remains recovered is to bury them with all the due reverence they deserve,” Pérez said.

**EMERITI UPDATES**

**Laurie Godfrey**

Congratulations to Laurie Godfrey, who is involved in two major National Science Foundation grants for her research in Madagascar. In the first, titled “Collaborative Research: Madagascar Caves and Paleoclimate (MADCAP), Investigating climate variability in the Southern Hemisphere of the Western Indian Ocean,” Godfrey is working with PI Stephen Burns (Geosciences, UMass) and Co-PI David McGee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The grant’s goals are multifaceted, as Godfrey explains, “but what is most important to us as anthropologists is our ability through the analysis of stalagmites to retrieve high-resolution proxy rainfall data over the last several millennia, and to use that information to disentangle the roles of climate change and human activities in the expansion of grasslands and the extinction of Madagascar’s unique megafauna, including the giant lemurs. Another important goal is to produce a better understanding of the causes of decadal-scale climate variability, which will, we hope, help in predicting future changes in rainfall in a country that experiences severe drought and flooding on inter-annual time scales, and in which much of the population relies on subsistence farming for survival.”

The second grant, on which Godfrey is a PI again with Stephen Burns, is titled “Collaborative Research: Human and non-human influences on species biodiversity in an island ecosystem.” This grant will also explore the extinction of past life on Madagascar, researching the importance of climate as well as human activities on survival, as well as building a chronology of the life and death of species on the island. The researchers elaborate in their project abstract:

“The discovery of extraordinary deposits of fossils and stalagmites in previously-unexplored flooded and dry caves at Tsimanampesotse National Park (TNP) in southwestern Madagascar has opened new opportunities for researchers to address this question. An international team of anthropologists, geologists and ecologists will work with cave divers to retrieve and study fossils and stalagmites from the flooded caves and nearby dry deposits.”
Bob Paynter

Hi Alumni! I retired on May 30, 2015, and Linda Morley, my partner and then wife since our undergraduate days at Brown, retired 5 months later. So, what have we been doing since then? A source of happiness and consternation is being free from the constraints of the academic calendar, something that brought order to our lives since we started school in 1954. It is certainly nice to sleep late or go to bed early. But what exactly is one to do with this free time? Somewhat surprisingly it filled up pretty quickly. We’ve been able to visit friends at times of the year when I used to be in class, like Steve (PhD ’73) and Judy Perlman on Martha’s Vineyard. We went in the middle of the week when the traffic was not so bad! And we attended our Barcelona friends’ grandchild’s second birthday and then biked through Tuscany in that academically stressful month of September. And, like you, we’ve been swept up in the political currents of our tumultuous time. Linda and I have attended the two Women’s Marches in NYC with Jim Moore (PhD ’81) and Kate Pfordresher. And we recently joined the March for our Lives for gun control in DC, where our son, Braden, is living.

I’m not completely untethered from Machmer. I spent a lot of time in 2015-2016 organizing archaeological collections from the field schools so that others can put them to good use. Now that the lab has been refurbished, I hope to do more work on them myself. I am happily on some interesting MA and PhD committees. Linda Ziegenbein (PhD ’13), Quentin Lewis (PhD ’13), and I edited a special issue of Historical Archaeology on the archaeology of Western Massachusetts that will be published in the Fall of 2019. Contributors to this volume include alums Anthony Martin (PhD ’17), Lyzann Harlow (PhD ’13), Siobhan Hart (PhD ’09), Debbie Rotman (PhD ’01), Katie Kirakosian (PhD ’14), and Professors Whitney Battle-Baptiste and Alan Swedlund. Along with David Glassberg from the History Department, I gave a tour of the W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite as part of the celebration of Du Bois’s 150th birthday, co-organized and overseen in grand fashion by Dr. Battle-Baptiste.

So I’ve retired from UMass, but not from anthropology. I hope that will be my way for the foreseeable future; and I hope that you too will continue to find inspiration from the ideas and ethics of anthropology.

Thank you, anthropology alumni — both fellow alumni from my graduate school years (1971-1980) and those who were graduate students and undergrad majors during my years on the faculty (1981-2015), for making the department a challenging and nurturing community of scholars.

Don Proulx

It is hard to believe that it has been almost 16 years since I retired from the Department. My new emeritus status provided me with the time to write a book that I had planned for some time: A Sourcebook of Nasca Ceramic Iconography (University of Iowa Press, 2006). I have continued to publish articles and book chapters over the following years as well as write manuscripts that are available on my website: http://people.umass.edu/proulx/. I also have been involved in helping to organize a number of international museum exhibits, the major one sponsored by the Tokyo Broadcasting System, taking place in Japan in 2006, and others in Italy and Spain. As I have gotten older, I have had to think about all the “stuff” I have accumulated over the years. Last year I donated my “Nasca Archive” consisting of over 10,000 slides of Nasca pottery, all of which I had digitized for easy access, along with my notebooks, black-and-white photos, drawings etc. to the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Museum in Washington, DC. There, my life’s work can be used by other scholars for years to come. I am still trying to find a suitable home for my extensive library and other research materials. I take great pleasure in corresponding with museum curators and other scholars who contact me with questions about Peruvian archaeology, especially the ceramics with which I am most familiar. My wife, Mary Jean, and I continue to live in Amherst in the same house we built 50 years ago. In my retirement I served for many years on the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the UMass Library, and am currently treasurer of the Retired Faculty Association. All of these activities have kept me busy and in touch with my profession.
Retirement sounds so retiring, but I am feeling anything but tired. There is never enough time in a day to get all the work done that I’d like to get done. The most life-changing event since joining the Department in 1971 was actually clearing out of my office in Machmer W-20 after having moved in there in 1971. You all probably remember that cave — filled wall to wall with my life’s productions. At the time I posted a Facebook album “The Materiality of Retirement”. After trucking lots of stuff to the library, to some archives, to friends and enemies, and to the landfill, I am still busy at home moving stuff out of boxes from my office to their ultimate resting places.

For the first two years, I completely stayed away from the department. I was too multiply embedded for hanging around the place, my life would just have continued as before. In the six years since, I did see the students complete their degrees whose committees I chaired or participated in. I participated in departmental things from a distance. For example, Brooke, Alan and I gave a talk about departmental history at the American Anthropological Association. I helped a bunch of my long term colleagues retire, such as Art and Bob, and was saddened by the death of Dena Dincauze in 2016.

I quickly adapted to a largely unscheduled life — catching up on my reading, music, travel, and community work in Leverett, and spending lots of time traveling with Jude, only some of it professional. We explored the Mediterranean repeatedly, visited all of the islands around Scotland over several years, and explored Jordan, British Columbia, Cape Breton Island, and other places, and are just back from a month in New Zealand. The professional high point of my retirement was as Plenary Speaker for the World Archaeological Congress in 2013. I could choose my topic and ended up talking about (in Jordan): “Archaeological Complicity in War and Peace”. I blamed archaeological theory and method for making bounded social entities such as nation states or ethnicities (and their purported internal homogeneity) easy to think or bring about. This almost criminal misreading of the archaeological record helps to underwrite many essentialisms, and certainly much of the pathological political process in the Near East and elsewhere.

I tend to go to couple of national meetings a year, and the odd international one. In the past year, I went to Canada twice. I delivered the paper “Theory and Method As if Lives Depended on Them”, for a symposium on the future of radical archaeology at the Chacmool Meeting in Calgary, and “Joan at UMass, about 1974 to about 1984” at a symposium at the SAA in Vancouver that commemorated Joan Gero’s tragic death (PhD ’84). As before, I am actively working to empower Indigenous people, locally and elsewhere, and to build progressive community at all scales. I have tried to keep my anthropological interests broad, and stay up to date with the literature across the sub-disciplines. I am also trying to remain sane in these trying times.

I am always amazed at the impressive things you, our alums, are doing. I love to hear what’s happening with you. Please, keep each other, the department, and me in the loop!

Ken Jacobsen Makes Bequest to the Department

We were very honored to learn that Ken Jacobsen (PhD ’03) has made a gift in his will to the Department. This gift will create the Kenneth D. Jacobson and William Lester Jacobson Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to provide support for a graduate student enrolled in the Department of Anthropology, whose research focus is in cultural or bio-social studies. The Fund may be used to support field work and the subsequent drafting of a dissertation. We are very grateful for his generosity, stemming from a keen sense of how much graduate students benefit from fellowship support!

We’d love to hear your news! Please send your updates to umassanthroturns50@gmail.com!
The Department of Anthropology undertakes many initiatives in the form of programs, research opportunities, scholarships and fellowships to benefit its students. Your help as alumni can make a huge difference. Contributions of any size may be made to directly support a specific program. You can also send a gift to the Department’s general fund to be allocated where the need for funding is greatest. Here is an overview of some of our fantastic initiatives.

**Sylvia Forman Graduate Fellowship**

The Sylvia Forman Graduate Fellowship supports foreign and Native American graduate students in anthropology, for one and sometimes two years. While they pursue their studies, they enliven and enrich the Department’s diversity, cultural life, and educational mission. This fellowship is a legacy of Sylvia Forman, who joined our Department in 1972 and served as the Department’s Chair from 1984 until just two years before her passing in 1992. Your contributions could help make the award we give support a student for a full semester.

**Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award**

The Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award is given on an annual basis to a student committed to working in the field of medical or biocultural anthropology or bioarchaeology. The award was established and named after two emeriti faculty, George Armelagos, for his key role in training a generation of biological and medical anthropologists, and his colleague Alan Swedlund, for his great contributions to the Department and the field.

**Certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies (CPNAIS) Scholarship**

Founded within the Department, the CPNAIS program coordinates courses from many Departments to provide students with wide-ranging perspectives on the history and cultures of indigenous peoples in the Americas. CPNAIS is committed to giving students in the program the opportunity to learn directly from indigenous elders and scholars, and its scholarship supports that commitment.

**University Alliance for Community Transformation (“Alternate Spring Break”)**

The UACT organization, part of the Department of Anthropology, is dedicated to building the capacity for diverse, community-based social justice work. The “Alternate Spring Break” moniker stems from the core UACT course, Grassroots Community Organizing, a five-credit advanced Anthropology course which takes place each Spring Semester and involves fieldwork during Spring Break.

**European Field Studies**

Our European Field Studies program provides students with valuable field research experience and has an outstanding national reputation in the Anthropology of Europe. Gifts will allow us to continue to provide students with an opportunity to carry out fieldwork in Europe.

**Other Initiatives Funded by Gifts to the Department**

The Department awards many Study Abroad/Travel Scholarships to help students fund their research opportunities, both domestically and abroad. These awards assist graduate students with fellowships for travel to conduct dissertation research, and undergraduate students with scholarships for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with research and fieldwork. The Department’s main building, Machmer Hall, is home to various teaching and research laboratory spaces.

**You can make a tax-deductible gift to the Department of Anthropology**

Your donations make it possible for us to fund these awards and scholarships, upgrade equipment, and expose our majors to state-of-the-art laboratories.

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The listing below reflects the generous individuals who have made a donation to the Department of Anthropology and one of its many programs. If we have missed you, please contact us, so we can add your name to our next publication.

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