BEING HUMAN
THE 2017 REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
I want to take this opportunity to extend a warm greeting to our extended network of alumni and friends of the Department of Anthropology. We are launching an annual newsletter as a way of staying in touch with you and sharing news about the ongoing research and projects in the department.

Having finished my first year as chair, I want to thank Tom Leatherman for his three years of service before me. Tom greatly improved the resources for our graduate students by creating a fund for pre-dissertation fellowships. Students now have the opportunity to receive summer grants to explore field sites and collect preliminary data for their dissertations. This has been a resounding success. Tom also served as director of the Five College Culture, Health, and Science Program, creating lots of new synergy and excitement with our fellow anthropologists in the Valley. Thanks to his leadership and the cooperation of our colleagues, we were able to hire Felicity Aulino in a new Five College cooperation of our colleagues, we were able to hire Felicity Aulino in a new Five College tenure-track faculty position in global health.

The department approved six new thematic tracks that convey our teaching strengths and help students see how their courses can fit together. The department approved six new thematic tracks that convey our teaching strengths and help students see how their courses can fit together. We've added new courses in forensics, indigenous theory and method, the anthropology of sexuality, religion, global health, applied anthropology, and community mapping, to name just a few. We are taking advantage of our smaller size to give students what they cannot get in the overcrowded classes of other majors: opportunities for loads of hands-on learning and interaction with professors in unique field schools and international research projects, as well as through our cutting-edge community-engaged courses in the University Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT). Generous donations have helped us provide new financial support for our students wanting to study abroad. Overall, we remain firmly committed to providing a flexible major that encourages students to intentionally design their learning.

Diversity and global perspectives in the major. Anthropology is the study of human evolution and diversity over time and space. We expect anthropology majors to gain advanced skills in appreciating and thinking critically about difference, whether it be in cultural background, language, religion, race, class, sexuality, or gender. We do not offer one or two courses about “cultural diversity,” but weave it throughout the curriculum. We aim for our majors to always ask questions about how diversity is linked to structures of inequality and to emerge better able to interact productively in diverse work places and communities, here and abroad.

Jacqueline Uria
Chair, Department of Anthropology

Being Human is published annually by the Department of Anthropology 217 Machmer Hall, 240 Hicks Way Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 Phone: (413) 545-2221
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**Dave Bennett ’92: The Business World Awaits**

Dave is regional vice president of lodging development for Red Lion Hotels Corporation. Over his 20 years of experience, Dave has played a leadership role in planning multiple major development projects and has gained experience in feasibility, business planning, construction budgets, and project management. “I use what I learned as a cultural anthropologist every day,” he says, “and I can certainly speak to students’ concerns about how they may fit into the business world after graduation.”

**Sarah Pomerantz ’07: Health Communication**

Sarah is project director at Communi-
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**Alexander Sprague ’11: Animal Conservation**

Alexander Sprague graduated with a double major in anthropology and biology, both summa cum laude. In her last semester, she applied for and won a Fulbright research scholarship to Mongolia where, among other things, she designed a portable, water-efficient planter for and won a Fulbright research scholarship focusing on animal husbandry. In 2015, Alexandra earned her master’s degree in anthropology and biology, both summa cum laude. In her last semester, she applied for and won a Fulbright research scholarship to Mongolia where, among other things, she designed a portable, water-efficient planter and a reed-based soda bottle that attached to yurts. Since then, she has worked on a number of wildlife conservation, education, and human-development projects. In 2015, Alexandra earned her master’s degree in anthropology and biology, both summa cum laude. In her last semester, she applied for and won a Fulbright research scholarship to Mongolia where, among other things, she designed a portable, water-efficient planter for and won a Fulbright research scholarship focusing on animal husbandry. In 2015, Alexandra earned her master’s degree in anthropology and biology, both summa cum laude. In her last semester, she applied for and won a Fulbright research scholarship to Mongolia where, among other things, she designed a portable, water-efficient planter and a reed-based soda bottle that attached to yurts. Since then, she has worked on a number of wildlife conservation, education, and human-development projects.

**Lynnette Arnold**

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Jonathan DeVito ’09: Customer Research and the Value of Customer Research Jonathan is a strategic research expert specializing in contextual mapping, ethnography, and voice-of-the-customer (VOC) research. He has supported clients on projects ranging from in-depth interviewing for commercial due-diligence to competitive research, and brand strategy. His industry experience spans retail, food service, professional services, e-commerce, and health care. Prior to founding Pivotas, Jonathan was a management consultant to private equity firms, manufacturers, and trade associations with an interest in the food industry. He graduated summa cum laude, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and is a member of the Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference.

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Ashley Sherry ’09: Development Policy Ashley E. Sherry received her BA in anthropology and Spanish from UMass Amherst. After graduation, she went on to pursue a PhD, doing research on interpersonal and institutional forms of violence in Mexico with a focus on policy. While still working on her degree, Ashley is currently working in the Department of Shah’s Pathways Program. She spoke to students of her own work experiences as well as exciting opportunities for student internships (paid and unpaid) with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

A Banner Year for Research Grants and Fellowships

Our graduate students showed that nationwide they are in the very top tier of their class. Over the past year, they won a record total of 14 major external grants from some of the most competitive national and international funding agencies. We now have a growing number of international graduate students from Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Turkey. Many come with prestigious fellowships to sponsor their studies. Here are some of the most recent awardees, of whose outstanding performance we are immensely proud.

Evan Taylor
Social Science and Humanities Research Council
Berra Topcu
Institut Français d’Études Anatoliennes
Kasey Jernigan
Ridge Center for Targeted Studies
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THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Big congratulations to the following students who received master’s degrees and PhDs last year:

MASTER’S DEGREES
Andrew Best, Eleanor Finley, Lillian Muir, Cary Speck

PHD’S
Robin Gray, Sofia Kalo, Heidi Bauer-Clapp, Donna Moody, Julie Skogsbergh

We are very pleased that three of our incoming graduate students—Rodrigo Lazo, Claudia Morales, and Andrew Zamora—were awarded the prestigious Research Enhancement and Leadership (REAL) Fellowship. This brand-new fellowship was created by the Graduate School to support students from underrepresented groups.

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Building a Transformative Internship Program

Internships have become an increasingly important and expected component of undergraduate education. Many students see them as a useful means of gaining skills and work experience. In reality, however, many internships end up being disappointing. Our department is committed to creating internship opportunities that can become truly transformative learning opportunities for both professional development and civic life:

1) We are working with Career Services and SBS to locate existing internships that can be of most benefit to anthropology students, make those opportunities visible to our undergraduate students, and help them to secure funding.

2) We are creating internal internships for undergraduates that provide them with meaningful and useful opportunities around departmental projects—for example, creating short documentaries highlighting departmental research, courses, or programs.

3) We are developing a structured, supported internship program grounded in collaborative relationships with community organizations. Through ongoing dialogue with permanent community partners, we will develop internship opportunities that value and advance anthropological skills, methods, and knowledge while deepening the department’s community ties. One of our initial community partners is the American Friends Service Committee, which will offer internships in their multiple-year Listening Project, in which Massachusetts residents are interviewed about their work/life balance.

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.

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- Social Science Research Council
- Lauren Woodard
- Justin Helepololei, Fellowship
- Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship
- Cecilia Vasquez, Priscilla Mollard (Honorable Mention)

Current NSF Graduate Fellows:
- Elena Sesma, Erica Kowsz, Adam Zimmer, Elias Capello, Cecilia Vasquez, Priscilla Mollard

Leadership (REAL) Fellowship. This brand-new fellowship was established to support students from underrepresented groups.

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Graduate Student Awards

- Nathalie F. S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Award: Donna Moody
- Richard B. Woodbury Travel Awards: Erica Kowsz, Julieta Chaparro
- Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award: Sarah Mathena, Kasey Jernigan

Real Fellowship Winners

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Record Attendance at Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference

On April 23, 2016, UMass Amherst hosted the Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference. A tradition begun in 1996, the annual conferences are great experiences for our majors, giving them an opportunity to present their research and interact with other anthropology students from across the Five Colleges. This was the 20th conference, and our organizing team gave their all, raising extra funds and creating a website to better advertise the event. We had record attendance and a great day.


Join us on April 15 for this year’s conference.

Five College students gather to present and hear one another’s research.

Student presenters
- Laura Drost, Frida Caro, and Emma Berthäume at the Five College Anthropology Conference.

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Anthropology Students Help Understand the Mysteries of Library Life

The Library Transformations Project engages anthropology students in real-life applied design ethnography through an ongoing partnership with the UMass Libraries. Since spring semester 2014, Professor Krista Harper has trained teams of undergraduate and graduate students in research techniques with the goal of understanding how students and other members of the campus community perceive and experience the university library.

Over the course of the project, our students have conducted over 80 interviews and eight Photovoice focus-group discussions and documented more than 200 participant-observation sessions in their field notes. They regularly present their research to the librarians, who use these ethnographic findings in their design and policy decisions. For example, anthropology students have analyzed how undergraduates use technology in the Learning Commons, leading to the establishment of more QuickPrint stations and the distribution of electrical outlets throughout the space for charging mobile devices.

The research team has also studied how some students attempt to carve out informal “identity spaces” in the library, informing the librarians’ efforts to create an inclusive academic environment that takes into account the varied experiences of students of color, LGBTQ students, commuter and transfer students, and many other intersecting student identities. Anthropology students will continue the project in Professor Harper’s two research methods courses this school year.

Anthropology Student a Leader in Divest Campaign

Mica Reel ’18 is a junior anthropology major and an intern in the University Alliance for Community Transformation. This past year she also became a high-impact leader in the UMass Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign, part of an international youth-led movement urging institutions of higher education to divest their endowment funds from the fossil-fuel industry. The more she learned, the more Mica came to see the fossil-fuel industry as one of the primary drivers of climate change and climate-related deaths in frontline communities across the globe.

She took on the role of media spokesperson during a weeklong sit-in at the Whitmore Administration building that grew to include more than 250 students, faculty, alumni, and community members. Their efforts were successful, and the UMass Board and Foundation voted for the university system to become the first major public institution to divest from fossil fuels.

Mica sees her involvement in this campaign as one of the most personally enriching experiences of her college career. “It has given me a stronger critique of institutions that hold major economic and political power and has shifted how I approach global justice and international solidarity,” she says. In her studies of global justice within the anthropology department, she is now focusing more on organization and civic engagement as an empowering, change-making tool. Mica’s leadership skills and social awareness were greatly honed in the UACT program.

The Field School Experience

Our six-week intensive field schools are gem opportunities for students to work on fascinating projects under the supervision of an experienced faculty member and graduate students. Michael Sugerman has run several field-school seasons in Akko, Israel, while Ventura Pérez’s Bioarchaeology/Forensics Field School continues to be highly popular with students wanting to apply what they learn in class to the investigation of a mock crime scene at the Taphonomic Research Facility.

UMass Archaeological Services in the New York Times

On May 13, 2016, the New York Times published an article, “The Lost Gardens of Emily Dickinson,” featuring the work of UMass Archaeological Services and the Historical Archaeology Field School. Excavating on the grounds of the museum, they are discovering missing pieces from the life of the famous poet. This feature is a tribute to our staff and students as they go out into the field and uncover treasured pieces of local history. The article can be found on the New York Times website.
Anthropology Students Help Understand the Mysteries of Library Life

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The research team has also studied how some students attempt to carve out informal “identity spaces” in the library, informing the librarians’ efforts to create an inclusive academic environment that takes into account the varied experiences of students of color, LGBTQ students, commuter and transfer students, and many other intersecting student identities. Anthropology students will continue the project in Professor Harper’s two research methods courses this school year.

Anthropology Student a Leader in Divest Campaign

Mica Reel ‘18 is a junior anthropology major and an intern in the University Alliance for Community Transformation. This past year she also became a high-impact leader in the UMass Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign, part of an international youth-led movement urging institutions of higher education to divest their endowment funds from the fossil-fuel industry. The more she learned, the more Mica came to see the fossil-fuel industry as one of the primary drivers of climate change and climate-related deaths in frontline communities across the globe. She took on the role of media spokesperson during a weeklong sit-in at the Whitmore Administration building that grew to include more than 250 students, faculty, alumni, and community members. Their efforts were successful, and the UMass Board and Foundation voted for the university system to become the first major public institution to divest from fossil fuels.

Mica sees her involvement in this campaign as one of the most personally enriching experiences of her college career. “It has given me a stronger critique of institutions that hold major economic and political power and has shifted how I approach global justice and international solidarity,” she says. In her studies of global justice within the anthropology department, she is now focusing more on organization and civic engagement as an empowering, change-making tool. Mica’s leadership skills and social awareness were greatly honed in the UACT program.

The Field School Experience

Our six-week intensive field schools are gem opportunities for students to work on fascinating projects under the supervision of an experienced faculty member and graduate students. Michael Sugerman has run several field-school seasons in Akko, Israel, while Ventura Pérez’s Bioarchaeology/Forensics Field School continues to be highly popular with students wanting to apply what they learn in class to the investigation of a mock crime scene at the Taphonomic Research Facility.

UMass Archaeological Services in the New York Times

On May 13, 2016, the New York Times published an article, “The Lost Gardens of Emily Dickinson,” featuring the work of UMass Archaeological Services and the Historical Archaeology Field School. Excavating on the grounds of the museum, they are discovering missing pieces from the life of the famous poet. This feature is a tribute to our staff and students as they go out into the field and uncover treasured pieces of local history. The article can be found on the New York Times website.
European Field Studies 50th Anniversary Fundraising Drive

Our department is nationally known for its signature program in the anthropology of Europe. We have been sending students in all the subfields to carry out exploratory research for almost 50 years. Help us continue this tradition. After a very successful six years of NSF funding (CHESS) for our program, we are now launching a fundraising drive to create a sustainable endowment for the program to ensure that future students can have this remarkable experience.

Did you participate in the European program? Are you interested in helping with the fund drive? Send us your ideas and please join with other alumni in building our endowment.

William A. Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies

The Etxebarri Basque Institute in Spain has awarded the department an annual lectureship in Basque Cultural Studies. Each year for the next five years, this award will enable us to host a scholar for a one-week visit. The chair is named after anthropologist William A. Douglass, a pioneer in Basque and European studies. On Monday, September 26, 2016, our visiting Etxebarri Director Mari Jose Olaziregi, notable anthropologist of Europe, and Bill Douglass at UMass Amherst to inaugurate the lectureship with a symposium, public lecture, and gala reception. Among the invited speakers were Caroline Brettell, Joseba Zulaika, Sharon Roseman, and Susan Carol Rogers. Douglass’s address drew from his work on migration and gala reception. Among the invited speakers were Caroline Brettell, Joseba Zulaika, Sharon Roseman, and Susan Carol Rogers. Douglass’s address drew from his work on migration and was followed by a gala reception.

Developing Leadership: The UACT Program

“For me,” says Sandra Llewellyn, an alumna of both UMass Amherst anthropology and UACT, “GCO [Grassroots Community Organizing] was an answer to a question I’d had ever since I took my first anthropology course on inequality and oppression the year prior. What now? What do I do now? I know there are reasons for why the world is the way that it is? Taking GCO also helped me to further realize the impact of community on the individual and the impact that community—authentic, supportive, and collaborative relationships—can have in the world.”

Llewellyn began working with the UMass Alliance for Community Transformation in 2013, when she took “Grassroots Community Organizing” and worked with Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Interested in doing something meaningful for spring break, she was intrigued by UACT’s mandate to move beyond traditional service learning and “build community and relationships across difference.”

UACT began as an Alternative Spring Break program developed by Professor Emeritus Art Keene in the mid-1990s. Reacting against the ever more individualized teaching and learning culture in the university, Keene wanted undergraduates to have the experience of building a sense of community with one another, working in a community that was not their own and thinking critically about their relationship with injustice. The course “Grassroots Community Organizing” grew up around the Alternative Spring Break to accomplish these goals. Eventually students began to lead the course, with training and support from Keene and other experienced students.

Since coming in as director, Jen Sandler has shifted UACT’s orientation from community development to community organizing. UACT now works with community organizers and leaders as co-educators of our students; our partners are not “sites” for service or learning, but teachers and mentors who show students what community change looks and feels like. Students have opportunities to work alongside community leaders of dynamic, member-led organizations in the Northeast, such as Alternatives for Community and Environment in Roxbury and Ex-Prisoners Organized for Community Advancement in Worcester.

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“This is not the kind of work most workers get to do in college,” says Sandler. “It’s different than most NGO or nonprofit service and internship work. GCO students get to see movement feeling organizations up close, to join groups where affected folks are already engaged in identifying issues, studying structures, analyzing power, and communicating their truths in ways that matter.”

To accomplish that preparation, UACT student leaders “engage in intensive critical pedagogical training and community-based work,” Sandler says. The core of UACT is its facilitation training, and the program’s 15-plus-year process of honing an approach to training student facilitators has led recently to an expanded suite of classes, workshops, and conferences that have engaged many departments, student organizations, and community groups across the Five College area.

To create a sustainable structure to handle this work, Sandler and UACT student staff have developed an organizational culture and structures that enable students to be involved for four years or longer. Since her participation in GCO, for example, Llewellyn has been an outreach coordinator, facilitator, summer intern with another UACT partner, and postgraduate staff. As a postgraduate intern, she worked along with fellow intern Alina Ortiz Sabatier on a project with the Women of Color Leadership Network (WOCLN), housed in the Center for Women and Community at UMass Amherst, training their staff in facilitation and workshop design. These WOCLN trainings continue this year, led by UACT interns Olivia Espinosa and Juliana Patel.

“Students see a whole year of organizing and training has begun. This year, in addition to its existing partnerships, UACT is working on a community action forum on mass incarceration, continuing its training work with emerging student activists and leaders and planning an alumni reunion event in the spring to mark UACT’s 20th anniversary. Please be in touch with them (uact@umass.org) if you’d like to learn more.

The Certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies

Anthropology faculty helped to found and continue to play a key role in the Certificate Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (CPNAS), which coordinates courses from various departments to give students wide-ranging perspectives on the history and cultures of indigenous peoples in the Americas. Now, with the hiring of Emiliana Cruz, we also have courses on the indigenous peoples of Mexico and Guatemala, not to mention an expert in language revival of the unique tonal languages of this region. At the core of the program is the commitment to giving students the opportunity to learn directly from indigenous elders and scholars. The program hosts an annual speaker series and a tribal historian on campus and is working on developing new mentorship, scholarship, research, and internship opportunities. Please consider a donation to the CPNAS student scholarship.

Graduate Student Justin Helepololei with guest speakers Caroline Brettell and Sharon Roseman at the symposium.

Right: William Douglass at the inauguration of the William A. Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies.

Far Right: Invited speakers Susan Carol Rogers, Joseba Zulaika, Sharon Roseman, Mari Jose Olaziregi, Caroline Brettell, and William Douglass, with Department Chair Jacqueline Urri.
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SPECIAL PROGRAMS

European Field Studies students in Barcelona, 2016.

European Field Studies students
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VISITING SCHOLARS & SPECIAL EVENTS

This past year we hosted many fascinating presentations from accomplished scholars, alumni, and pioneering activists. Highlights include our annual Armellaga Lecture, offered by Tiffany Tung (Vanderbilt University), who delivered a lecture hall in Commonwealth Honors College with students and faculty eager to listen to her exciting research on dietary inequalities and community health in the Andes.

The European Field Studies Program hosted its annual Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Europe by Valeria Sinacori (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marcelli). She spoke on slow-food activists and cheese producers in Italy.

Ventura Piesse and Emiliana Cruz joined with students of the Violence and Conflict Laboratory to organize a screening of Mexican director Aliona Calderón's powerful film Portraits of a Search. Two of the film’s participants, Guadalupe Aguilar and Margarita Lopez, were on hand to share their stories of loss, strength, and tenacity as mothers seeking justice for their disappeared children.

For the largest Five College anthropology community, the department hosted a seminar with the eminent scholar of colonialism Ann Stoler (New School) as part of her residency in the World Studies Interdisciplinary Project. Activist filmmaker and ethnographer mapleazes (Colgate) presented his interactive documentary on Slovenian anarchism for the BSS Social Science Matters lecture series.

Latin American Symposium on Black Women Leaders
The Department of Anthropology has a dynamic and growing cohort of graduate students from Latin America. Collaborating with the Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latin studies, as well as various programs on campus and the Graduate Student Organization Palenques y Quilombos, this past April they organized “Black Women: Territory and Peace-Building in the Twenty-First Century,” a two-day symposium. It brought activists and scholars together from various countries to talk about human rights, peace efforts, and the experiences of women in social movements. Our doctoral student Castriela Hernández was among the presenters.

FACULTY UPDATES

Associate Professor Ventura Piesse was interviewed for a documentary for the Smithsonian Channel featuring his work on violence in the American Southwest. The documentary was part of “Sacred Sites of the World,” a series broadcast during the fall of 2005.

Assistant Professor Emiliana Cruz won the university’s prestigious 2005–18 Distinguished Community Engagement Award for Teaching for her innovative and inspiring work teaching indigenous language speakers and teachers in Chincero. She was honored at a ceremony last spring.

When Brigitte Holt arrived in the department in 2005, she immediately began the search for a skeletal collection to improve the facilities of the biological anthropology department. Searching in Italy, where Holt has ties with a number of anthropologists and museum curators, she eventually found an ideal collection. After six years of negotiation with the department of antiquities (Soprintendenza Archeologica della Liguria) and museum curators in Genova (Liguria, Italy), Holt recently announced that the skeletal collection from the necropolis of San Paragorio, located in Noli (Genova, Italy) will be coming to our department on an extended loan.

Graduate Association of Europeanists, then and now: conference co-organizer Cary Spick with GAE cofounders Milena Marchesi, Leyla Keough, and Lisa Medemos.

Graduate Association of Europeanists Conference
Last spring the Graduate Association of Europeanists (GAE) organized “Communities of Exclusion,” an exciting conference that brought alumna Leyla Keough back to campus as the keynote speaker. She discussed her new book, Worker-Mothers on the Margins of Europe: Gender and Migration between Moldova and Istanbul. We were thrilled to see GAE back in action.

Congratulations are in order for our newest faculty member, Felicity Aulíne. She has been invited to participate in an ambitious multidisciplinary research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation on spiritual curiosity and comparative phenomenology in five countries, led by Professor Tanya Luhmann at Stanford University. Aulíne will be engaged in intensive methods training and eight months of primary field research in Thailand, followed by a year in residence at the Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences.

Professor Betsy Krause recently completed a four-year transnational collaborative research project, “Chinese Immigration and Family Encounters in Italy.” Collaboration occurred on multiple levels, thanks to Massimo Bresciam and the research institute Strumenti e Risorse per lo Sviluppo Locale, in the industrial heart of Tuscany. Metropolitan Prato, Italy, served as an ethnographic laboratory for investigating conditions of globalisation. Its historic textile district hosts one of Europe’s largest overseas Chinese communities. Most of these immigrants produce low-cost items for the made-in-Italy fashion industry.

With funding from the National Science Foundation and Wessner-Ceres, Krause and her collaborators investigated how families and communities cope with the challenges posed by immigration and transnational capitalism. Krause has witnessed dramatic changes in its urban, economic, and social fabric. As part of their research, the team developed the Trame di Quartiere (Neighborhood Text) initiative in two Prato neighborhoods with the aim of strengthening local capacity to respond to economic crisis and improve the integration of immigrants who live and work there. The initiative offered community-based activities to the public, including engaged technologies involving urban walks, social photography, and digital storytelling.

Krause is completing a book on her research, Tight Knit: The Surprising Social Life of Fast Fashion.
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For the larger Five College anthropology community, the department hosted a seminar with the eminent scholar of colonialism Ann Stoler (New School) as part of her residency in the World Studies Interdisciplinary Project. Activist filmmaker and ethnographer Maple Paragorio, located in Noli (Savona, Italy) will comprise individuals of all age and sex categories and provides a unique opportunity to evaluate how life in a coastal environment affected issues such as growth, health, activity, and diet—all factors strongly shaped by the hardships of medieval times. A number of studies have shown that urban medieval populations were short, experienced substantial age-related bone loss, and often suffered infections. In the Noli case, reliance on fishing probably provided a reliable, protein-rich diet. In addition, females and children were involved in strenuous activities such as net pulling. Hence, the San Paragorio collection will allow faculty and students to test a number of hypotheses regarding health, diet, and physical activities. Holt will oversee the curation of the collection and foresee it as a rich source for many future honors theses and research projects in the years to come.

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Battles-Baptiste Directs Du Bois Center

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, associate professor of anthropology and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center, has been instrumental in securing a $600,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The three-year grant will support a program for faculty fellows, graduate fellows, and undergraduates from UMass Amherst and community colleges to engage deeply with the W.E.B. Du Bois archives and participate in a yearlong seminar with visiting scholars with interests related to Du Bois, his contemporaries, and his intellectual descendants. Faculty and graduate fellows will share their research through public lectures at UMass Amherst and affiliated institutions.

"The grant affords access to the work and words of Du Bois to a new generation of students and faculty," says Battle-Baptiste. "Du Bois’s ideas have never been more relevant, and the grant positions UMass to expand the impact of the research and scholarship his wisdom has inspired.”

Jason Kamilar and the Comparative Primatology Lab

After joining the department, Assistant Professor Jason Kamilar immediately set to work establishing the Comparative Primatology Laboratory. As its director, he has been renovating the lab and has launched two exciting NSF-funded projects.

The first project, "The Evolution of Primate Hair," will look at variation in hair length, width, and density across primate species. Students have been busy analyzing thousands of digital photographs of primate museum skins to detect, for example, differences in hair traits across male and female primates, or primates who live in warm versus cold climates. The second NSF-funded project, "The Ecology and Evolution of Primate Communities," examines the understudied area of primate communities. The lab is using data from several hundred primate communities from around the world to study primate interactions with other organisms, as well as broader patterns of ecological diversity across continents. Of particular interest is how climatic fluctuations over time contribute to changes in primate communities. As Kamilar explains, "Examining how climate change has impacted primate communities in the past can provide critical information about how primate diversity will be altered due to future climate change.”

Ancestors Returned in Major Repatriation

After many years of negotiations, the repatriation of the remains of nearly a hundred individuals and their associated funerary objects was completed on September 23, 2016. The scale of this repatriation was unlike any other for our department and brings the university much closer to completing its commitment to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. Thanks to the hard work of current and former faculty members, graduate students, and regional tribal representatives, remains originating from the Connecticut River Valley held in collections at UMass Amherst and Amherst College were returned and reburied in a ceremony led by tribal representatives from the Aquinnah Wampanoag, Narragansett of Rhode Island, and Stockbridge Munsee peoples, together with numerous nonfederally recognized tribes.

Associate Professor Sonya Atalay, chair of the Repatriation Committee, worked on the final phases of this exceptionally complex repatriation. As she notes, some tribal representatives have spent their entire careers working to see these ancestors be repatriated and reburied—for example Sherry White, a Stockbridge Munsee tribal member and its former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, who is soon to retire.

We are happy to see the years of work on the part of our colleagues and tribal representatives culminate in such a successful event. As Atalay said, “It's always wonderful to see ancestors returned. In this case, it’s such a large number of individuals who were waiting for a very long time to go home and be reburied. My hope is that the relationships formed during our repatriation work will lead to further collaborative partnerships with Native nations throughout the region.”

George J. Armelagos Lecture Fund in Biocultural Anthropology

For our alumni and friends who are not already aware of it, the generosity of the late Professor George Armelagos has enabled us to establish a lecture fund to honor George and bring a distinguished annual lecturer to campus each fall.

George Armelagos was born in Detroit on May 22, 1936, and passed away on May 15, 2014. He received a BA with honors from the University of Michigan in 1958 and a PhD in anthropology from the University of Colorado in 1968. He was a professor at UMass Amherst from 1968 until 1990 and was instrumental in shaping the new PhD program. He was also a director of the Honors Program and received a Distinguished Teacher Award and the Chancellor's Medal while a faculty member at UMass.

George’s contributions to anthropology were immense, particularly in the bio-cultural approach to the discipline. He pioneered the field of paleopathology, the analysis of skeletal remains to reconstruct how cultural changes lead to changing patterns of disease and nutrition in ancient populations. He was also well known internationally for his research in nutrition and in the study and critique of the race concept in human biology.

Most importantly, George was a much beloved teacher and friend to hundreds, if not thousands, of undergraduates and graduate students. He was cherished for his intellect, generosity, encouragement, humility, and humor.

Engaged Anthropology with Barbara Rose Johnston

We were excited to have our alumna Barbara Rose Johnston as the keynote speaker for the Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference last year. She delivered her talk, “Doing Public Interest Anthropology,” to a packed audience.

Now a senior research fellow at the Center for Political Ecology, Johnston gave a lively talk about her work in environmental justice and human rights as well as the influence that her mentor, Sylvia Forman, had on her as a scholar and a lifetime activist. She also met informally with graduate students in the Transformative Practice Lab.

We are grateful to the Foundation for the Five College Anthropology Conference for its generous support of this event, and for the critical role that it plays in building a vibrant undergraduate anthropology community in our region.

Summary

This issue of the Anthropology newsletter highlights the impact of the research and scholarship that is inspired by the wisdom of W.E.B. Du Bois. It also celebrates the completion of a major repatriation project that brings together Native nations and the university in a spirit of recognition and respect. Finally, it honors the memory of George Armelagos and the generosity that his legacy continues to inspire among our alumni, friends, and current and former faculty members. We hope you find this issue engaging and informative.
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George J. Armelagos Lecture Fund in Biocultural Anthropology
For our alumni and friends who are not already aware of it, the generosity of the late Professor George Armelagos has enabled us to establish a lecture fund to honor George and bring a distinguished annual lecturer to campus each fall.

George Armelagos was born in Detroit on May 22, 1936, and passed away on May 15, 2014. He received a BA with honors from the University of Michigan in 1958 and a PhD in anthropology from the University of Colorado in 1968. He was a professor at UMass Amherst from 1968 until 1990 and was instrumental in shaping the new PhD program. He was also a director of the Honors Program and received a Distinguished Teacher Award and the Chancellor’s Medal while a faculty member at UMass. George’s contributions to anthropology were immense, particularly in the bio-cultural approach to the discipline. He pioneered the field of paleopathology, the analysis of skeletal remains to reconstruct how cultural changes lead to changing patterns of disease and nutrition in ancient populations. He was also well known internationally for his research in nutrition and in the study and critique of the race concept in human biology. Most importantly, George was a much beloved teacher and friend to hundreds, if not thousands, of undergraduates and graduate students. He was cherished for his intellect, generosity, encouragement, humility, and humor.

Engaged Anthropology with Barbara Rose Johnston
We were excited to have our alumna Barbara Rose Johnston as the keynote speaker for the Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference last year. She delivered her talk, “Doing Public Interest Anthropology,” to a packed audience.

Now a senior research fellow at the Center for Political Ecology, Johnston gave a lively talk about her work in environmental justice and human rights as well as the influence that her mentor, Sylvia Forman, had on her as a scholar and a lifelong activist. She also met informally with graduate students in the Transformative Practice Lab.

Barbara Rose Johnston at the Five College Undergraduate Anthropology Conference.
Over the past academic year, I have continued to lead NSF- and NASA-funded research and publish in the scientific literatures. I’ve also continued to work with former and current UMass Amherst faculty and students (undergraduates and graduates) as well as graduate students at the University of Antananarivo, two of whom I hosted at UMass Amherst for scholarly training. I presented research at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and as an invited speaker at the 2016 congress of the International Primatological Society. I am currently fundraising for a new paleontological and conservation museum at Tsiranam]]; and I will build this and construct the display. In September 2016, I presented a video featuring our field work at the 50th anniversary of the Duke Lemur Center.

One of the things I like most about being emeritus is the ability to balance my life in a way that never seemed possible as a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology. Although I loved my work and community service, there was never enough time in the day to complete a to-do list and also enjoy enough time with family and friends. I love that ability to balance life is one of the things I most like about retirement, but that does not mean that I accomplish it very well. I still find myself overscheduled and far busier than I ever expected. I guess my positive difference is that many of the choices are my own and not the dictates of my professional responsibilities.

I still enjoy research, attending conferences, and dropping by the department or campus to see colleagues, use the library, and occasionally meet with students or visitors. On the research side, I have a new edited book with colleagues Cathy Cameron (Colorado), and Paul Bolton (Kansas, history), Beyond Guerra: Native Depopulation in North America (University of Arizona Press, 2015). It explores several aspects of the importance of disease in Native decline after contact, but illustrates how the extremely negative aspects of colonialism itself best help us understand the displacement, removal, and death of hundreds of thousands of native individuals.

I now have much more time for volunteer work in the Valley, and serve on a museum board in Deerfield, the Franklin Trust Fund, as well as various town boards and other nonprofit doing good work. My wife M.A. and I also do a lot of traveling to see family and new places. In fact, my not-so-guilty pleasures include planning and taking “vacation” trips between the Tuesday after Labor Day and the third week in May—near-impossible times for a working academic.

Brooke Thomas: Since retiring in 2004, while missing interacting with the students and teaching, I find that I have time to enjoy the little things in life that used to flash by unnoticed; even the orange juice tastes better. Nevertheless, I enjoy keeping in contact with many former students and colleagues.

My research interests in the Peruvian highlands and Yucatan Peninsula have continued. In “Tourism and the Transformation of Daily Life Along the Riviera Maya of Quintana Roo, Mexico,” published in The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology in 2015, Crist Piñeyro and I summarized our decades-long study on how tourism is altering the face and daily life of the peninsula’s Caribbean coast, the so-called Riviera Maya. We did this with Magali Dalbalta, a former student and Mexican anthropologist. Work in the Americas has focused on the formation of a nonprofit organization that facilitates the needs of people in the community where I worked for over five decades. Our goal is to work with border families improving their health and productivity of their alpacas, building on their weaving skills, and to assist poorer communities and marginal peoples in counteracting emergencies. We’re presently funding a group of elderly spinners and handroped individuals in the production of yarn, which they will sell regionally. We hope to open national and international markets for them.

We visit the highland community of Rutoha annually and wonder how our bodies will hold up to the cold, lack of oxygen, and fairly basic food, then from January to March retreat to the high tropics of northern Peru where we have a house in the foothills looking out over the Amazon Basin and up into the Andes. There the climate is mild, there are few bugs, fruits and flowers of all sorts abound, and half the population are Quechua farmers. So, all in all, retirement is not so bad, as I constantly reflect on what a privilege it is to be an anthropologist.

Art Keene: I have now been retired for two years. I remain professionally engaged while trying to explore new possibilities, all at a more relaxed pace than when I inhabited Machado. I continue to serve as associate editor of the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, the nation’s only peer-reviewed IL journal. I have abandoned the two large writing projects I outlined right before retirement but am still trying to turn out shorter, reflective essays. My most recent, “To Be or Not to Be Political: Engagement and Power,” was written with John Reiff and appears in the Cambridge University Press Handbook for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

I continue to serve on the advisory boards of the UM’s Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT) and of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County, and I was recently elected to an endowed institution, Ambrose Town Meeting, after a long hiatus, having previously served for about 15 years.

I retired from coaching cross country at Ambrose High School in 2008 but still direct, along with my wife, the Ambrose Invitational at Hampshire College, a high school race that hosts 1,200 runners from across New England, and the Lake Wyola Road Race. I remain connected to peace and justice work in Israel and Palestine and recently helped coordinate a speaking tour in the Valley for Israeli anthropologist and peace activist Jeff Halper. I have been skiing lots of hiking. My wife and I went off to hike in Bhutan in November. I try to reserve all of this around spending as much time as I can with my grandchildren. My to-do list now includes taking a photography class, hiking in Cornwall, and getting more active in the climate justice movement.
McClaurin Named UMass Distinguished Alumna

We were thrilled to learn that Ima McClaurin, who received her PhD from our department, was honored as a UMass Distinguished Alumna in a formal ceremony held April 4, 2016, at the Massachusetts State House. She said she was deeply humbled by this prestigious award and that the university had a profound influence on her development as an anthropologist and shaped her passion for social justice. The following day she visited with students and faculty and talked about her experiences and lessons learned about navigating careers.

Ima McClaurin has held a number of distinguished positions over the years and currently serves as the chief diversity officer for Teach for America. She describes herself as “first and foremost a poet-writer, a career administrator, a born-again activist anthropologist, a visionary, and a champion of diversity and social justice.”

Ima McClaurin is now teaming up with the W.E.B. Du Bois Center in the campus library to create the Ima McClaurin Black Feminist Archives. Her own books and papers will form the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist W.E.B. Du Bois Center in the campus library and a champion of diversity and social justice.

Laurie Godfrey

Over the past academic year, I have continued to lead NSF- and NASA-funded National Geographic Society-sponsored paleoanthropological research expeditions in Madagascar (November 2015 and May–June 2016) and to publish in the scientific literature. I've also continued to work with former and current UMass Amherst faculty and students (undergraduate and graduate) as well as graduate students at the University of Antananarivo, two of whom I hosted at UMass Amherst for scholarly training. I presented research at the annual meeting of the American Association for Physical Anthropology and as an invited speaker at the 2016 congress of the International Primatological Society. I am currently fundraising for a new paleoanthropological and conservation museum at Tsianampetsotsa National Park in Madagascar (we will build this and construct the display). In September 2016, I presented a video featuring our field work at the 50th anniversary of the Duke Lemur Center.

One of the things I like most about being emeritus is the ability to balance my life in a way that never seemed possible as a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology. Although I loved teaching and interacting with the students and faculty, I found that my teaching and research responsibilities were larger than I ever imagined they would be. As I reflect on my life as a faculty member, I realize that I was often too busy to enjoy the little things in life that used to flash by unnoticed; even the orange juice tastes better. Nevertheless, I enjoy keeping in contact with many former students and colleagues.

I still enjoy research, attending conferences, and dropping by the department or campus to see colleagues, use the library, and occasionally meet with students or visitors. On the research side, I have a new edited book with colleague Cathy Cameron (Colorado), and Paul Burton (Kenya, history), Beyond Guinea: Native Depopulation in North America (University of Arizona Press, 2015). It explores several aspects of the importance of colonialism itself best help us understand the displacement, removal, and death of hundreds of thousands of native individuals.

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EMERITI UPDATES

Professor Emerita Laurie Godfrey

Professor Emeritus Laurie Godfrey
IN MEMORIAM

Dena Dincauze, 1934–2016

We mourn the loss of Dena Ferran Dincauze, 82, who passed away Sunday, August 14, 2016. A specialist in the archaeological prehistory of northeastern North America, Dincauze led a prestigious academic career. She received her bachelor’s degree magna cum laude from Barnard College in 1956, a diploma in prehistoric archaeology with distinction from Cambridge University in 1957, and a doctorate in anthropology from Harvard University in 1967 for research on cemetary [cemetery]s in eastern Massachusetts. Following her five-year tenure at the Peabody Museum at Harvard, she taught briefly at the State University College in Buffalo, New York, before joining the faculty at the University of Massachussetts Amherst in 1973, where she remained until she retired in 2001.

Dincauze served as a visiting fellow at Cambridge University (where she was also a Fulbright Scholar) and a Thaw Fellow for the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, and was the recipient of research grants from the NSF, the National Park Service, the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. She was the author of more than 50 publications and served on the editorial staff of several professional journals. A past president of the society of American Archaeology and the Society of Professional Archaeologists, Dincauze is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline; son, Eric; four siblings; and two grandchildren.

“We were all very saddened to hear of Dena’s passing,” said Martin Smith. “She was a very effective fighter for females in anthropology, both at the national level and in the region and the department. By the time she retired, she had become the acknowledged figurehead of Northeastern University. Through her own work and through the work of her students, she contributed significantly to the fame of our department. She will live on in our memories as a significant point of reference, and her work will be carried on by all the students she helped to nurture.”

Joan Gero, 1944–2016

We were deeply saddened to learn of Joan Gero’s passing this past July in Argentina. She was a highly influential and prolific author in the field of archaeology. It 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 contributions to the department and the field.

“Joan received her PhD from the department in 1983,” wrote Martin Smith. “We were all very saddened to hear of her passing,” said Martin Smith. “She was a very effective fighter for females in anthropology, both at the national level and in the region and the department. By the time she retired, she had become the acknowledged figurehead of Northeastern University. Through her own work and through the work of her students, she contributed significantly to the fame of our department. She will live on in our memories as a significant point of reference, and her work will be carried on by all the students she helped to nurture.”

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The Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award is given on an annual basis to a student committed to working in the field of medical or biological anthropology or bioarchaeology. It 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 contributions to the department and the field.

Funded within the department, the Certificate Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (CPNAIS) 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.

The University Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT, or “Alternate Spring Break”) organization is part of the Department of Anthropology and is dedicated to building the capacity for diverse, community-based social justice work. The “Alternate Spring Break” moniker stems from the community-based social justice work. The “Alternate Spring Break” program takes place each spring semester and involves field work during spring break.

This year, the European Program is launching a new course to build an environment to support student research in Europe. Help us continue our outstanding national reputation in the anthropology of Europe. Gifts will allow us to create a new named scholarship for students to carry out field work in Europe.

The department also awards Study Abroad/Travel Scholarships to help students fund their research opportunities, both domestically and abroad. These awards assist graduate students with fellowships for travel for dissertation research and undergraduate students with scholarships for the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with research and fieldwork.

The department’s main building, Maclehose Hall, is home to various teaching and research laboratory spaces. Your donations to our General Gift Fund make it possible for us to upgrade equipment and expand our labs to support our students.

The listing below reflects the generous individuals who have made a donation to the Department of Anthropology during 2016. If we have missed you, please contact us so that we can add your name to our next publication.

**SINCERE THANKS TO OUR MANY DONORS, NAMED & ANONYMOUS**

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A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU!
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A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU!
The Sylvia Foreman Tree in the Machmer Hall quad in full bloom during the Spring of 2016.