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Letter from the (Interim) Chair

Greetings to all our alumni, friends and current and former colleagues, and welcome to the third edition of Being Human! I am honored to take over this role from Jackie Urla while she is on sabbatical and contribute my reflections on news from the Department.

It has been another year of creative growth and community building. So many plans laid last year have come to fruition on my brief watch and it’s been an exciting semester.

We have made excellent use of the new facilities Jackie wrote of last year, hosting some exciting outside speakers and visitors – distinguished anthropologists Bonnie Urcuioli, Katherine Verdery and Charles Briggs, as well as former president of the Basque Autonomous Community of Spain Juan Jose Ibarretxe. We have used our newly renovated conference space Machmer E24 for job talks and dissertation defenses as well, of which there have been an impressive number. The enhanced tech facilities enabled us both to film and record these talks and use Zoom technology to give virtual presence to our offsite colleagues.

My Departmental colleagues and students have continued to shine. Of note, Brigitte Holt won a major new grant from the National Science Foundation for her project titled “Bone Strength and Physical Activity Over the Lifecourse.” Whitney Battle-Baptiste was awarded the W.E.B. Du Bois Freedom Award for Community Service from the Berkshire County Branch of the NAACP, and Krista Harper received the 2018 UMass Amherst Community Engagement Award for Research. You can catch up on more good news and information about faculty research and publications on our web page, umass.edu/anthro.

UMass Amherst was recently named a “Top Producing Institution” for Fulbright Scholars for 2018-2019, and Anthropology played a role. Congrats to doctoral students Adam Netzer Zimmer, Priscilla Mollard and Brittni Howard for their prestigious fieldwork grants! Our undergraduates also continue to inspire, via their multiple and varied engagements, including internships at transformative local community organizations such as Gardening the Community, the Northampton Resistance Center and the Wellspring Cooperative Corporation. And remember, gifts dedicated to summer internships are a great way alumni can help us enhance our student success and experience.

Beyond this, it’s been an exciting year of growth and connection. We’ve run two tenure track searches this year, each linked to exciting new directions we are developing in the department. The first, an Archaeology position, was linked to our larger initiative to build an innovative program in archaeology for the 21st century. The second, in Language, Culture and Health, envisions our commitment to building strength in the growing field of medical anthropology and global health. Stay tuned to help us welcome our newest faculty members at the start of the 2019-2020 academic year.

We’ve also prioritized community building. Undergraduate Program Director Krista Harper and Chief Undergraduate Advisor Boone Shear continue to bring great energy to this project. This past year, the annual AAA-initiated celebration Anthropology Day became #AnthropologyWeek in our department, with some exciting programming. The centerpiece was an Instagram scavenger hunt that invited members of the department to contribute photos following prompts such as #AnthroBuddies, #MyFavoriteArtifact, and #TheDoingRequirement. Some of the top contributions appear here on the front cover.

And finally, we are mid-way through planning for our 50th anniversary celebration. Last year’s newsletter provided a taste, via the time capsule, that I hope whetted your appetite for things vintage Machmer. This year, we include more details of the event that will be the centerpiece – the Engaging Anthropology conference, to be held October 3 through 6, 2019. As you’ll see, we have some exciting keynotes and cutting-edge panels planned already. Read on for more enticing details about the event, which promises to be spectacular – and please, as last time, rummage away. We welcome your photos, artifacts and memorabilia!

Julie Hemment, Interim Chair, Spring 2019
Anthropology at a Glance

In 2018, the Department undertook the significant task of drafting a Self-Study for a periodic Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) review. The Self-Study involved a great deal of reflection and analysis of our activities over the past several years, and revealed the many ways in which we have been successful in keeping at the forefront of our ever-progressing field. Left and below are a key infographic and an excerpt from the AQAD self-study.

UMass Amherst Anthropology has successfully embraced and transformed anthropological cross-fertilizations, producing innovative research, teaching, and public engagement that spans traditional knowledge silos. Our faculty have expertise in five core theoretical areas, with a large number doing field research in the Americas and Europe.

As we celebrate our current success and 50th anniversary, we also look back to our more recent past. Much of our core philosophy is as relevant today as it was 25 years ago, when the department celebrated its 25th anniversary. Alan Swedlund was Chair and the department held a fantastic celebration.

Excerpted from our 25th Anniversary reflections in 1994:

Our Philosophy and our Graduates

We regard anthropology not so much as a discipline but as an approach to understanding emerging issues about the human condition. We continually explore and test new questions and perspectives. The department has assembled a faculty with diverse experience and interests who have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the field of anthropology. Our graduates have an outstanding record of career success; both undergraduate and graduate alumni have established careers directly and indirectly related to anthropology. More than 90 of our Ph.D. graduates to date hold teaching positions at colleges or universities, and as anthropologists in the public and private sectors.
Arrivals and Departures

During the Academic year 2018-2019, the Department has welcomed new colleagues and bid farewell to others.

Victor Corona traveled to us from Spain to join the Department as a visiting lecturer in linguistic anthropology for the Spring 2019 semester. He earned his Doctor of Didactics of Language and Literature by the University Autònoma of Barcelona in 2012. He has taught courses in ethnographic, sociolinguistic and multilingual education at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad Autònoma de Baja California in Mexico, Lyon 2 University and Paris V Descartes, La Sorbonne. His courses and experiences in many countries outside the US gave a boost to our curriculum.

We will bid farewell to lecturer Ge (Gladys) Jian at the end of this academic year. Jian taught special courses such as Life and Work in Contemporary China as well as core courses in our linguistic curriculum. We are grateful for all she has shared with us and will miss her.

We will also bid farewell to lecturer Maxine Oland. Oland conducted some exciting research this past summer in Belize using drone imaging, and taught many engaging classes including South American Archaeology and the Archaeology of Colonialism. We thank her for representing UMass in Belize and enriching our Archaeology program, and we will miss her.

We wish both Gladys and Maxine the best of luck in their new endeavors.

Last but not least, the Department is growing!

We undertook two searches for tenure-track faculty members during this academic year, both culminating in the Spring of 2019. The first search was for a faculty member with a focus in Archaeology, linked to our larger initiative to build an innovative program in archaeology for the 21st century. The search committee was chaired by Associate Professor Sonya Atalay, and netted over 300 applicants! The second search was for a faculty member with a focus in Language, Culture and Health, in line with our commitment to develop our program in medical anthropology and global health. This search was chaired by Professor Betsy Krause. The search activities made the Spring semester a busy one for the Department and entailed some fantastic talks and meetings with candidates. The Department will welcome its newest tenure-track faculty members starting in the Fall of 2019 for the Academic Year 2019-2020.

Stay tuned to learn more about our new colleagues!
UMass Amherst Anthropology is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2019! After a lengthy administrative process, it was in 1969 that the department separated from Department of Sociology and Anthropology to form a Ph.D. program in order to train new generations of anthropologists, and to meet the increased need for anthropologists in the academy. But as you all know, we have created so much more! Fifty years of coursework, 53 steps to the PhD, numerous 701 colloquia, department picnics, European Field School cohorts, dynamic field schools and corridor conversations in Machmer have fostered a vibrant intellectual community that has been active both within and outside of the academy.
Engaging Anthropology Conference

To honor and continue our 50-year tradition, the department will host a four-day conference October 3 through 6, 2019 on the theme Engaging Anthropology. We invite alumnae and colleagues, current students and faculty, friends and collaborators, anthropologists, other academics, activists, and practitioners near and far to join in the conversations around the past, present and future of anthropology. In addition to providing time for retrospection and reunions, the conference is an opportunity to share in discussions about the future of our discipline. With your help and collaboration, we are planning a number of special events that currently include plenaries, tours of the area landscape, dinners and socials, community engaged workshops, and professional development sessions for students.

We are thrilled to announce this exciting slate of plenaries, which include current and former UMass Anthro faculty!

▶ Distinguished Lecturer in the Anthropology of Europe:
  Lilith Mahmud, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of California Irvine

▶ Archaeology for the 21st Century:
  Jason De León, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan

▶ Black Feminism Today:
  Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst;
  Amanda Walker Johnson, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst;
  Dana-Ain Davis, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, Graduate Center, CUNY

▶ Engaging the Present, Envisioning the Future:
  Arturo Escobar, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill;
  Stephen Healy, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University and member of the Community Economies Collective.

Propose a session or event for the conference!
We seek papers, presentations, events, workshops, posters, and other activities that engage the discipline of anthropology in critical dialogue, and mobilize anthropological theory and methods toward transformative practice. Complete session proposals are preferred but we will also accept individual abstracts. Please send us your ideas!

In-line with our department history and the field’s diversity of approaches and orientations towards research and teaching, sessions and conversations around our theme of Engaging Anthropology might include any of these areas (though you need not limit your submissions to these areas).

Bio-Cultural Synthesis  Medical Anthropology & Global Health
New Directions in Archaeology & Social Justice  Whiteness & Racism
Marxism today  Feminist & Queer Theory’s impact for Anthropology
Engaged Pedagogy  Indigenous Epistemologies & Methods
Evolutionary Anthropology  Anthropology of Europe
Critical Heritage Studies  Political Ecology & Environmental Anthropology
Activism & Organizing

Registration and Proposal submission will open April 1, and will continue through the end of June. For more information or questions, please contact the conference planning committee at UMassAnthro50@gmail.com.
Alumni Profile: Angela Labrador (PhD 2013) Works with Communities on Public Heritage

Angela Labrador (PhD 2013) entered the graduate program to study the archaeology of the American Northeast with Martin Wobst. She swiftly moved to embrace the lens of heritage. As she recalls, “I became more interested in questions about why people want to save things from the past, rather than in what really happened in the past.” Her dissertation, “Shared Heritage: An Anthropological Theory and Methodology for Assessing, Enhancing, and Communicating a Future-Oriented Social Ethic of Heritage Production” approached the protection of heritage as a social ethic. As she puts it, heritage “isn’t so much about the past, it’s what people today do to enact their vision for the future and what they want society to be.”

Labrador’s work at UMass led directly - and quickly - to her current work. While writing her dissertation, she was approached by Gustavo Araoz, a conservation architect and expert on heritage policy and practice, and Neil Silberman, a historian and heritage interpretation specialist, with an opportunity to put her interest in public heritage to work. With the support of the Organization of American States and the US State Department the team developed a project that spans the English-speaking Caribbean with the aim of enhancing governments’ capacities to protect heritage across the region. Out of this collaboration, Araoz, Silberman, and Labrador formed a partnership in Coherit Associates, LLC (coherit.com) in June 2012.

At Coherit Associates, Labrador works to build and share capacity for community-based heritage projects, work she says was directly informed by her training at UMass. Her approach to the protection of heritage, she explains, is imbued with an emic perspective of value and authenticity, and relies on the application of qualitative research in the heritage field. Their work is diverse. Around the world and here in New England, Coherit provides support for cities and towns to document historic resources, develop sustainable tourism economies, and develop skill-building workshops to empower community members to identify and document places and traditions of significance to them.

The team continues their work in the Caribbean, now working in 13 different nations across the region. Coherit works with nations like Guyana, St. Lucia, and Jamaica to create sustainable heritage tourism endorsement programs using locally-determined heritage values. Labrador has trained facilitators to carry out qualitative research, including focus groups, mobile oral histories, and photovoice research, to determine how citizens understand what is distinctive about their heritage and identity to create experiences and tourism brands rooted in local values.

Labrador also publishes for both academic and general audiences. Her co-edited volume (with Neil Silberman) The Oxford Handbook for Heritage Theory and Practice brings together a number of social science perspectives on the heritage field. She and Silberman are developing a second book for a more general audience, which will trace the past, present and future of the heritage field.

Angela Labrador is working to assemble a panel at next Fall’s Engaging Anthropology Conference. Stay tuned to hear more!

“I became more interested in questions about why people want to save things from the past, rather than in what really happened in the past.”
Alumni Profile: Kerry Lynch (PhD 2010) Directs Fieldwork in Search for Remains of Endeavour

Kerry Lynch (PhD 2010) is playing a critical role in helping solve a 240-year-old maritime mystery: what happened to the HMS Endeavour, the ship that Lt. James Cook captained on the first voyage by British explorers to Australia? A specialist in underwater archaeology, Lynch is field director for the exploration of Revolutionary War activity in Rhode Island’s Newport Harbor, and has worked on various underwater sites there since 1997. At a news conference in Newport last September, Lynch and other researchers announced a promising discovery at the bottom of Newport Harbor that could possibly be the remains of Cook’s famous ship.

Launched in 1764, the Endeavour was first purchased by the British Royal Navy for James Cook’s 1768-1771 scientific mission to the Pacific Ocean. Sold to private investors and renamed the Lord Sandwich, she later became part of American, Australian, and British history during the Revolutionary War. Chartered by the British Board of Transport, she was used to transport Hessian mercenaries to fight in the war. She was also used as a prison ship to hold American prisoners, Lynch said. In 1778, as an invading French fleet approached British-held Newport, the Lord Sandwich and 12 other ships were scuttled to block the harbor.

Now 240 years later, there remains much work to be done to know if the ruins at the bottom of the harbor are, in fact, the Endeavour. The next steps include excavation to measure timbers buried in the muck, recovery of possible artifacts, and non-destructive inspections, such as analyzing 3D imaging of site features. Then, wood samples from all the wrecks will be analyzed and checked against construction records. Additional clues may be pollen embedded in the pitch between timbers that could only have come from the Pacific, exotic wood used during repairs, or bits of cloth or buttons from a Hessian uniform.

Lynch was contracted for the project and she also volunteers her time. The project is supported by classes, including site mapping and other training provided by Lynch, Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP) memberships, as well as federal and other grants, including from the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Alumni Profile: Jenny Foster (PhD 2003) Sends an “Aloha” from Hawaii

Jennifer Foster earned her PhD in 2003, and spent the following 4 years teaching at the UMass School of Nursing before being recruited to Emory. Lynn Sibley, the former wife of George Armelagos was working on gathering nurse-midwifery faculty with PhDs in anthropology to work on global maternal-newborn research, and Jenny fit the bill. After a fulfilling decade at Emory, which included multiple research projects in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and a Fulbright semester in Chile, Jenny retired in May 2018. Jenny (now Professor Emerita at Emory) and her husband David currently live in Honolulu as the Resident Couple at the Honolulu Friends Meeting. She sends everyone a fond “Aloha” from Hawaii.
Awards and Honors

**Erica Kowsz** continues her research on discourses and the production of recognition in Norway, funded through two Graduate Research Fellowships Worldwide (GROW) awards for international exchange through the NSF. After working January-May 2018 at the Social Anthropology Institute at the University of Oslo, she is now at the Center for Sami Studies at UiT, the Arctic University of Norway, where she is presenting public talks on her research.

**Priscilla Molland** won a Fulbright Award for her research in Romania for applying bioarchaeological methods to evaluate daily life in the 14th-17th century mining town of Baia Mare via a collection of over 800 skeletons from the Piata Cetatii cemetery. Molland’s major research foci will be the intersection of identity and labor, and the biosocial consequences of mining.

**Adam Zimmer** won a Fulbright-National Science Foundation Arctic Research Award for his project, “Understanding Inequality through Icelandic Anatomical Collections.” From August of this year to May 2020, he will return to Iceland where he will be affiliated with the Háskoli Islands/University of Iceland.

**Ana Del Conde** was awarded an NSF DDRIG for her project, “Violence and Indigenous Women in Rural Mexico: An Ethnographic Study of Local Security.” With this support, she will undertake ethnographic research in the P’urhépecha Plateau, in Michoacán Mexico. The primary objective of her research is to determine how notions of security and security policies have an impact on the everyday experiences of indigenous women, and to examine some of the alternative security strategies women in this region develop in response.

**Elena Sesma** was awarded a prestigious University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship for the 2019-2020 academic year at UC Berkeley (sponsor Laurie Wilkie). She also won a Wenner Gren Foundation Engaged Anthropology Grant for the development of a community-based archive in Eleuthera.

**Dana Johnson** received Honorable Mention in the Grad Student Paper Prize for the Society for the Anthropology of Europe at the 2018 AAA Meetings for her draft article, “If You Look at the Sky You Step in Sh*t: Horizons of Possibility and Migration from Serbia.”

**Amanda Fuchs** won a Natural History Collections Summer Research Scholarship from UMass Amherst for her pilot project, “How does habitat type and consuming free-standing water influence Kinda baboon gut microbiomes?”

**Vanesa Giraldo** won a Colombian and German Institute for Peace (CAPAZ) award for her dissertation project “Governing Reproduction in War and Peace: Conflicting Narratives of Contraception, Abortion, and Motherhood among Ex-Combatant Women in Colombia.” Giraldo explains, “My dissertation research examines how reproductive practices in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the public debate it generates shape women’s experience as combatants and former fighters.” Women make up 30% of the FARC, Vanesa explains. While the Colombian government has alleged that mandatory contraception and forced abortions were ordinary forms of sexual violence against them, women leaders of the FARC argue forcefully for their right to contraception and abortion. Her dissertation examines conflicting narratives about female fighters as rebels, victims, and women’s rights advocates and its political consequences for the reintegration into civil society.

**Giraldo marching on the “Day of the Victims” in Colombia holding a sign reading, “No more sexual violence, we want peace and dignity.”**
Master’s and PhD’s Conferred

A big congratulations to the following students who received Master’s and PhD’s this past academic year!

**PhD’s:**
- **Alin Rus**, Dissertation Title: “Labor Migration and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Postsocialist Rural Romania”
- **Daniel Habtemichael**, Dissertation Title: “Modeling the Local Political Economy of Adulis: 1000 BCE-700 ACE”
- **Lauren Woodard**, Dissertation Title: “The Politics of Return: Migration, Race, and Belonging in Russia’s Far East”
- **Elena Sesma**, Dissertation Title: “The Political Work of Memory in Collaborative Caribbean Archaeology”
- **Dana Johnson**, Dissertation Title: “What will you do here? Dignified Work and the Politics of Mobility in Serbia”

**Master’s Degrees:**
- **Ryan Rybka**
- **Rodrigo Lazo**

**Grad Publications**

**Danielle Raad** co-authored a paper, “Application of XRD and digital optical microscopy to investigate lapidary technology in Pre-Pottery Neolithic societies” on work she undertook for her master’s thesis at MIT on the analysis of beads from the Neolithic site of el-Hemmeh in Jordan, which was published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*.

**Castriela Hernández-Reyes’** article “Black Women’s Struggles against Extractivism, Land Dispossession and Marginalization in Colombia” was published in *Latin American Perspectives*.

Given that humans’ ability to sweat is unique in the animal kingdom, **Andrew Best** and Jason Kamilar embarked on a research project to better understand the phenomenon. Their article on this topic, “The evolution of eccrine sweat glands in human and nonhuman primates” was published in *The Journal of Human Evolution*.

Stories from the Field

PhD student **Brittni Howard** recently returned from her Fulbright-funded fieldwork in Ghana, where she studied how social networks and relationships of children and youth influence the decisions they make in working, playing, and learning. Howard was in the Greater-Accra region of Ghana with her daughter from February to September 2018, and plans to return this summer with students to run *Star Service and Study Abroad*, the six-week study and service program she co-founded and directs. Howard is completing her dissertation using community-based participatory action research (CBPR) methods. As her dissertation supervisor, Krista Harper, explains, “[Howard] designed her research to maximize benefits to local people and organizations in small fishing communities, while also contributing to our knowledge of children and youth around the world.” In tandem with her research, Howard facilitated new organizational partnerships to empower local youth. Partnerships with multiple Ghanaian nonprofits that focus on child welfare, education, and anti-trafficking efforts and the Michael Walton Foundation, resulted in local “Speak Out to Reach Out” leadership and careers development workshops. Several young people went on to participate in Howard’s Photovoice project and photographic exhibition at the US Embassy in Accra. These activities allowed children, youth, and their families to present their stories to policymakers who shape programs related to health and education in small fishing communities.

Howard with some of her partners in Ghana
Recent PhD Elena Sesma has endeavored to engage community members in her work, as she weaves together threads of a Bahamian community’s history. In her dissertation project entitled “The Political Work of Memory in Collaborative Caribbean Archaeology,” Sesma investigated the ways residents of Millars Plantation - a 2,000 acre plantation in Eleuthera which was given to former slaves and servants living there by the last plantation owner in 1871 - have used the land over time to convey their shared identity and collective memory. Using cutting-edge methods like panoramic photography, community-engaged participation, oral history, as well as traditional archaeology, Sesma seeks to “get an idea of how this landscape has changed from one of a plantation, to one that today is really representative of home for a lot of people.” Sesma’s work was conducted with a number of community groups, including the One Eleuthera Foundation, which works to create sustainable regional planning on the island, the Bannerman Town, Millars and John Millars Eleuthera Association, which represents descendants of the original Millars plantation inhabitants, and the Wemyss Bight Community Library.

In March, Sesma returned to Eleuthera with the help of her Wenner-Gren Engaged Anthropology Grant to explore the possibility of using her dissertation research to develop a Community-Based Archive. Sesma will return to Eleuthera again in May to meet with research partners and participants to discuss next steps for this research, including the development of a digital archive and story map hosted and controlled by community members.

PhD candidate Justin Helepololei is currently conducting fieldwork in Hampden County, Western Massachusetts, looking at how people who have been incarcerated become involved in criminal justice reform, and what programs and policies support more involvement by communities who have been directly impacted by incarceration. Alongside this research, Helepololei is part of the Elm Street Think Tank, a jail-based group comprised of currently-incarcerated individuals and community-based educators who develop creative projects to promote alternatives to incarceration. He is also a collective member of Great Falls Books Through Bars, a project that sends free books to people who are incarcerated; volunteers with the Western Mass Prison Abolition Network and Massachusetts Bail Fund; and facilitates a course called Relational Organizing, which brings together student activists and community-based organizers in Springfield, MA, through the UMass Alliance for Community Transformation.
UMass Anthropology’s Public Face

UMass Anthropologists have never limited their knowledge to the academy, and have always pursued ways to use anthropology to make the world a better place. That tradition continues today with graduate students and faculty working to communicate anthropological knowledge to new audiences.

PhD candidate Andrew Best was quoted in Science, the peer-reviewed academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, along with Assistant Professor Jason Kamilar and colleagues from Harvard and Duke about their recent research article examining the genetics of running ability in mice.

PhD candidate Eleanor Finley, who studies social movements and radical democracy in the European Kurdish diaspora, is making waves on the global conference circuit. She taught an 8-day course in grassroots ecology and social justice at the 2018 ERASMUS-funded Ecosocialist Educational Convergence in Rostock, Germany. In July, Finley helped organize and presented at Fearless Cities North America, a first-of-its-kind event that ran concurrently with Fearless Cities, Warsaw, where participants discussed how to change cities from the ground up. In September, she spoke about the Green Movement and social ecology at the Festival de Autres Mondes, a symposium celebrating the work of imprisoned Kurdish feminist and journalist-turned-painter Zehra Dogan. And most recently at the Democracy Xchange conference in Toronto, Finley led a panel on “Local Power: How municipal organizations and citizen’s collectives are designing our future.”

Recent PhD Lauren Woodard interned at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, DC over the past year, working on a congressional review of a nuclear cleanup program. She’s enjoyed applying her graduate training in methods and data analysis to work with a team of interdisciplinary research analysts to make recommendations to Congress. Outside of her internship, she’s also been a visiting scholar at George Washington University’s Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies. She has presented her dissertation research to policy makers, faculty, and students at GWU, the Wilson Center, the Government Accountability Office, and the State Department.

In addition to pursuing dissertation fieldwork in Iceland, PhD student Adam Netzer Zimmer was featured in an article by PBS affiliate Rewire.org as one of 500 Queer Scientists, a new visibility campaign for LGBTQ+ people and their allies working in STEM and STEM-supporting jobs. Zimmer describes the initiative as a great way to bridge the gap between his professional work as a biological anthropologist and his advocacy work as a panelist for SpeakOUT Boston LGBTQIA Speakers Bureau and a judge for the Bisexual Book Awards. Zimmer stresses that talking about personal identity is not irrelevant to the work that scientists do, adding “I see that there is a cohort of young, queer researchers who are eager to use their unique perspectives to ask new questions in the field.” To this end, as part of Pride Month, Zimmer gave a talk at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Northeast regional headquarters about STEM inclusivity in the workplace, which was broadcast to all of their northeast offices and stations.

Julie Woods, PhD Candidate, has joined the Institute for Social Science Research at UMass as the Research Collaboration Coordinator for the recently awarded 5-year $3M National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant project. The UMass ADVANCE program is designed to increase opportunities for research collaboration, relationship building and recognition for women and faculty of color particularly in the STEM fields at the university. In her new role, Woods will partner with the ADVANCE leadership team, central administration and faculty from across the university to build a collaborative research network, develop an online research collaboration information base, and provide support for collaborative faculty teams to develop seed funding initiatives.

Zimmer says, “I see that there is a cohort of young, queer researchers who are eager to use their unique perspectives to ask new questions in the field”... talking about personal identity is not irrelevant to the work that scientists do.
The Undergraduate Program

Anthro Fun and Community Building!

The Undergraduate Program continues to evolve in order to create coherence, build community, and meet the needs and interests of our majors. After years of planning, and in dialogue with the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, we have formalized our existing areas of curricular concentrations. Students are now able to find a focus in Evolutionary Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Medical Anthropology and Global Health, and Individually Designed concentrations.

Community building efforts are shaping departmental relationships and activities at every level. A resurgent Anthropology Club is organizing socials and workshops. Departmental service trips bring students and faculty to learn from transformative community organizations like Gardening the Community, a food justice, youth development, and urban farming organization in Springfield. This spring, we celebrated International Anthropology Day with a week-long series of events, including an on-line scavenger hunt and trivia night. We kicked off a series of Friday socials — "Anthropology Teatime" - which create the opportunity for relaxed, informal meetings and conversation between faculty, staff, grads, and undergrads. And of course, the Annual Roller Skating Disco Party (held in October, photos left) brought students and faculty together for fun and festivities.

Our summer based community internship program is now in its third year. 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. In collaboration with local community partners - like Wellspring Cooperatives, a growing network of worker cooperatives in Springfield, MA, The New Economy Coalition, a national organization building relationships between and supporting projects aimed at advancing egalitarian, sustainable, and just communities, and The Resistance Center in Northampton that engages in peace efforts and human rights struggles. These internships are also providing important experiential learning for undergraduate students. Says recent participant and alumnae Margaret Reynolds, “I was expecting to gain practical anthropological experience by accepting an unpaid internship through the department. What I ended up with was somewhat of a surprise but much better - I ended up working for people hugely invested in their work and not only willing but excited to spend hours explaining history, current politics, activism, and what they saw as the potential for the future to me. I realized how much I didn’t know about the world, how quickly that could change if you are around passionate people, and how accessible avenues for change can be if you seek them out and are serious about your purpose.”

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

Photos: top: Professors Krista Harper and Betsy Krause dressed to impress at the fall semester’s Roller skating Party; bottom: Chief Undergraduate Advisor Boone Shear skates in style with graduate students Andrew Zamora and Ryan Rybka
Department Award Winners, 2018

In May of 2018, the Department held its annual Awards Lunch in the recently renovated Old Chapel. Because of the generosity of our amazing donors, these awards were possible. We sincerely thank everyone who donated to help to support our programs and our students. For more information on these awards, please see the Supporting Anthropology section on page 26.

Oriol Pi Sunyer
Dissertation Prize: Alin Rus

Richard B. Woodbury
Travel Award: Amanda Fuchs

Art Keene Leadership Award: Kathiuska Perez

Nat Smith Community Service Award: Marc Lorenc

Armelagos-Swedlund Graduate Research Award: Julieta Chaparro
Honorable Mentions: Andrew Best and Amanda Fuchs

Sylvia Forman Fellowship: Ahmad Mohammadpour
Dissertation Writing Fellowships: Julieta Chaparro, Marc Lorenc, and Elena Sesma
Pre-dissertation Summer Research Grants: Andrew Best, Elias Capello, Amanda Fuchs, Cecilia Vasquez, and Adam Zimmer
Undergraduate Study Abroad Award: James Samuel Kostick, Mariah Lynn Morse and Stephanie Smith
Nathalie F. S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Award: Elena Sesma and Emma Caroline Berthiaume
Sylvia H. Forman Undergraduate Writing Prize: Ronise A. Wheaton

Congratulations to our fantastic students on their achievements!
Special Programs

EFS Europe Lab

Building on the exciting momentum of last year’s launch of the Europe Lab, 2018 saw several innovative and compelling workshops. In November, we heard from Professor Betsy Krause and her longtime collaborator Dr. Massimo Bressan, President of the Strumenti e Risorse per lo Sviluppo Locale (IRIS) research institute in Prato, Italy. Together they presented on their transnational collaborative work on the “Neighborhood Plots” initiative in Prato, Italy.

This initiative, as Krause and Bressan described, emerged in part through a citywide “Diversity Management” urban planning effort, responding to an urgent need to counter segregation, separation, and racism in Prato. The factory-city just 12 miles north of Florence, is host to a notable number of immigrants, especially those from China, who dominate a fast-fashion niche in the Made in Italy sector, and who manage more than 5,200 small family firms. Their presence represents the hegemony of global supply chains.

Reflecting on a grassroots initiative and a collaborative action research project, both of which took place in the neighborhood of San Paolo - a crossroads of Little Italy and Little Wenzhou - Krause and Bressan described different tempos that emerged in two neighborhoods where residents, engaged urban planners, and anthropologists launched efforts to counter segregation and xenophobia. Together engaging in digital storytelling workshops, residents shared evocative stories and memories of their homes and city - describing the ways it has changed with the pressures and flows of the global economy. Regardless of their regional or transnational origins, residents share a history of producing Made in Italy textile, knitwear, or apparel products - though at different times and tempos, as well as in different political regimes. For links to additional reading on this compelling topic, visit Krause’s Key Publications list online at umass.edu/anthro/people/elizabeth-krause.

Fieldwork Goes Digital

Faculty and graduate students have been eager to explore new and exciting methodologies. The Europe Lab has been a key site for experimentation, hosting and co-sponsoring a number of workshops with other campus programs. Anthropology and SPP Professor Krista Harper led a screening and panel discussion on the creation and dissemination of fieldwork data through digital storytelling methods. The panel brought together students and faculty curious about the digital storytelling process as a visual and arts-based method that is equally applicable to teaching and research. Panelists Justin Helepololei, Ying Li, and Julie Woods shared reflections on their research and their incorporation of digital storytelling techniques in their projects. As PhD candidate and panelist Justin Helepololei said, “The ISSR digital storytelling workshop was a deeply generative space. On one level, I was able to talk with trainers and other researchers about how I might use more participatory and visual methods in my work. On another level, I was able to go through the process of writing my own digital story. This gave me space to engage with some of my own experiences of addiction and recovery - themes that are central to the lives of many people I work with in my research on jail reform and community organizing. Both the personal and applied aspects of the workshop have continued to transform my current fieldwork in productive ways.” This panel and two previous digital storytelling workshops were sponsored by the Cultural Heritage in European Societies and Spaces (CHESS) program, the European Field Studies Program, and the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR).
Engaging with Economic Possibility

Last year, the Department introduced two new courses as part of our growing Economic Anthropology curricula. These courses were designed to deepen student understanding of current economic ideology and possibilities that may be suppressed or obscured, and include readings and engaged assignments that put students in direct dialogue with communities and movements engaging in alternative economic practices. Last year, our students attended community workshops, interviewed community leaders, created organizational profiles, contributed to organizational and community dialogues, and co-authored a still-emerging report on cooperative development in Western Massachusetts with the Wellspring Cooperatives in Springfield, MA. A central component of the classes was a series of discussions and a public lecture featuring Kali Akuno from Cooperation Jackson, whose mission “is to advance the development of economic democracy in Jackson, Mississippi.” Students taking the courses reported feelings of self-transformation and economic agency. One student commented that the classes have “greatly shifted my view into actually being able to see myself in developing solidarity economies and what they might entail.”

UMass Alliance for Community Transformation

The UMass Alliance for Community Transformation has had a dynamic year. UACT continues to partner with community organizers to engage students at UMass and across the Five Colleges through its Grassroots Community Organizing (GCO) course. Under the directorship of Jen Sandler, UACT has become a continually expanding, diverse, organically collective, and mutually supportive network of projects and people, both on and off campus. This past year, UACT worked with the Pioneer Valley Project and the Granite State Organizing Project, engaging GCO students in efforts to build the power and amplify the voices of youth of color to address issues that affect them, including gun violence and school disciplinary policies. For the fourth time, UACT ran a second spring semester community organizing course, Relational Organizing, held at UMass Amherst’s downtown Springfield campus. This course brings community and campus activists and organizers together, and has become a staple component of UACT’s organizing work, serving as a hub for collective learning and relationship-building in the Pioneer Valley. Sandler notes that “our fundamental project, to understand and shift power and knowledge through collective, relational, and richly contextualized work across difference, feels profoundly resonant and relevant in this political moment.” For more information, visit uactumass.org.
Public Engagement and Student Experience Through Archaeology

In December of 2018, Lecturer Eric Johnson led a team of historians and archaeologists from the Wayland Historical Commission, and volunteers and students from UMass on field work at the property known as the Dorey House in Wayland, MA. Johnson, Principal Investigator on the project said, “We’ve had 15-20 UMass Amherst students working here over the course of the project, and I’ve really enjoyed giving them a taste of archaeology.” The project came about when the owners of the Dorey House decided to sell the property, and discovered it would not meet current zoning regulations. “The Town of Wayland was interested in buying it since our town water supply is near the property,” explains Tonya Largy, MA in Anthropology ’01, and a member of the Wayland Historical Commission. After the town purchased the property, Largy explains that Wayland officials offered the Historical Commission the chance to research the property’s history. Largy and her colleagues contacted Johnson about conducting an archaeological survey at the Dorey House to determine an approximate date for when the structures on the property were built, how they were used, and what the lives of residents were like.

Anthropology major Kate Barvick oversaw field work in Wayland and examined the materials they discovered back in the lab at UMass. She was drawn to UMass by her avid interest in archaeology. She explained, “Archaeology seems exciting and I like the idea of travelling and digging in the field.” Her previous experience at the UMass Archaeology Field School at the Emily Dickinson Museum equipped her with skills she drew upon for this project. Barvick was also part of the team that found the foundation of Dickinson’s plant conservatory - an experience that reconfirmed her commitment to archaeology. The Dorey House excavation and the analysis she performed on the materials excavated from the site formed the foundation for her Senior Honors Capstone Research Project.

Updates from the Kasanka Baboon Project

It has been an exciting year at the Kasanka Baboon Project. Two documentaries featuring the baboons, anti-poaching activities, and community and education outreach premiered on the Smithsonian Earth channel. Several UMass students visited the project in Zambia this past summer including project director and PhD student Anna Weyher, undergraduate research assistant Jesse O’Neill, and PhD student Amanda Fuchs. Alongside Weyher, O’Neill learned first-hand how to collect field data including fecal samples and GPS points, as well as how to identify individual baboons based on phenotypic differences. Fuchs then arrived at Kinda camp to begin collecting pilot data for her future dissertation; her study focuses on spatial memory, habitat use and gut microbiome diversity in Kinda baboons. Stay tuned for a fundraiser benefiting the project this spring. Visit kasanababoonproject.com to learn more.

Fuchs taking water samples in Kasanka National Park, Zambia
Visiting Scholars & Special Events

This year we were thrilled to host some of the most exciting minds in Anthropology as part of our ongoing speaker series and colloquia.

William A. Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies Hosts Former Basque President

As part of the William A. Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies, former president of the Basque Autonomous Community of Spain, Juan Jose Ibarretxe visited last spring to speak of his visions for “How to Change a Country.” Ibarretxe served as the Basque president from 1999-2009, and is now the director of the Agirre Lehenakaria Center of Social and Political Studies and author of The Basque Experience: Constructing Sustainable Human Development (2015). Ibarretxe’s talk focused on the successful economic and social development of the Basque region. In the early 1980s, the region was beset by conflict and its economy was in ruins. Three decades later it is at peace, and second only to Luxembourg in Europe’s prosperity index. Ibarretxe explored what lessons other countries might learn from the Basque region’s rebirth. The Basque country’s success is unique for the fact that it underwent a fundamental reorganization toward self-governance and economic development in a context of conflict in the 1980s. Disavowing neoliberal economic models, the Basque country has emphasized the values of cooperative ownership, social programs like a universal income, as well as public-private partnerships, and entrepreneurialism. Perhaps most importantly, they also sought to cultivate two pillars of sustainable human development in the region: local identity and innovation. Identity and culture, according to Ibarretxe, are not antithetical to social and technological innovation, but are rather a driving factor. The “Basque Model” is now seen worldwide as an alternative to neoliberal economic development, studied in places like Harvard’s business school. The Department has just formed a research partnership with the Agirre Center and we look forward to future exchanges.

Urciuoli and Shear Examine Diversity and Neoliberalism in Higher Ed

The Department was delighted to host Bonnie Urciuoli, Leonard C. Ferguson Professor of Anthropology Emerita for a Five College seminar entitled “What Diversity Talk Really Entails”. Urciuoli’s talk explored how university branding campaigns that emphasize diversity and inclusivity actually affect students, especially students marked as “diverse.” She pointed to a central question we should ask of these campaigns: who really benefits from “diversity talk”? Urciuoli also joined our own UMass alum and Chief Undergraduate Advisor Boone Shear in a second seminar, on Neoliberalism and Higher Education. In a dynamic and exciting discussion interrogating the current state of the American university, Urciuoli and Shear discussed the ways that neoliberalism has changed the experience of higher education for both students and professors, focusing on how we might use anthropology to critically analyze and strategize around discourses of higher education today.
Verdery Lecture on My Life as a Spy

In September, we welcomed Dr. Katherine Verdery for an exciting lecture on her new book My Life as a Spy. Verdery is Julien J. Studley Faculty Scholar and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and the author of many books. My Life as a Spy recounts her discovery that during decades of ethnographic research in Romania numerous friends and colleagues informed on her to the secret police, and details her subsequent use of her secret file to develop an ethnographic understanding the social logic of surveillance under socialism.

“There’s nothing like reading your secret police file to make you wonder who you really are.”
Katherine Verdery, My Life as a Spy

The 5th Annual Armelagos Lecture

The Department was excited to welcome U.C. Berkeley Professor of Anthropology Dr. Charles L. Briggs as part of the 5th Annual Armelagos Lecture in Biocultural Anthropology. Briggs, a linguistically-trained medical anthropologist, drew on his former work on the “communicability” of disease to discuss his most recent book, Tell Me Why My Children Died: Rabies, Indigenous Knowledge, and Communicative Justice. In his lecture, “Can the Rabies Virus Speak? Bridging Linguistic and Medical Perspectives in Investigating a Mysterious Epidemic,” Briggs employed a semiotic analysis to understand how the rabies virus went un- and under-diagnosed among the Warao indigenous communities in Venezuela, and to point to new ways to achieve communicative justice in healthcare encounters.
Faculty Updates

Associate Professor Whitney Battle-Baptiste, who is also currently the director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Center, recently celebrated the publication of her new book, *W.E.B. Du Bois’s Data Portraits: Visualizing Black America*, co-authored with Britt Rusert, associate professor of Afro-American studies. The book collects the complete set of the colorful charts, graphs and maps Du Bois presented at the 1900 Paris Exposition to make visible a wide spectrum of black experience. As literary and cultural critic Maria Popova wrote, the data portraits shaped how “Du Bois himself thought about sociology, informing the ideas with which he set the world ablaze three years later in ‘The Souls of Black Folk.’” At a book launch hosted by UMass Amherst Libraries, Battle-Baptiste and Rusert spoke of the power of the book’s images to shape understanding of life in America at the turn of the century as well as their unique beauty and artistic value.

Professor Betsy Krause recently celebrated the launch of her new book, *Tight Knit: Global Families and the Social Life of Fast Fashion* at a Book Salon sponsored by the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center and the Department of Anthropology. Krause presented her work alongside discussants Anna Botta (Smith College), Calvin Chen (Mount Holyoke College), Anne Ciecko (UMass Amherst), and Vanessa Fong (Amherst College). Her book has also made waves outside of academia, having recently been featured in a *New Yorker* article, "The Chinese Workers who Assemble Designer Bags in Tuscany." The article is available online at: newyorker.com/magazine/2018/04/16/the-chinese-workers-who-assemble-designer-bags-in-tuscany

Congratulations to Lecturer and Chief Undergraduate Advisor Boone Shear, who was appointed Associate Editor of *Rethinking Marxism* (with Alum Vin Lyon-Callo, PhD 1998).

Associate Professors Sonya Atalay and Whitney Battle-Baptiste recently contributed to a Vital Topics forum in *American Anthropologist* on the topic of "Archaeology as Bearing Witness." Battle-Baptiste’s piece focused on her research trip to the Bahamian island of Eleuthera where she encountered the wreck of a vessel that carried a group of Haitian migrants who nearly died during the voyage, prompting her to reflect both on contemporary immigration politics and her own family’s experience of immigration. The focus of Atalay’s reflection is her experience with repatriating the remains of hundreds of indigenous ancestors and how she’s finding new ways to communicate the importance of repatriation. The full text is available online at: anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/aman.13071#.W4FyVQ_gve8.facebook

Professor Krista Harper received the 2018 UMass Amherst Community Engagement Award for Research, in recognition of her work in support of constructive social change. As Professor Joya Misra (SPP), wrote in her nomination letter, “For over fifteen years [Harper’s] research and teaching have been the model of community engagement for social change. Her research is collaborative, incorporating community members at all stages, from research design to publication.” Misra cited Harper’s long-term community partnerships both in the region and across the globe, including work on an environmental-justice project with Romani youth in Hungary; a large-scale urban garden project in Lisbon; an assessment of student learning through a school garden project in nearby Williamsburg; a food justice youth development project in Holyoke with the community group Nuestras Raíces; and a participatory technology assessment in Springfield, called the “Futurescape City Tour,” that brought together residents to think about how technologies may shape the community’s future. Harper received the Community Engagement Award for Research at the UMass Faculty Honors Dinner.

Being Human 2019 21
Welcome back to Assistant Professor **Felicity Aulino**! She spent the last two years as a Visiting Professor at Stanford University as part of the Mind and Spirit Project, a Templeton-funded, comparative and interdisciplinary research project that draws on the expertise of anthropologists, psychologists, historians and philosophers. Under the direction of T.M. Luhrmann, the Project asks whether different understandings of “mind,” broadly construed, might shape or be related to the ways that people attend to and interpret experiences they deem spiritual or supernatural. The core research team conducted studies throughout the world, including in Thailand, China, Ghana, Vanuatu, the U.S., and the Ecuadorian Amazon. Aulino explains that each researcher worked with communities in four local research sites: charismatic evangelical Christian churches as well as religious groups of local importance in both urban and rural settings. Aulino spent 9 months conducting intensive fieldwork in Northern Thailand, both with Neo-Pentecostal Christians and Theravada Buddhists. The Project has now moved into its final phases, which includes editing a special issue for the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, as well as an edited volume on Christianity around the world.

Professor **Jackie Urla** delivered a talk entitled “Toward a Speaker-Centered Design of Language Planning” at the 100th Anniversary of the Eusko Ikaskuntza Conference in Bilbao on the Future of Basque Language Planning, where she argued that language planning efforts must expand beyond conceptualizing languages as bounded entities, and turn toward a repertoire-centered approach. Urla also presented a keynote lecture, titled, “Towards a Generative Critique of Linguistic Governmentality” at SALSA XXVI: Language in Society: Culture, Space, and Identity, at the University of Texas, Austin.

Associate Professor **Ventura Perez** is the primary investigator for a multi-year project to excavate the site of the ruined Nuestra Señora de Belen, the original site of Our Lady of Belen Church in New Mexico. “We found what we believe to be the church foundation and maybe even one of the bell towers,” said Perez. There are no visible remains of the first church. After flooding caused the collapse of multiple walls of the old adobe colonial structure, the church was rebuilt on another site in the city. In addition to discovering the original stone foundations of the structure, Perez and his team found isolated human remains but no intact burials. The human remains found on the project will not be photographed and are to be re-interred at the new church out of respect for the ancestors of the community.

Lecturer **Maxine Oland** directed the second season of the Northern Belize Historical Archaeology Project, based in Corozal, Belize, last summer. This project works with descendants of the Maya refugees that fled to Belize (then British Honduras) in the 1850s and 1860s during the Caste War of Yucatán, in which a rural Maya rebellion based in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo sought freedom from the discriminatory tax, labor, and land policies of the Yucatec and then Mexican governments. Maya families fled to escape the fighting, and established small villages and subsistence farms. They also worked in the growing sugar industry of the Corozal district, growing and cutting cane, and working in the processing plants that produced sugar, molasses, and rum.

Previous work on the project included meetings with local community leaders, elders, historical societies, and Maya heritage organizations, and the archaeological survey of Caste War era villages. For her visit last summer, Oland collaborated with Charlie Schweik (UMASS professor of Public Policy and Environmental Conservation) and Max Schweik (Amherst Regional High School) to map the surface remains of 19th century sugar mills with drones. UMassAir provided training to Oland and other colleagues from UMASS to learn how to fly the drone and process images into 3D maps, digital elevation models, and orthomosaic photos before embarking on their trip. Once in Belize, they then trained government representatives from the Belize Institute of Archaeology on how to use drones in historic period and heritage research. Her work also included a visit to the Belize National Archives in Belmopan, and several public archaeology events, including the San Joaquin Archaeology Day events, tours of a prehistoric Maya site for local schoolchildren, and a lecture at the Corozal House of Culture about historic archaeology in Northern Belize.

Professor **Lynette Leidy Sievert** is part of a research team that is among the inaugural recipients of seed grants provided by the campus’s new Institute of Diversity Sciences. Sievert and her teammates, Nicole VanKim and Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson (Epidemiology), are one of six multidisciplinary teams awarded up to $12,000 to conduct preliminary studies investigating new research questions about the causes or consequences of group disparities. Sievert and her team were awarded initial funding for their new project, “Sexual Orientation Differences in Menopause Timing and Symptoms.”

In addition, last August, Sievert carried out a pilot study to learn about menopause in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. While there, she took the opportunity to do some sightseeing with her colleagues Oyuntuya Bayanjargal and Zolzaya Namsrai. Bayanjargal works with the WHO, and Namsrai is a gender specialist for UN-Habitat, Mongolia. In the study, it was learned that women have particular worries about menopause. For example, they think it is healthy to shed blood with menstruation, but after menopause the blood begins to build up and cause problems, such as varicose veins. Women experience hot flashes in ways that are very similar to the experience in the US. Sievert, Bayanjargal and Namsrai are planning a larger study among women in both urban Ulaanbaatar and rural herding communities. They will measure hot flashes with ambulatory monitors during the extreme cold of winter, as well as during the summer.

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**Oland learning to fly a drone**

**Sievert and her colleagues in Mongolia**
Professor **Brigitte Holt** won a major new grant from the National Science Foundation for her project titled “Bone Strength and Physical Activity Over the Lifecourse.” The grant builds on previous research in biological anthropology that has shown a positive relationship between physical activity and bone mass. However, as of yet, few data are available from modern human groups with very high activity levels and pathogen loads. This project will study bone mass in such a modern human population, the Tsimane who live in the tropical lowland of Bolivia, and examine the relationship between bone mass, population history, energetics, and physical activity across the lifespan. Holt’s research will advance our understanding of modern human skeletal evolution and adaptation, as well as the skeletal impacts of the sedentary lifestyle of many industrialized societies, including the U.S. It will also provide training opportunities for students, support international research collaborations and public science outreach activities, and contribute bone-related data to a larger ethnographic and biological database for a non-industrialized population.

Holt traveled to Bolivia last November to begin collecting data, specifically physical activity and dietary information, as well as accelerometry data, for Tsimane adults and children in two villages. The Tsimane have very active lives, participating in tasks that require high levels of physical activity (gardening, fishing, hunting, carrying small children over long distances, fetching water and wood) from a very early age. Like many populations world-wide, the Tsimane are undergoing various levels of “modernization”, and are becoming more sedentary - a lifestyle that correlates with lower bone mass and increased incidence of fracture. The study seeks to document the relationship between physical activity and bone strength, differences in bone mass among Tsimane groups with varying degree of modernization, and bone mass throughout the aging process. The hypothesis is that an early active life reflects in strong bones and maintenance of bone mass over the lifespan. Data collection is ongoing, and a portable pQCT scanner will soon be deployed to the field to image arm and leg bone structure for the study. Stay tuned for updates on their findings.

This spring, Professors **Krista Harper**, **Jackie Urla**, and PhD candidate **Christa Burdick** led a five-day methods training workshop at the invitation of the Agirre Lehendakaria Center in Bilbao, Spain. The Agirre Center was created by the former president of the Basque Autonomous Community Juan Jose Ibarretxe, who visited the Department recently for the William Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies. The Agirre Center conducts research throughout the Basque country identifying key narratives of the Basque cultural experience with the goal of recommending and co-creating socially responsive policies and programs. The UMass team presented and discussed participatory digital research methods with 15 researchers affiliated with the Agirre Center. Participants conducted a photovoice and linguistic landscape project on urban space in Bilbao and learned the basics of coding with qualitative data analysis software. We hope to build on this experience and create student opportunities to carry out participatory research with the Agirre Center in the future.
Emeriti Updates

Laurie Godfrey

A team of researchers including Professor Emerita Laurie Godfrey discovered that ancient bones they excavated while on NSF grant field work in Madagascar during the summer of 2018 show cut marks and depression fractures consistent with hunting and butchery by prehistoric humans. The analysis of the marks on the fossilized bones, which were of extinct Madagascan elephant birds, Aepyornis and Mullerornis, was performed by our own Associate Professor Ventura Pérez. Radiocarbon dating then determined when these giant birds had been killed, resulting in a reassessment of when humans first reached Madagascar. Previous research suggested that humans first arrived in Madagascar 2,400 to 4,000 years ago; however, this new evidence demonstrates a human presence on Madagascar as far back as 10,500 years ago – the earliest known evidence of humans on the island, and thousands of years earlier than previously thought. More good news is that Godfrey’s NSF grant will be ongoing for another two years and includes additional field work in Madagascar. We’ll be looking forward to more groundbreaking finds.

Cut marks discovered on Madagascar Elephant Bird Fossils

Ralph Faulkingham

Ralph Faulkingham, who came to the department in 1970 and retired in 2008, lives in nearby Pelham, where he is the full-time caregiver for his wife Linda, suffering from memory loss. He remains active in local social justice efforts for Amherst’s homeless population and for sanctuary at a local church for undocumented immigrant, Lucio Perez. He recently celebrated his 75th birthday with his extended family, all of whom live locally.

Oriol Pi Sunyer and Susan Di Giacomo

Oriol Pi Sunyer recently celebrated his 88th birthday. He is in good health and enjoying retirement. As a founding member of the European Fieldstudies Program and original founding member of the Department, we created a dissertation prize in his name that will go to students who undertook research in either Europe or Latin America, where he conducted research over his long career. We were so pleased that he could be present for the very first prize awarded to Alin Rus, made at our End of Year Awards Lunch in May 2018.

Susan Di Giacomo, a PhD alum of the department, is a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona, Catalonia). She returns often to the Valley to be with Oriol and to ride her beloved horse. She does translation but dedicates most of her time to teaching in the Master’s program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health. She is currently involved in two research projects: "The collaborative management of medication: A participatory action research project in mental health", and "The body within the epistemological framework of posthumanism". She continues to follow closely, write about, and participate in Catalan political life, now in the context of the movement toward independence.
Supporting the Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology undertakes many initiatives - programs, research projects, scholarships and fellowships - to benefit its students. Your help can make a huge difference. Contributions of any size may be made to support a specific program, or 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 international 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 Department Chair from 1984 until just two years before her passing in 1992.

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 Professors Emeriti, 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.

Pi Sunyer Prize & 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. The Pi Sunyer Prize was named after Professor Emeritus Oriol Pi-Sunyer, who taught from 1967 to 2008, and was a co-founder of our European Field Studies Program. Gifts towards this prize support students who focused their dissertation on issues that were central to his work: European peasant cultures, political economy and migration.

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 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.

Other Initiatives Funded by Your 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 and internships 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. A tax-deductible gift to the Department of Anthropology makes it possible for us to fund these awards and scholarships, upgrade equipment, and expose our majors to state-of-the-art laboratories.

For more information, visit umass.edu/anthro/alumni-giving or contact us by phone at 413-545-2221.
Many generous individuals have contributed to the Department of Anthropology and one of its many programs during the past year, and it is with sincere appreciation that we recognize each in the listing below. If we have accidentally missed you, please contact us, so we can add your name to our next publication.

**Outstanding Donations of $1,000 or Greater**

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