

NEWS FROM OHIO STATE'S DEPARTMENT OF **ANTHROPOLOGY**

2014 – 2015



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

Welcome



Greetings, everyone, but with a special shout-out to our wonderful alumni and students who call Ohio State Anthropology home!

Just when I think we have reached a pinnacle in our development as a major teaching and research center, I realize in reading the pages of the annual newsletter that we are a group that is on the rise. Please read on here and in the following pages

about the developments taking place in our home on the Ohio State campus on the fourth floor of Smith Laboratory.

We have much to brag about...

Like all the academic units on campus, we are about producing new knowledge, in teaching, in the classroom, in field programs involving our undergraduate and graduate majors, and in our laboratories and field settings around the world. In the classroom, we teach a wide range of courses in anthropology that deal with past and present societies. Our students and faculty are working in a variety of settings in nearly all inhabited continents — North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa — making exciting new discoveries about the human condition, health and wellbeing, food security, and what it is that makes humans so amazingly adaptable despite remarkable challenges.

Our faculty and graduate students publish their work in leading journals and book presses, giving us a strong reputation for productivity and contributions to new knowledge. One example is that our department commands some 10 percent of the total publication presence in recent years in the flagship journal of physical anthropology, the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

Our undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty successfully compete for major research funding, the resource that makes learning and research possible. It is little wonder, then, why our programs attract the best students.

The strong reputation and excellence of our department has been a long time in the making, beginning in 1885 when university trustees invited the Ohio State Archaeological and

Historical Society to move its anthropological collections and staff to campus. Courses began in 1902, and achieved department status in 1967. Little did the early visionaries realize just how successful the investment would be for anthropology at Ohio State. So much so that the rank of the department has risen to 5th of 96 departments that grant a PhD in the discipline and to 4th of 181 departments granting a degree of any kind.

The Department of Anthropology has much to be grateful for pertaining to the advances that have taken place. One person that I would like to especially thank in achieving goals is Elizabeth A. Salt (MA, 1975). We especially thank her for her generous endowment for the support in perpetuity of our biggest event of the academic year, namely the Paul H. and Erika Bourguignon Lecture in Art and Anthropology. Lastly we thank our other partners, especially the PAST Foundation. One of our many activities with them is the now-famous Forensics in the Classroom (FITC), a program that brings forensic science to high school students around the country, including the FITC teaching event held at the South Dakota Innovation Lab in Wolsey, South Dakota.

We need your help...

All of the advances described here, and in the following pages, require investment of resources — funding — that are certainly not increasing from the traditional sources. Simply, it is your generosity that makes a difference, in both your large and small gifts. Every dollar is invested in teaching and laboratory facilities (which, by the way are among some of the best in the United States), travel and study. Virtually all of our 50+ graduate students are engaged in thesis and dissertation projects or in field work requiring long-distance travel, including such faraway places as Turkey, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Italy, Chile, Brazil and Mexico. The cost of this travel is prohibitive for most of our students. Your gift could make a huge difference in the future of our students and faculty.

Please consider giving to the Department of Anthropology.

Finally, I very much enjoy hearing from alumni. Please feel free to call me (614-292-4117) or email me (Larsen.53@osu.edu) any time! Thank you!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clark S. Larsen".

Clark Spencer Larsen

Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Chair



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Paul-Henri Bourguignon, *In Her Room*, 1972, acrylic on paper, 12 x 18 in. Image courtesy of Erika Bourguignon

The Annual Paul H. and Erika Bourguignon Lecture in Art and Anthropology

The annual Paul H. and Erika Bourguignon Lecture in Art and Anthropology will take place on April 2, 2015, on the Ohio State campus in Columbus. Featured speaker will be Ann Bremner, art historian and former publications editor at the Wexner Center for the Arts.

Bremner's talk, "The Artist and the Anthropologist," will examine the life and work of this lecture series' namesakes: the late artist Paul-Henri Bourguignon and anthropologist Erika Bourguignon. Paul-Henri Bourguignon's artworks have been exhibited across the country, including a fall 2014 retrospective at the Columbus Museum of Art. Erika Bourguignon is a former chair of the Department of Anthropology at Ohio State, where she taught for more than 40 years.

The couple met in 1947 in Haiti, where Erika was conducting fieldwork for her dissertation and Paul was a correspondent

for a Belgian newspaper. Bremner will discuss the way the Bourguignons' relationship — especially the awareness it brought Paul of an anthropologist's way of seeing and thinking — influenced his work as an artist. She will focus on images related to the Bourguignons' time in Haiti: photographs Paul took in Haiti in 1947 and 1948, and paintings and drawings he made in Columbus that relate to Haiti.

The annual Paul H. and Erika Bourguignon Lecture in Art and Anthropology is made possible by an endowment from Elizabeth (Betsy) Salt (MA, anthropology, 1975). The lecture was established by a generous gift from Erika Bourguignon.

For details and to RSVP for the Bourguignon Lecture, please visit anthropology.osu.edu.



Ohio State's Department of Anthropology is a national and international leader in discovery and research in evolution, ecology and health in peoples and primates around the world, past and present.

RESEARCH



U. S. N. M. - 87-2

Research

Dental Findings Offer Insight into Human Evolution

Debbie Guatelli-Steinberg, professor of anthropology, is co-author of a dental study of fossilized remains of a novel hominin found in South Africa in 2008 that provides support that this species is one of the closest relatives to early humans.

The 18th-19th century vertebrate paleontologist Georges Cuvier is reported to have said, “Show me your teeth and I will tell you who you are.” Cuvier was referring to the distinctive features of vertebrate species’ fossil teeth, but he could just as well have made the same claim on a smaller scale for fossil hominins.

Hominins (more formally the subtribe Hominini) form a taxonomic group of related species that branched off from our common ancestor with chimpanzees some six to seven million years ago, ultimately giving rise to modern humans. Different hominin fossil species, such as *Australopithecus africanus* or *Homo habilis*, have different combinations of dental features – number and size of molar cusps, shape of incisor teeth, and number and form of tooth roots. It is possible to assess biological relationships among hominin species by comparing these highly heritable and variable aspects of their dentitions.

Recently, my colleagues and I performed this kind of analysis on dental traits for early hominin fossil species, including a species discovered in South Africa in 2008 named *Australopithecus sediba*. This species dates to nearly two million years ago, and is likely to have been a descendent of the earlier South African fossil species *Australopithecus africanus*.

Australopithecus sediba was more human-like than its predecessor *Australopithecus africanus* in having had smaller teeth,

anatomical features suggesting that it was capable of a precision grip (as when gripping a pencil), and a pelvis with a more modern shape.

My colleagues Joel Irish (Liverpool John Moores University); Scott Legge (Macalester College); Darryl de Ruiter (Texas A&M University); Lee Berger (University of Witwatersrand) and I compared the dental traits of *Australopithecus sediba* to those of *Australopithecus africanus*, as well as to Lucy’s species, *Australopithecus afarensis*. Our results, published last year in the journal *Science*, showed that for these dental features, *Australopithecus sediba* and its predecessor *Australopithecus africanus* were more similar to the earliest members of our own genus, the genus *Homo*, than was *Australopithecus afarensis*.

These findings support the view that these two South African *Australopithecus* species are more closely related to the *Homo* lineage than is *Australopithecus afarensis*. Our results do not reveal anything about the actual *ancestry* of our own genus, but do shed light on species relationships among these fossil forms as well as their relationships to the line that led to modern humans. In such analyses it is useful to have an “outgroup” for comparison — a group that is more distantly related to the species of interest. Whether we chose chimpanzees or gorillas as outgroups, our results remained the same. Our analysis, in which the genus *Homo* emerges as more closely related to these South African *Australopithecus* species is not unprecedented, as several previous studies have suggested that *Australopithecus africanus* is closely related to the genus *Homo*.

What is new here is that *Australopithecus sediba*, too, appears closely related to the genus *Homo*, but so far we have very few teeth of this species. It remains to be seen if additional dental finds will support our analyses and whether Cuvier could have indeed used *Australopithecus sediba*’s teeth to tell it who it really was.

Research

Major Threat to Species Within 40 Years

Jeffrey McKee is lead author of a new study finding that ongoing global growth in the human population will inevitably crowd out mammals and birds and has the potential to threaten hundreds of species with extinction within 40 years.

“The data speak loud and clear that not only human population density, but the growth of the human population, is still having an effect on extinction threats to other species,” said McKee.

McKee and his team, including undergraduate Julia Guseman and former graduate student Erica Chambers, determined that the average growing nation should expect at least 3.3 percent more threatened species in the next decade and an increase of 10.8 percent species threatened with extinction by 2050. The study, *Human Population Density and Growth Validated as Extinction Threats to Mammal and Bird Species*, is published in the journal *Human Ecology*.

The United States ranks sixth in the world in the number of new species expected to be threatened by 2050, the research showed.

Though previous research has suggested a strong relationship between human population density and the number of threatened mammal and bird species at a given point in time, McKee and his team of scientists are the first to show that the exponential growth of the human population will continue to pose a threat to other species. In other words, there does not appear to be a threshold above which population growth would cease to have an incremental negative effect.

It has long been suspected that the number of threatened species today could be linked to the size, density and growth of the human population. McKee and his team set out to prove a causal link between human population density and threats to species of mammals and birds that can be quantified, not only at present, but as the human population grows.

The findings suggest that any truly meaningful biodiversity conservation efforts must take the expanding human population footprint into consideration — a subject that many consider taboo.

“You can do all the conservation in the world that you want, but it’s going to be for naught if we don’t keep the human population in check,” McKee said.

Meanwhile there is an equally profound trend for other species on this planet — they are going extinct at the highest rate since the extinction that wiped out

most dinosaurs 65 million years ago. It turns out that these two trends, human population growth and extinctions of plants and animals, are closely related.

In the year 2000, McKee gathered data from 144 nations on human population densities and the number of threatened species of mammals and birds, and found a close correlation.

“We derived an equation that predicted the number of threatened species based on just two variables, population density and the number of species present in each country,” explained McKee. “In 2010, we revisited that equation with updated data, and found that we had accurately predicted the rise in the number of threatened species.”

Should these trends hold, McKee warns that they paint a dire picture for our future.

“The average nation should expect a rise of nearly 11 percent more threatened species by 2050. This is on the basis of human population growth alone, not counting factors such as global climate change which will exacerbate the extinction problems.”

McKee is the author of *Sparing Nature: The Conflict Between Human Population Growth and Earth’s Biodiversity* (Rutgers University Press) and *The Riddled Chain: Chance, Coincidence, and Chaos in Human Evolution* (Rutgers University Press).

“SOMETIME IN 2012, THE EARTH’S HUMAN POPULATION **REACHED 7 BILLION PEOPLE**. THAT IS MORE THAN TWICE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE PLANET WHEN I WAS BORN (1958.) **WE ADD NEARLY 214,000 PEOPLE TO THE PLANET A DAY** (NET GAIN.) WE ARE HAVING TROUBLE TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES, BUT **WHO WILL SPARE NATURE THE CONSEQUENCES**, WHILE OUR HUMAN NUMBERS SPIRAL OUT OF SUSTAINABILITY?”

– Jeffrey McKee, professor, anthropology

IT IS PREDICTED THAT



MORE
ANIMALS
WILL BE

ENDANGERED

BY 2050

OF THE **44,838 SPECIES** ASSESSED

905 ARE EXTINCT

AND **16,928** ARE LISTED AS

THREATENED TO BE EXTINCT

WORLDWIDE

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

THE HUMAN POPULATION WILL **EXCEED 9 BILLION BY 2050**

AS THE AVERAGE NATION GROWS THE NUMBER OF

ENDANGERED SPECIES INCREASES

BY **3 PERCENT** EVERY TEN YEARS



Touching Prehistory:

Understanding the Past through Archaeology in Dublin, Ohio

Jules Angel is a lecturer in the department and co-leader of Ohio State's Forensic Anthropology Case Team (FACT). She developed the department's first Forensic Science course.

Supervising students during the 2013 Holder–Wright Field School, Logan Miller, rock specialist and then, anthropology graduate student (current member of the Ohio History Service Corps), pushed around the dirt in the plowed field with his shoes. It was then that he saw it, part of a fluted point, a

Clovis point to be exact. Discovering this rare, 13,000 year old projectile point was the find of a lifetime for Miller. When he told the students about the significance of this piece of prehistory, their faces lit up, and we could feel that the intense, daily summer field school had become even more energized.

The Department of Anthropology, in partnership with the City of Dublin Ohio, conducts field work at the Holder–Wright archaeological site to train students in archaeological techniques, as well as recover deposits from an area set to be partly impacted by road building. This multi-year partnership also includes targeted excavations in a part of the site set to be preserved as an interpretive, archaeological park.

This area contains earthworks dating back to the Hopewell people, and other deposits from prior time periods. The Hopewell culture included many Indian tribes present in Ohio between 500 B.C. and A.D. 500.

The City of Dublin, has committed time and resources to the field school in an effort to maximize not only the archaeological analyses, but also the student experience at the site.

Students in the field school learn a multitude of different sampling and recovery techniques: how to control and collect spatial, mapping, documentation and photography, and basic lab methods of cleaning and bagging artifacts. In 2013, the team



Graduates, undergrads, and volunteers learning stratigraphic mapping in a trench at Holder- Wright

analyzed layers of earth in 4-foot trenches, opened 11 units, collected 60 surface finds and dug 162 test pits. They identified 268 flakes and five tools.

In 2014, the field school moved north on the site to an area slated for commercial overlay. This area is closer to the earthwork area, and thus more extensive testing ensued. We again looked at the layers of earth, this time in trenches near the stream that runs through the site. We excavated 13 units, seven test units, and walked the plowed surface to collect more than 2,000 flakes, along with a dozen stone tools.

After each field school, students often volunteer to complete more intensive

lab work where they clean, accession, rebag and analyze the artifacts. They learn to check and correct paperwork and make sure all the data is in excellent condition for a final field season report.

Nothing can teach archaeology like being in the field, excavating in the dirt and finding artifacts made by past groups of people. The Holder–Wright Field School partnership is on hiatus for the 2015 season, but this multi-year project will continue in 2016.

For more information about the project, please contact Jules Angel (angel.29@osu.edu).

Exploring Human Biological Variation Across Time and Space



Giuseppe Vercellotti (left) and Silvia Testi, University of Pisa, excavating a human burial at Badia Pozzeveri, Italy.

Giuseppe Vercellotti is a biological anthropologist in the department and co-leader of the Field School in Medieval Archaeology and Bioarchaeology at Badia Pozzeveri (Lucca, Italy).

My research interests entail bioarchaeology, human biology and archaeology. I am interested in understanding how biocultural factors influence human biological variation, particularly in regard to stature and body proportions. In spite of copious research on human growth, we know relatively little about how different body segments are affected by growth retardation. Yet, body proportions are likely more sensitive to perturbations than height alone, and could provide a better means to assess growth retardation and develop improved health and nutrition policy.

With colleagues from U.S. and Italian universities, I have been exploring variation in growth outcomes in relation to biocultural factors in both past and living populations. In medieval Trino Vercellese (Italy), we could relate intrapopulation variation in stature and body proportions to socioeconomic status, gender and cultural norms regarding child rearing and food consumption. Interestingly, only males of different socioeconomic groups exhibited significant differences, suggesting socio-cultural buffering of females' and children's diets. This important result questions many long-held notions on women's and children's roles within medieval male-dominant society.

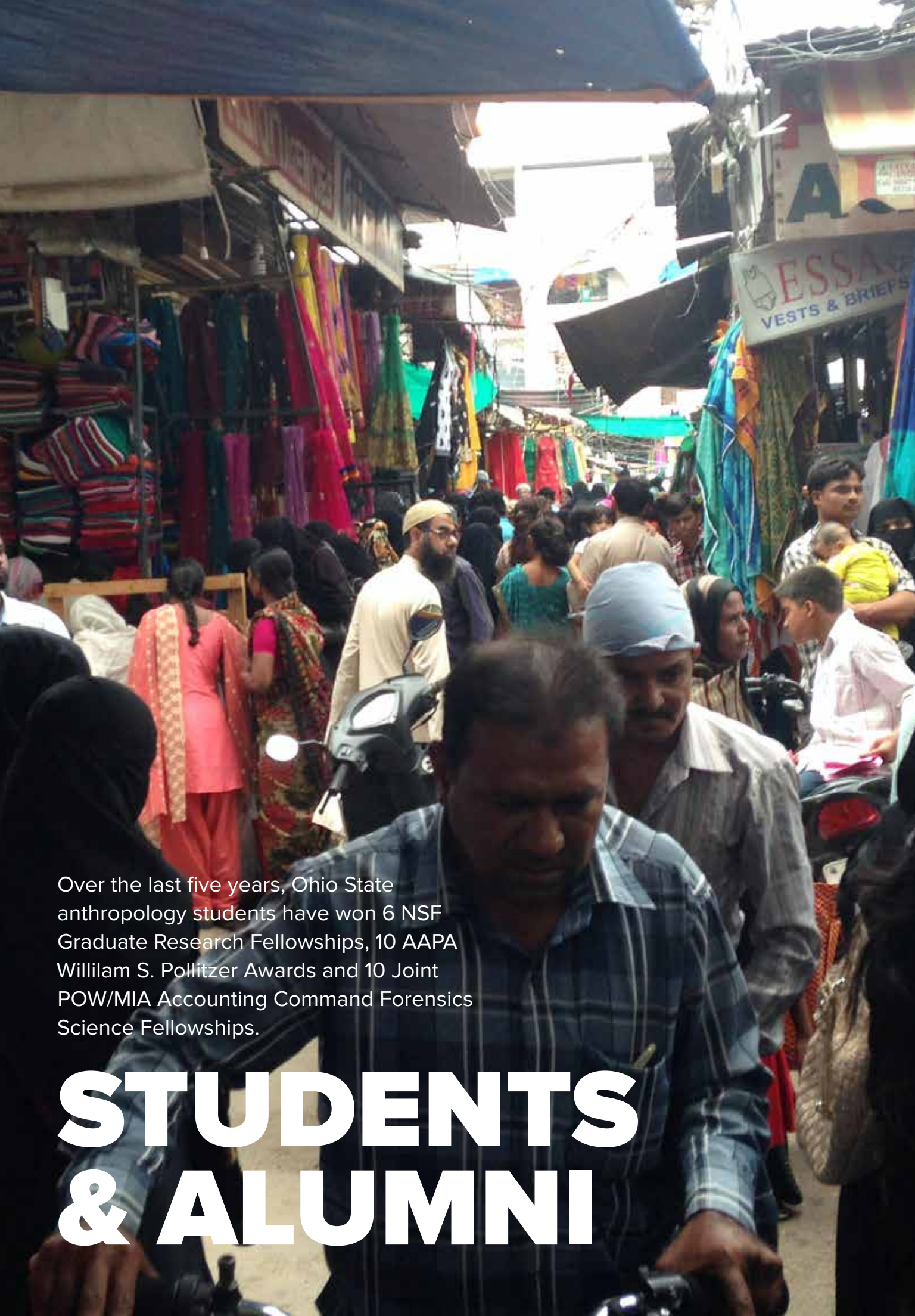
Working with human biologists on living populations from South America, I tested the hypothesis that changes in environmental conditions affecting access to resources and inducing growth retardation lead to intrapopulation changes in body proportions. As expected, we found significant



changes in urban settings related to greater growth retardation of lower limbs. However, among rural Amazonians, cultural beliefs and preferential treatment of the offspring in relation to sex, were the major determinants of growth outcomes. Additionally, we observed that adult female stature and leg length were negatively correlated with the age women had their first child, indicating that costs of reproduction in young mothers dramatically affected women's ability to allocate resources to their own growth.

As a member of a multidisciplinary team of archaeologists, bioarchaeologists and paleopathologists from Ohio State and the University of Pisa, I work with students from many U.S. and international universities. Our ongoing research at Badia Pozzeveri, featured in *Science* magazine, a CBC documentary and the Italian science program *SuperQuark*, has uncovered the buried ruins of a medieval monastery and a cemetery spanning nine centuries (X-XIXc.). The archaeological finds and human burials from Badia Pozzeveri have started revealing a complex history for this important religious settlement and will allow us to start reconstructing life conditions in Tuscany over the past 1,000 years.

Burial of a victim of the cholera epidemic that struck Badia Pozzeveri in 1855.

A vibrant, crowded outdoor market street, likely in India. The scene is filled with people, including men, women, and children. Colorful fabrics, possibly saris or shawls, are hanging from the sides of the street, creating a rich, textured background. A man in a blue and white plaid shirt is in the foreground, looking down. Other people are visible in the background, some wearing traditional head coverings like turbans or headscarves. A sign for 'ESSA VESTS & BRIEFS' is visible on the right side of the street.

Over the last five years, Ohio State anthropology students have won 6 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, 10 AAPA Willilam S. Pollitzer Awards and 10 Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Forensics Science Fellowships.

STUDENTS & ALUMNI



Emily Schueller Realizes Her Dream, at Home and Abroad

My first experience traveling abroad was in December 2012, when I arrived in Hyderabad, India, to begin a semester-long study abroad program with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). After my semester abroad, I decided to conduct independent fieldwork for my honors thesis in Hyderabad over summer 2014. I was interested in women's issues and how they intersect with development issues facing the larger community, and I decided to study access to education. My research advisor, Professor Jeffrey Cohen, helped me write grant proposals, and I received funding from Ohio State's College of Arts and Sciences, the Undergraduate Research Office and the Office of International Affairs to finance my summer research. I also enrolled in a graduate ethnographic research methods course, taught by Professor Mark Moritz, which provided me with the necessary skills to conduct focused and productive fieldwork.

I landed again in the Hyderabad airport in late June and was recommended to Noor Jahan Siddiqui, a prominent women's rights activist in Hyderabad and a senior counselor at My Choices. My Choices is a small NGO that provides counseling to victims of domestic violence and raises awareness about violence against women in the community. With the help of a bilingual My Choices counselor, I interviewed 31 women for my research. The main focus of the interviews was on educational access for interlocutors and their families, but I found that it is impossible to provide a holistic picture of

women's opportunities for educational advancement without considering the substantial impact of family, religious leaders and economic difficulties on the women's lives. Overall, the women I interviewed agreed that despite the limitations placed on them by male relatives, girls' access to education in Old City Hyderabad had increased a great deal in recent years.

As much as I enjoyed interviewing women about their lives, some of my most memorable experiences were outside the realm of educational access. I was lucky enough to visit Hyderabad during the Holy month of Ramadan (Ramzan, in Hyderabad vernacular) and the Islamic holiday Eid. I shared *iftar*, the evening meal, with various friends and informants, and I spent a fun and memorable Eid with a family that hosted me several times.

It is no exaggeration to state that this opportunity to conduct summer research in Hyderabad changed my life. I gathered plenty of data that I am currently writing into my honors thesis, but I also learned some valuable life skills. I learned to be patient, since my ability to conduct interviews was limited by my translator's availability, and I learned to become comfortable with the uncertainty of living in a very different culture from my own. I hope to put these skills to good use as I pursue a doctoral degree in anthropology and continue to research Muslim women's issues in Hyderabad.

Anthropology Students Explore Latino Communities

Last summer, nine students had the opportunity to participate in the department's "Ethnoscapes Columbus" project where they worked with members of Columbus Latino communities to learn about various aspects of cultural and economic practices. The project was organized and facilitated by Anthropology Professor Jeffrey Cohen.

"It's important to ask residents in the Latino community questions about their concerns, their economic situation and how they view the positive qualities of their neighborhoods," said Sarah Gray, one of the student participants. "We need to let the wider community know what is happening."

Cohen recruited students for Ethnoscapes through his classes and the Undergraduate Anthropology Club, and then he split them into two teams: one team covered the area of North Hilltop and the other covered South Hilltop. Cohen did not accompany the students on their research.

"I really wanted them to learn how to problem-solve on their own and work as a team," explained Cohen.

The students used a GPS to find local businesses and cultural centers and then recorded the data for further analysis. In order to gather information about living conditions and demographics, the students created a short questionnaire and interviewed residents. Many of the residents were uncomfortable with interviewing but those who wanted their story told helped give insight into the true condition of the community.



Jeff Cohen and students in the Ethnoscapes project

Cohen and the students are compiling the data they collected for the Ohio Commission for Hispanic and Latino Affairs (OCHLA). They hope that in partnering with OCHLA, they can bring awareness to the state of the Latino communities in Columbus and help draft policy to improve the conditions. Today, there is serious racial tension and segregation in the communities, but there are hopes that by completing this project, the misconceptions of the communities will decrease.

"This project broadened the students' horizons and increased their interests in the use of anthropology outside of the classroom," said Cohen. "Ethnoscapes allowed them to gain new experiences including the opportunity to engage in collaborative fieldwork."

Cohen kept the students very involved in the project and let them share their ideas with him.

"He took our input; we were allowed to shape the project and make it better," said Bret Roberts, another student involved in the project.

"We want Ethnoscapes to have true value to the city of Columbus," said Cohen. "We are preparing to submit our study to the Ohio Hispanic Commission and moving forward, we want to extend the project and work more closely with colleagues in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to better address the language barriers in the Hilltop area."

This is the first year for the Ethnoscapes Columbus project and Cohen is optimistic about its future. He plans to develop Ethnoscapes into a university Service-Learning Course in anthropology.

Alumni Spotlight:

Kimi Swisher



Kimi Swisher (BA, anthropology, 2013) is a first-year PhD student in the archaeology program at the University of Michigan. Recently, Kimi shared her memories of her experience as an undergraduate in anthropology and her love of all things past.

Archaeology has always been a passion of mine, even from a young age. I was always fascinated with the past. I have very fond memories of when I was a child and we would go on family outings to Civil War battle fields. We would always get there early in the morning; the air would be cold and crisp and dew covered the grass. I was standing out in a field where people fought and died, my father explaining to us how the battle occurred. I could picture the past. It was awe-inspiring and humbling. In the museums, I would look at the artifacts and wonder about the people they once belonged to; I wanted to know who they were.

For me, archaeology provides a unique avenue for understanding, exploration and continual intrigue into the daily lives of past peoples. It is a rare field which draws and combines aspects of many schools of thought, skills and views. It draws on not just one moment of a place or time, but pulls all of these moments together to form a continual spectrum of humankind. I want to understand the connections

forged between the peoples of the past and how this shaped the realities of present-day peoples. It is my hope to work towards this goal by continuing my education and obtaining my doctorate at the University of Michigan.

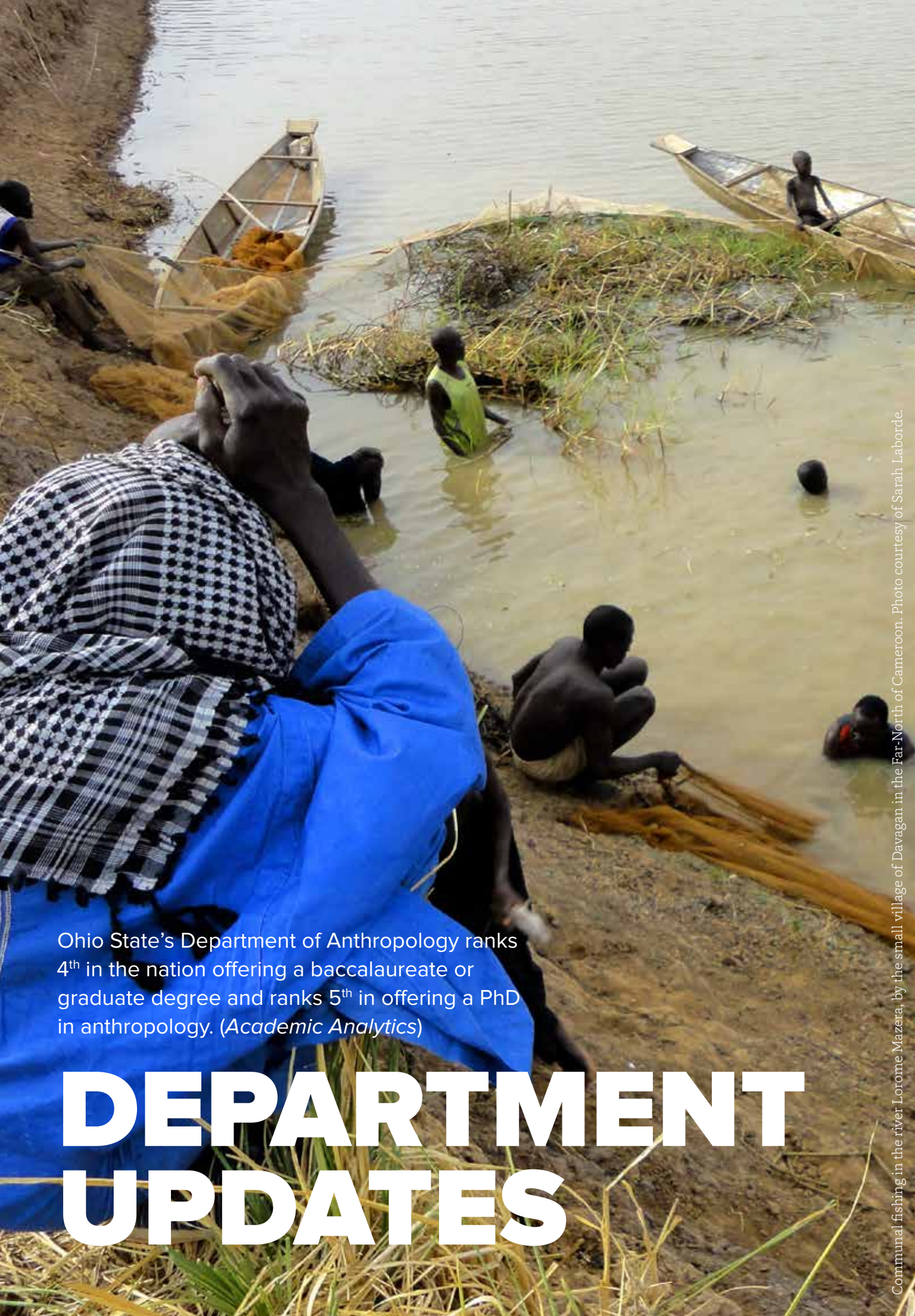
It was my foundation in the anthropology department at Ohio State that solidified and validated my desire to be an archaeologist. My professors did so much more than just teach me. They were always there for me and fostered my passion for archaeology. As a young, enthusiastic undergraduate, they always made time for me no matter how busy they were with their own research. I was important to them. They cared about me and my desire to be a fellow archaeologist. It was this shared enthusiasm for archaeology, this excitement for the past, and caring, that made me realize that archaeology and academia were my calling.

Ultimately, I want to be able to further pursue my own research interests within archaeology, but also I want to share what my professors did for

me, to help fuel the passion of other students and teach and guide them in their interests of the past. This is a very special privilege for members of a discipline. It is my hope, after obtaining my doctorate, to do this. I want to be able to teach and educate alongside my own archaeological research goals.

Some of my best memories of being at Ohio State were running around the campus at night with my friends. I was always feverishly studying and once my friends thought I had studied enough they would take my books and make me go out and enjoy time with them. We would make weekly late night trips across campus to the north campus dining hall to get late night burritos at Burritos Noches. We would come back across the Oval at midnight and everything would be calm and quiet. We would then lie down on the grass and stare up at the stars.

It was my relationships with my friends and professors that made my time at Ohio State such an important part of my life and made me forever a Buckeye.



Ohio State's Department of Anthropology ranks 4th in the nation offering a baccalaureate or graduate degree and ranks 5th in offering a PhD in anthropology. (*Academic Analytics*)

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Forensics in the Classroom Expands to South Dakota

The Department of Anthropology and the PAST Foundation teamed up to take the *Forensics in the Classroom (FITC)* curriculum to students in grades six through 12 at Wolsey-Wessington School in South Dakota in early 2014.

Alexis Dzubak, graduate teaching associate in the Department of Anthropology, led the initiative on behalf of the department and spent time in Wolsey, South Dakota, helping the students and teachers transition from a traditional classroom setting to a problem-based learning model.

During the month of February 2014, students of Wolsey-Wessington and their teachers immersed themselves in a mock crime scene and employed critical thinking skills to solve a real problem.

“The students loved the program,” said Dzubak. “Hearing students say ‘I never thought that I could be a scientist until now’ — that’s really gratifying.”

FITC is a bridge program designed to expose teachers and students experience hands-on learning that is rigorous, relevant and aligned to teaching standards — very different from traditional teaching and learning.

A Wolsey-Wessington student becomes part of the mock crime scene of Forensics in the Classroom.



Department Updates

Announcing Our New Website

We are excited to share with you the new Department of Anthropology website! Please visit us at anthropology.osu.edu and find out about the latest faculty and student awards (there are just too many to list here in the newsletter) as well as upcoming events.

Midwest BARFAA Conference

The Department of Anthropology sponsored the 2013 Midwest Bioarcheology and Forensic Anthropology Association (BARFAA), the first time BARFAA has visited the state of Ohio. Attendees representing 40 different institutions and organizations traveled to Ohio State. Department faculty and graduate students participated in podium and poster presentations spanning a wide range of topics, reflecting the diverse interests within the department. Subjects included a historic Italian bioarcheology field school; forensic anthropology education and case work; methods for identification in skeletal biology; and health, stress and behavior in past and present populations.

Anthropology Rankings through Academic Analytics

The Department of Anthropology, using the Academic Analytics Database (AAD), conducted a comparison on its performance with all other anthropology departments. This comparison reveals that our department ranks fifth out of 96 departments that grant a PhD in anthropology and ranks fourth out of 181 departments that grant any degree level in anthropology (BA,BS, MA,MS and PhD).

The AAD, compiled by Academic Analytics, includes information on more than 270,000 faculty members associated with more than 9,000 PhD programs and 10,000 departments at more than 385 universities in the United States and abroad. The data include the primary areas of scholarly research accomplishment:

- the publication of scholarly work as books and journal articles
- citations to published journal articles
- research funding by federal agencies
- honorific awards bestowed upon faculty members

Academic Analytics provides universities and university systems with objective data that are used to support the strategic decision-making process as well as a method for benchmarking in comparison to other institutions.

New Faculty



Assistant Professor **Deanna Grimstead** is a geochemical zooarchaeologist, theoretically grounded in evolutionary ecology. Her research focuses on environmental adaptations and regional economic systems within prehistoric communities in Western North America. She is particularly interested in understanding how the dynamic relationship among human populations, animal populations, environment and climate affect human behavior and society through time. Her fieldwork is primarily in North America, where she has shown that several sedentary prehistoric communities overhunted local animal populations, forcing people to travel more than 60 kilometers to find prey.

These communities were abandoned during the Medieval Climatic Anomaly, partially as a result of their local altered environment. This research speaks to the risk that our modern world faces as we enter into unprecedented climate change with foods being imported from significant overland distances or even other countries. This research would not be possible without the support of the anthropology department, as well as Ohio State's School of Earth Sciences where Grimstead conducts half of her laboratory work.



Assistant Professor **Jennifer Syvertsen** is a medical anthropologist trained in epidemiology and global public health whose work focuses on improving the lives of socially marginalized populations. Syvertsen's research broadly addresses issues of gender, emotional wellbeing, structural vulnerability and health disparities, particularly in relation to the global HIV pandemic.

Immediately prior to joining the Ohio State anthropology faculty in January 2104, Syvertsen was in Kenya conducting research on the emergence of injection drug use and its impact on HIV risk in the Nyanza region of Western Kenya, where rapid urbanization amid unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities are changing the social landscape. New qualitative research slated to begin in 2015, funded by the Coca-Cola Critical Difference for Women Grant, will further Syvertsen's research on the disproportionate burden of HIV infection among women who inject drugs in Kenya, including their experiences of seroconversion and models of healing.

She also will explore the high prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in Ohio, in collaboration with Ohio State's College of Social Work.

2013-2014 Student Awards

Undergraduate Majors

Gwendolyn Donley, Department of Anthropology Best Undergraduate Award and University Research Office Summer Research Fellowship

Melissa French, Department of Anthropology Best Undergraduate Writing Award

Emily Schueller, 2014 Summer Holbrook Research Abroad Fellow; Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Grant, “An Ethnographic Study of Education and Status among Muslim Women in Old City Hyderabad”

Janine Schuette, College of Arts and Sciences Research Scholarship, “Vocal performance as an honest signal of physical condition, self-perceived competitive abilities, and testosterone levels in human males”

Pallavi Orunganti, National Science Foundation, 2014, REU: “Hunters and Wildlife Diseases in Ohio: Risk Perceptions and Practices”

Denman Undergraduate Research Forum: **Gwendolyn Donley** (one of two in first place), **Samantha Streuli** (one of three in second place) and **Thara Nagarajan** (one of three in third place), and honorable mention to **Kyra Pazan**

Undergraduates going on to graduate programs: to the University of Michigan with full support (**Kimi Swisher**, **Kyra Pazan**); to Edinburgh University, University of California San Diego (**Samantha Streuli**), and a range of other institutions in the U.S. and abroad

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Graduate Students

Leslie Lea Williams, 2014 Department of Anthropology Outstanding Dissertation Award

Mary Beth Cole, Department of Anthropology Outstanding Master of Arts Thesis Award

Marissa Stewart, Department of Anthropology Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award

Logan Miller, Society for American Archaeology Student Paper Award. Last year, Miller won the Student Poster Award

Jay Schwartz, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (three-year)

Noah Dunham, Primate Society of Great Britain Research Grant Competition, Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research award

Mary Beth Cole and **Selin Nugent**, William L. Pollitzer Awards, American Association of Physical Anthropologists

Tim Gocha, Forensic Sciences Foundation Student Affiliate Scholarship for his abstract, “Mapping Spatial Patterns in Cortical Bone Histology from the Femoral Midshaft using Geographical Information Systems Software.” This is the second year in a row that Gocha has been selected for this award

Erin Kane, **Noah Dunham**, and **Sarah Holt**, Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research awards from the Ohio State chapter of Sigma Xi

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Daniel Hughes Memorial Fund Award

Mark Anthony Arceno, “Temporal Landscapes and Changing Tides: Pictorial Representation of Food Regimes”

Barbara Betz, “Pastoralism, Agriculture, and Stress: A Comparative Analysis of Two 19th Century Qing Dynasty Populations”

Brianne Herrera, “Variation in Cranial Morphology of Mexican Populations and its Role for the Human Dispersion into the Americas”

Kathryn Marklein, “Theoretical Approaches to Analysis and Interpretation of Commingled Human Remains”

Logan Miller, “Variation in the Organization of Ritually Motivated Production at Ohio Hopewell Earthworks”

Selin Nugent, “United in Death: An Osteobiographical Narrative of a Roman Double Burial at Catalhoyuk”

Leah Oldershaw, “Social Inequality and Differential Prestige in the Prehistoric Atacama Oases: The Impact of Foreign Cultures on Local Lifestyle During the Middle Horizon”

Brian Padgett, “Estimation of Sex from the Talus of Prehistoric Southeast Native Americans”

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Larsen Research Award

Barbara Betz, “Residential Mobility Patterns, Ecology, and Social Organization of Pastoralists in Bronze Age Northern Mongolia: A Preliminary Assessment of Research Viability”

Abigail Buffington, “Training in Methods of Phytolith Collection and Analysis – Pilot Study on Microfossil Remains in Sediment Samples from Wadi Shumlya, Hadramawt, Yemen”

Aaron Comstock, “Becoming Villagers- A Late Woodland/Fort Ancient Case Study”

Ashley Edes, “Assessing Long-Term Stress in Great Apes”

Erin Kane, “Diana Monkey Nutritional Ecology: Assessing the Impact of Seasonality on Diet Quality”

Kathryn Marklein, “Death Comes Unexpectedly: Contextualizing Transmission and Virulence of Epidemic Disease in Roman Turkey”

Selin Nugent, “Moss on a Rolling Stone: An Integrative Approach to Mobility, Migration and the Development of Complex Polities in the South Caucasus”

Leigh Oldershaw, “A Land in Transition: Identity Construction and its Role in the Romanization of Iberia”

Jennifer Spence, “Deciduous Tooth Emergence, Nutritional Status, and Weaning and Feeding Decisions in the Brazilian Amazon”

Salt Graduate Travel Award

Noah Dunham, “A Multivariate Approach to Examining Food Selection in Black and White Colobus Monkeys from South Coastal Kenya”

Elizabeth Gardiner, “Long-Term Impacts of Land Grabbing: Assessing the Impact on Households and Communities in Cameroon”

Marissa Stewart, “Bioarchaeological and Social Implications of Mortuary Behavior in Medieval Tuscany”

Graduate Student Honored with Outreach and Engagement Award

Adam Kolatorowicz, PhD candidate and lecturer, was recognized with Ohio State’s Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Community Service. Kolatorowicz is team leader of the department’s Forensic Anthropology Case Team (FACT). The team of graduate students and faculty in anthropology and Ohio State’s College of Medicine, Division of Anatomy, work with community and law enforcement agencies to search for, recover and analyze human remains.

Last year, Kolatorowicz led a group of anthropology and anatomy students in a search for remains of War of 1812 soldiers buried in Fort Jennings, a small community in northwest Ohio. Hundreds of soldiers passed through Fort Jennings during the 32 month military conflict between the United States and Great Britain.

Using ground penetrating radar (GPR) to digitally map out the site and underground disturbances in 3D without disturbing the earth, Kolatorowicz and his team helped the local community determine where the remains of a dozen soldiers believed to have died at Fort Jennings during the War of 1812 were buried.



Giving to Anthropology

Please consider making a gift or donation to the Department of Anthropology. Each and every gift makes a tangible difference in the lives of our students and faculty. All gifts are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Here are some examples of funds you may wish to consider. For more giving opportunities, visit our website at anthropology.osu.edu

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A gift to the **SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION IN AFRICA'S RAINFORESTS FUND** (313356) supports student's travel expenses to Africa, anti-poaching patrols in selected rainforests, wildlife education materials and materials for programs in rural African schools. Sponsors exchange programs for African and Ohio State undergraduates.

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A donation to the **BOURGUIGNON LECTURE IN ART AND ANTHROPOLOGY FUND** (311079) will ensure that the only annual anthropology department-sponsored event will continue on into the future.

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A donation to the **DANIEL HUGHES MEMORIAL FUND** (20331) ensures that more of our best and brightest graduate students have the opportunity to travel to and present their research at professional conferences.

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A gift to the **ELIZABETH A. SALT ANTHROPOLOGY TRAVEL FUND** (646305) will allow graduate students engaged in dissertation research to study and conduct field research abroad.



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Documenting families in Amazonia Peru Since 2008

Students performing traditional regional Amazonian dances (Dance of the Anaconda, Dance of the Jaguar and Dance of the Eagle) during a parade in Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru for World Tourism Day (September 27).

Gordon Ulmer, PhD candidate in anthropology and Fulbright-Hays Fellow, is currently conducting his dissertation fieldwork in Peru. His ethnographic research in the Amazonian region of Madre de Dios examines the outcomes of natural resource extraction and biodiversity conservation on local labor and specifically seeks to ascertain how these global processes are localized through material, social and cultural effects on households.

Many families in Madre de Dios are originally from the Andes and households often depend on diversification strategies in which family members work in both conservation-based livelihoods (park guarding and ecotourism) and extractive work (logging and gold mining). Ulmer's research investigates how life for locals and migrants unfolds around these global forces and how these economies and regions are interconnected and interdependent.

Ulmer has been documenting the importance of extraction and conservation in the lives of people in Madre de Dios since 2008, when he first traveled to the region as an undergraduate. In 2010, he conducted a six-week pilot study of ecotourism workers for his master's thesis and returned again in 2013 to test some of his hypotheses about livelihood diversification. He returned to Madre de Dios during the region's longest labor strike in April 2014 and will complete his fieldwork in mid 2015.