

ANTHROPOS

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

VOL. 28, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2003

ANTHROPOS IS BACK!

Here is the first issue of *Anthropos*, the newsletter of the Department of Anthropology, for the 2003-2004 academic year. We are now in our 28th year of publication! As in the past, we plan to publish six issues this year, three each in the fall and spring semesters.

As you will see, the students and faculty of the Department of Anthropology had a busy summer. In this

issue, we are presenting some of their activities. The BU Migrant Community Project continued its work with migrant health and education. The exchange program with the Universidad Veracruzana-Xalapa is well under way, and several BU students traveled to Mexico this summer as part of this effort. Sharon Cabana describes her experiences as part of the statewide honors pro-

gram; she traveled to Ecuador. A new transfer student, Tina Biddle describes her experiences as a volunteer at the University Museum at Penn. And Dr. Wymer describes some of her on-going archaeological and paleobotanical work.

Watch for more information about the BU anthropologists in future issues!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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OLDEST MODERN HUMAN SKULLS FOUND

In June, a team of archaeologists from Berkeley announced the discovery of the oldest modern (*Homo sapiens*) skulls yet found. The three skulls, those of two adults and a child, were found in eastern Ethiopia and were

160,000 years old. The previously oldest skulls were around 100,000 years old.

Team co-leader Tim White said "All the genetics have pointed to a geologically recent origin for

humans in Africa—and now we have the fossils."

The skulls differ from those of today being slightly larger, longer, and with more pronounced brow ridges.



BU MIGRANT COMMUNITY PROJECT NEWS

This summer marked the 7th year that students and faculty have worked (and volunteered) with the migrant communities in central Pennsylvania. For the second year, the Migrant Health Outreach office has been operated exclusively by Bloomsburg students and alumni. Three paid positions and several volunteers served as interpreters and transporters for the Migrant Outreach office. The office manager was BL alumnus James Eifler, who returned for the fifth year to work with the migrant population. Anthropology majors Allison Freshwater and Lourdes Vargas worked in the program, as did Dr. Tom Aleto who returned this year to translate and facilitate several of the Geisinger clinics for the migrants.

The Annual Migrant Summer Leadership Camp was held June 18 & 19, 2003. BU students teamed with migrant middle school children through

THIS IS THE SEVENTH YEAR THAT BU STUDENTS AND FACULTY HAVE WORKED WITH MIGRANT HEALTH AND EDUCATION ISSUES.

the CSIU and the BU Migrant Community Project for a day of writing activities. Dr. Claire Lawrence's English literature students organized a day of activities including poetry and photography. Local artist Deb Fleck-Stabley organized and facilitated art projects for the students. Dr. Susan Dauria prepared BU students in the class for their role in the events by presenting information about the migrant population and the history of the project. Jean Downing of SOLVE also spoke to the class about service learning. This is the sixth year that middle and high school migrant children have come to Bloomsburg as part of the Migrant Community Project's collaborative summer camp activities. The summer leadership programs have been directed

by Jean Downing of the SOLVE office in collaboration with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. For more information or photographs, please contact Dr. Susan Dauria in the Department of Anthropology (extension 4952 or sdauria@bloomu.edu.)

ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB NEWS

The Anthropology Club met for the first time this year to choose officers for the upcoming year and to begin planning for the year's activities. The officers for the club will be: Co-presidents: Devon Van Horn and Andrea Frantz; co-vice presidents: Abby Thomas and Josh Ramsey; secretary: Missy Davis; co-treasurers: Brandi Burlingame and Becky McBride; and librarians: Lindsay Waros and Erin Goode.

The Club is currently planning on attending the American Anthropological Association meetings in Chicago in November. Preparations are under way to arrange for transportation (by Amtrak) and hotel rooms. Club members also plan to work as volunteers at the meetings. If you are interested, see a club member ASAP!



GRADUATE SCHOOLS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

The National Research Council has ranked the 69 Ph.D. programs in anthropology, using among its criteria the quality of the faculty and faculty publications. The top program was Harvard's, followed by (in order), Chicago, Michigan, UCLA, Berkeley, SUNY-Stony Brook, Arizona, Penn State, the University of Pennsylvania and Washington University. The largest program was Arizona's with 47 faculty; the smallest was Catholic University with six faculty.

BU faculty will be interested to know that the average number of publications per year for a Harvard faculty member is 3.3. Students will want to know that it takes an average of 10.9 years to get a Top Ten Ph.D.

HARVARD IS THE
TOP RATED
PH.D. PROGRAM,
IN
ANTHROPOLOGY

ALUMNI NEWS

Art Sweeney, a 1988 graduate of the anthropology program, died on June 9 after a long illness. Art was the first BU anthropology major to work as crew chief for the summer archaeological field school. Art's wife, Teri, was also an anthropology major from the same time period.

John Moyer, a 1997 graduate and Outstanding Senior in that year, has been accepted into the Foreign Service. He begins his training at the State Department in November.

Nadine Lyman, a 2003 graduate, was married on August 22.



STUDY ABROAD IN MEXICO! BY DR. FAITH WARNER

This past spring Dr. Salas-Elorza, Dr. Dorame-Holoviak and I received a Special Initiatives Grant to establish a student exchange program between Bloomsburg University and the Universidad Veracruzana-Xalapa. In June, Dr. Wymer and BU students Brandi Burlingame, Michael Boyle, Alison Freshwater, Luis Ocasio, Jen Sperduto, and Tiffany Adams joined us in the beautiful city of Xalapa to establish an exchange program with one of Mexico's premiere universities. And the Universidad Veracruzana is indeed impressive! It has a very well-developed infrastructure, including an entire school for international students established in 1957, with its own building that includes a library, classrooms, lounges, cafeteria, support staff, and faculty. The administrative staff is extremely knowledgeable, and the university has ample experience in the implementation of successful exchange

BLOOMSBURG
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EXCHANGE
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THE
UNIVERSIDAD
VERACRUZANA-
XALAPA.

programs. There are numerous schools and degrees, with many doctoral, master's and undergraduate programs, including an Anthropology Department that rivals some of the largest programs in the U.S.

Brandi Burlingame served as the Bloomsburg student representative throughout the negotiations with Xalapa officials, and she gave well-prepared presentations on Bloomsburg University from a student's perspective. The anthropology students, Dr. Wymer, and myself met with the chairperson of the Anthropology Department, Dr. Francisco Javier Kuri-Camacho, and toured the department's facilities. The Anthropology

Department is four-field with exceptional programs in archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. The Department has over 20 faculty members and more than 200 undergraduate students! They also conduct archaeology field schools on Pre-Columbian Mexican cultures each year, and they have three archaeology laboratories and a linguistics laboratory. The archaeology laboratories have state of the art computing and printing equipment.

Bloomsburg students who would like to have the rare opportunity to join

STUDY ABROAD IN MEXICO (CONTINUED)

Xalapa archaeology field schools should plan on staying a full academic year in order to experience the proper training (Fall: archaeology methods & theory; December-February: excavations; Spring: laboratory analysis.)

Those students who would like to learn about Mexican cultures and indigenous languages, including Nahuatl, Totonac, and Huasteco, should also consider attending Xalapa. There is even a program on Conservation Biology and Ecology jointly run with Michigan Technological University (<http://forestry.mtu.edu/Xalapa>). Bloomsburg University students will be able to spend one semester to a full year in Xalapa, and Xalapa students will have the same opportunity here at BU. We hope to be hosting Mexican students as soon as Spring 2004.

Xalapa is the capital of the state of Veracruz and is situated at 4000 feet above sea level, giving the picturesque colonial city a comfortably cool and moist climate. Around Xalapa are coffee plantations, lush botanic gardens, and volcanic peaks. The Gulf of Mexico and the port city of Veracruz are just a few hours down from the mountain. The cultural life of Xalapa is as rich and complex as its environment, including a symphony orchestra and one of the most impressive archaeology museums in the world. The major archaeology sites, including Olmec sites and Tajin are all found in the state of Veracruz, as well as some of the most impressive beaches, rain forests, cuisines, mountains, and colonial architecture in Mexico.

SHARON CABANA
AND BRANDI
BURLINGAME
WILL BE THE
FIRST BU
STUDENTS TO
ATTEND THIS
EXCHANGE
PROGRAM IN
MEXICO.

BU students Sharon Cabana and Brandi Burlingame will be attending Xalapa in Spring 2004. Sharon is majoring in Anthropology & Spanish with a career concentration in Chinese and a minor in Latin American Studies. Brandi is also majoring in both Anthropology & Spanish with a minor in Latin American studies; she was a Rotarian Exchange student in Veracruz while in high school. We are pleased to have such exceptional students as our first representatives to the Universidad Veracruzana-Xalapa.

If you would like more information on this program, please see me or visit the Universidad's program website at <http://www.uv.mx/eee>.

MEET THE STUDENT SECRETARIES BY JANET LOCKE

This year we have one returning Student Secretary and one new one. You'll recognize Lauren Start at the desk on Tuesdays and Thursdays and half of Friday afternoons. She is still from Sussex, NJ and is a sophomore El. Ed. major (PTE*N-K-#/EL.Ed*Mathematics, to be precise). Her hobbies are dancing, going to movies, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. She says she loves working in the Department because everyone is really friendly and great to work with. I must say the same about her.

New this year is Lesley Sherman, a Special Ed, El. Ed. major from Feasterville, PA (right outside of Philadelphia.) Her hobbies are reading, exercising, going to the beach, and hanging out with friends. She expects a May 2005 graduation. Lesley works Mondays and Wednesdays and half of the Friday shift. She also proves to be friendly and great to work with!



A VOLUNTEER AT THE MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY BY TINA BIDDLE

For little over a year and a half now, I have been a volunteer at the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, and I love it. The museum is located in Philadelphia and offers fabulous exhibits ranging from Egyptian mummy tombs to flint arrowheads. I worked in the registrar's office measuring and tagging items and doing data entry. I have been lucky to work with objects from many cultures—Mongolian textiles, Japanese watercolors, Islamic coins, Roman pottery, etc. Volunteering has prepared me for my anthropology classes by making me familiar with the terms and designs found in different cultures. So, if you go to Philadelphia, stop by the museum. You will not be disappointed.

STOP BY THE
MUSEUM'S
CAFÉ—THEY
HAVE GREAT
CHOCOLATE
CHIP COOKIES!

BU ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

On May 14, Dr. Dauria was invited to participate in a workshop/conference on Civic Engagement for Higher Education. This Forum for the Future program is part of a new initiative for the university. The focus of this effort is community-based research, leadership, and service learning.

Dr. Dauria has been asked to coordinate the Spring Frederick Douglass Student Research Conference with Dr. Entzminger of English. This year's theme will be the Public Intellectual and Community Activism. Bill Cosby has been invited to be the keynote speaker.



INTO THE AMAZON: THE UNEXPECTED ADVENTURE BY SHARON CABANA

Earlier this year, I was selected as one of two Honors students to represent Bloomsburg in China in the summer of 2003. To our surprise, one month before the spring semester was over, we were told we *weren't* going to China after all, because of the SARS epidemic. Instead, we were going to Ecuador! We arrived at Kutztown University, our sponsoring school, one week after classes ended here. For nine days we studied six credits worth of material about Ecuador and Latin America. Politics, economics, corruption and chaos dominated the controversial and painful history of this small country. It is said that Ecuador is three worlds in one. Ecuador is the Amazon, the mountains and the coast—three distinct geographical areas with different views of economics and political power. It will be interesting to see if Ecuador ever gains a true sense of unity. There can be no doubt that

until political unity is gained, economic insecurity will rule over Ecuador and its people. There is hope that the advent of ecotourism will provide a new source of income for Ecuador that will help improve the infrastructure and encourage economic and political unity. I know I will always watch Ecuador carefully now. In general, that first week was one of papers, exams, and intense debates as I met those with far different perspectives than my anthropological one. It was a powerful message and a valuable experience.

Ecuador itself was staggering and not the least like the paranoid visions I had prior to attending Kutztown. Nestled on the edge of the "ring of fire," the mountains scraped the clouds from the sky, and the snow-capped

WE WERE TOLD
WE WOULD BE
GOING TO
ECUADOR!

volcanoes stood as harsh symbols of Nature's peculiar whims. We hiked up to 15,000 feet above sea level, stood on the equator, and touched both hemispheres. We went to indigenous marketplaces and spoke and bartered with the local people, so strongly indigenous and beautifully proud of their heritage. We would alternately come back to the mountains throughout our three weeks there, and each time the scene changed ever so slightly, the people became more Meztizo, and sadly, more contemptuous of their Northern counterparts.



After we first landed in the mountains, we descended into the Amazon.

INTO THE AMAZON (CONTINUED)



We arrived late at night at a mission and were told we were to hike into the Amazon to stay at our lodge. This was by far my favorite part of the trip. The sights and sounds of the rain forest are incredible, from the pounding of the rain to the laughter that ensued when our little monkey friend used the local dog as a personal bus. We stayed directly on one of the Amazon's tributaries at a natural reserve that attempted to keep the pristine beauty of the forest intact. I cannot describe the rich, dark life sprawling across the land. It is my dream to go back there. The Amazon was also the location for one of my most profound memories. In a gesture of kindness, some of the students brought gifts of candy for the local children. What they didn't realize was the children would not go to school because they knew the Americans had come. In some ways, it reminded me of the "myth of the white

IT IS MY DREAM
TO GO BACK TO
THE RAIN
FOREST.

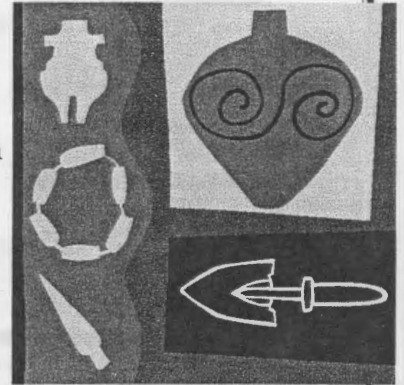
god." As I watched the children tear into candy and toothpaste, scrambling for whatever we had to offer, I realized what it was like to be an American in an impoverished country, a dark reminder of global capitalism's negative effect on the Third World.

The coast was the final segment of our trip. There we fought against a raging riptide and strong undertow, fighting the current's pull as we bathed in an ocean 70 degrees in temperature! The waves were six to ten feet high. I was privileged to see local fishermen catching squirming octopi and discovered I have a distinct fear of crabs...

In three weeks, I saw all aspects of Ecuadorian life and culture, from the north to the south, from the east to the west. I rode horseback up a smoking volcano and went caving barefoot into the Amazon. I guess what I'm trying to say, albeit longwindedly, is that Ecuador was full of surprises. The biggest surprise was finding the strength within myself to do the physically demanding tasks set for us. I discovered a deep sense of spirituality and a connection with the wondrous beauty that Ecuador and its people had to offer. Ecuador was an unexpected adventure, but the changes within myself, were the most unexpected of all.

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER BY DR. WYMER

I had a productive summer, completing several large tasks as department chair, creating lectures for a new course, and working on a number of research projects. The final revisions for an article for the Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology, "Early Woodland Plant Use and Gardening: Evidence from an Adena Hamlet in Southeastern Ohio," was completed and will be published in the next volume. The article describes the identification of plant specimens from an early Ohio Adena (moundbuilder) habitation site, including an early specimen of domesticated squash (c. 500 BC). The article was co-authored with the excavator of the site, Dr. Elliot Abrams, an archaeologist also known for his work at the famous Mayan site of Tikal. I also finalized the last revisions of a book chapter, "Organic Preservation on Prehistoric Copper Artifacts of the Ohio Hopewell," which will appear in



Perishable Fibers in Archaeology. This volume, edited by Dr. Penelope Drooker, will be published by the New York State Museum. The chapter summarizes my most current research analyzing rarely preserved organic materials, such as leather, feathers, and fur textiles, which cover ceremonial copper artifacts recovered from important burials in Ohio's earthworks and mounds of AD 200-300. Previous newsletters have described some of this research.

After the trip to Xalapa described earlier in this issue, I traveled to Ohio. I am now the paleoethnobotanical consultant for the main archaeology center for the National Park Service, and they were conducting excavations at a

JOSH RAMSEY
HAS ALREADY
DISCOVERED
CARBONIZED
SQUASH RIND IN
A CEREMONIAL
BASIN FROM THE
HOPETON SITE.

Newly acquired major earthwork in south central Ohio, the Hopeton Site. The excavations, directed by Dr. Mark Lynott, include a series of trenches through the traces of the earthwork walls of this large circle and square enclosure (the square portion, for example, covers nearly 40 acres). They have already discovered a number of remarkable ritual deposits placed in the fill during the construction of the earthwork walls, and I am in the midst of identifying the material. Joshua Ramsey, one of my advisees, is working with me in the anthropology laboratory on the samples, and he has already discovered carbonized squash rind in a ceremonial basin! (More next month)

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ANTHROPOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF
HUMANS

ANTHROPOS: the Anthropology Newsletter, is published six times during the academic year and is mailed to interested students, faculty, administrators, and alumni. It is also distributed in anthropology classes on campus and made available on the department's home page. If you would like to be on the newsletter mailing list, please contact Dr. Dave Minderhout at the address and numbers on the left.

The Department of Anthropology offers a 36 credit B.A. degree and an 18 credit minor in anthropology. If you would like to see details, please see any of the anthropology faculty.

FACULTY OFFICE HOURS

Dr. Aleto:
MWF 8:30-9 & 11-12
Th 3:15-3:45

Dr. Dauria:
MWF 9:30-10
TuTh 9:15-11

Dr. Minderhout:
MWF 9-11
TuTh 2-3:30

Dr. Warner:
M 12:30-1:30
M 9-9:30 PM

TuTh 2-3
F 3:15-4:45

Dr. Wymer:
MW 2:30-4
TuTh 10:45-11:45

The teaching assistants also hold office hours. They are:

Sharon Cabana:
WF 1-2. Th 10-11

Andrea Frantz:
M 12:30-1:30
Tu 11:30-12:30s

Janet Locke, the Department Secretary, is in Mondays through Fridays, 8-12.

From 12-4, the Anthropology Office is covered by the work study students, Lauren Start and Lesley Sherman.

