Chair’s Welcome

I am pleased to introduce the Spring 2016 BSU Anthropology Department newsletter. This has been a productive year, both for our faculty and students. We congratulate all our recent graduates, and welcome our new graduate students and undergraduate majors.

The newsletter begins with individual faculty updates on their research programs and activities. In this year’s newsletter we are also highlighting several achievements and international activities of our undergraduate and graduate students. Two graduate students, Emily Moes and Mallory Schreier, travelled over the summer to Altopascio, Italy, to participate in the Badia Pozzeveri bioarchaeology fieldschool. They present to us a report on their activities. An undergraduate student, Venessa Cardiel, presents her report of her travels to, and experience at, a forensic anthropology fieldschool in Albania and Romania that she attended over the summer. Shaylyn Berntson presents a briefing on her semester in Morocco. Shane Scaggs and Delaney Glass were honored with an award from the Evolutionary Anthropology Society for best undergraduate presentation at the 114th annual meeting of the American Anthropological Society in November in Denver, Colorado. In alumni news, one of our recent graduates, Melissa Kidd, began a 2-year commitment with the Peace Corps in Ghana, Africa. Melissa sent us some snapshots and a briefing on her work.

Our 4th NWEEHB symposium is slated for April 22-24, 2016. Our plenary speakers this year are Hillard Kaplan (U. New Mexico), Leslie Knapp (U. Utah), Courtney Meehan (Washington State U.), and Chris Morgan (U. Nevada, Reno). Along with the plenary speakers, a special household session is organized by Anna Prentiss (U. Montana) with Pei-Lin Yu (Boise State U.). This year’s event will be held at the BSU’s downtown BODO location to better access the unique Boise downtown, particularly for our out-of-town guests. Along with these invited speakers, we look forward to a strong set of volunteered papers from scholars around the region. Guests from other BSU departments and alumni are invited to attend, and registration is free. Please see the department website for registration and more information.

The 19th Desert Studies Institute will be offered this coming summer. Some of the history of the DSI and this year’s workshop offerings are described in the newsletter.

The Department of Anthropology at Boise State University is committed to excellent anthropological teaching and research, and we are proud of our service commitments to the community and profession. The Department of Anthropology at Boise State University is a growing, research-oriented faculty with a thematic focus on human evolution and ecology. Our undergraduate program prepares students with a strong background in the discipline, hands-on research opportunities, and critical thinking and problem solving skills needed for today’s workforce. Our graduate program is designed around the premises of an integrated causal model and mentoring students through original master’s research and projects.
In Spring 2015, Dr. Demps began data collection on recreation in the Owyhee. She is part of a research group (with members in the Department of Biological Sciences) intent on Managing Idaho’s Landscapes for Ecosystem services (“MILES” - an NSF-funded EPSCoR grant). Graduate students in anthropology and biology began data collection and analyses on off-highway vehicle use, assisted by undergraduate researchers in the Anthropology Department. Behavioral patterns will be compared to impacts on Golden Eagle populations. This research is featured in the 2016 Boise State Explore magazine article - “Empty Nesters.”

Dr. Demps attended her first AAPA (American Association for Physical Anthropologists) conference in St. Louis, MO. While there, she toured Cahokia and climbed to the top of Monk’s Mound. Her conference presentation resulted in the article: “Skills, division of labor, and economies of scale among Amazonian hunters and South Indian honey collectors,” which was covered by the New York Times. She also visited the Salt River Canyon in Arizona to tour Besh Ba Gowah and the Hohokam cliff dwellings while she attended the Conference on Complex Systems in September.

Dr. Demps presented her theoretical research on household participation in local markets at the AAA’s in Denver in November. Her article “Behavioral Ecology, Missing Markets and the Evolutionary Influences on Barter and Trade in Non-Separable Household Economies” is a longer discussion of that presentation.

In Fall 2015, Dr. Demps and Dr. Snopkowski opened the Behavioral Endocrinology lab, which will begin collecting data comparing salivary cortisol and testosterone with learning and testing at Boise State. Drs. Demps and Snopkowski received a WIDER PERSIST Leadership Partner Project grant to assist with this project. Four undergraduates are helping design the project and will be collecting and analyzing the data. Preliminary results will be presented at the 4th annual NWEEHB symposium, which we are excited to host at Boise State’s downtown location this year.

Recent publications include:
Faculty News — Mark Plew

Dr. Mark Plew published papers in the *North American Archaeologist*, *Journal of Northwest Anthropology*, *Antiquity* and recently signed a contract to allow Archaeopress to re-issue *The Archaeology of Guyana* electronically. His paper “Fuel Exploitation as a Factor in Shoshone Winter Mobility” which appeared in the *North American Archaeologist* was written with graduate student Michael Bishop. His paper with graduate student Stacey Guinn “Assessing the Impacts of Natural Events on the Holocene Productivity of Anadromous Fish Populations in Western Idaho” appeared in *Rivers, Fish and The People* edited by Pei-Lin Yu. Dr. Plew also completed three monographs relating to past archaeological projects including a *Report on Excavations at Danksin Rockshelter (10-EL-01), Southwest Idaho* and presented posters at the Great Basin and Northwest Anthropological Conference meetings. Dr. Plew is also preparing to publish a 3rd edition of his *Archaeology of the Snake River Plain* book.

With colleague Louisa Daggers, Director of the University of Guyana’s Amerindian Research Unit and graduate of the department’s Master’s program, he received a two-year grant through the World Bank to conduct isotopic analyses of faunal remains from shell middens in Northwestern Guyana. Working with Guyanese colleagues he is preparing a series of papers and reports based on field data collected by the late Dr. Denis Williams.

Dr. Plew received grants and contracts totally $21,000 during the summer term.

Faculty News — Kristin Snopkowski

Dr. Kristin Snopkowski spent the summer of 2015 in the altiplano of Peru interviewing approximately 70 people about their reproductive decisions, male paternal investment, and marriage histories. This data was accompanied by surveys completed by high school students, where students reported about their future family-formation plans and mating preferences. This research will contribute to a cross-cultural examination of the variation in male paternal investment and reproductive decision-making. Dr. Snopkowski presented some preliminary results from this trip at the American Anthropological Association conference in Denver on November 19th. Dr. Snopkowski has also submitted a grant application to the Wenner-Gren Foundation to fund additional data collection in Idaho.

Dr. Snopkowski has the following recent publications:

Snopkowski, K. & R. Sear (2015) “Grandparental help in Indonesia is directed preferentially towards needier descendants: A potential confounder when exploring grandparental influences on child health” Social Science & Medicine, 128: 105-114. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.01.012


Faculty News — Samantha Blatt

In summer 2015, Dr. Blatt visited her region of study again, The Ohio Valley, where she undertook two projects. First, she participated in the survey of a cholera cemetery near Columbus, Ohio for future excavation. Second, she traveled to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History with graduate student Kathy Petersen to aid in collecting data on clavicle ageing marker from the renowned Hamann-Todd Skeletal Collection. This past summer she submitted a paper for publication on the bioarchaeology of care in relation to paleo-ontology. Dr. Blatt attended the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meetings last spring and presented a poster on her work with dental histology.

Currently, she is involved in several local forensic investigations and supervising the skeletal analysis of individuals buried at Walter’s Ferry during the late 19th century. Dr. Blatt was featured in the Research Record of the January 2016 Boise State Explore magazine. “Mining Data from the Mouths of Babes” highlights her research on using ancient teeth to create the first-ever database of early civilizations in Idaho.
Faculty News — Pei-Lin Yu

In spring and summer of 2015, Dr. Pei-Lin Yu expanded research relationships in East Asia. In January, Dr. Yu visited Neolithic and Paleolithic sites in Taiwan and presented three lectures regarding behavioral ecology, archaeology, and foraging to agricultural transitions. She has submitted a Fulbright proposal for ethnoarchaeological and behavioral ecology research among the Amis and Paiwan indigenous farmers of Taiwan.

Dr. Yu attended the Society for American Archaeology meetings in San Francisco CA in April, and presented a paper entitled “Archaic Women Hunting in the High Country: Ethnoarchaeological and Evolutionary Perspectives.”

In summer of 2015, Dr. Yu visited the Boise State Archaeology Field School conducting test excavations in the Three Mile Crossing area of the Snake River Plain. Dr. Yu also wrote and presented a paper about climate change and the cultural heritage of mountain landscapes for an invited session of the International Conference of Historical Sciences in Jinan, Shandong Province, China. She also journeyed to Taishan, China’s holiest mountain, to see first-hand the amazing cultural treasures there and discuss climate change impacts to the culture-ecosystems relationship. Please see http://news.boisestate.edu/update/2015/09/01/where-in-the-world-mount-taishan-china/ for more information.

Dr. Yu received a College of Arts and Sciences Fellowship to build a space and a method for faculty collaboration across disciplinary boundaries.

Dr. Yu’s recent publications include:


In Press:

In Press:

Current activities include:

- Co-organization of High Altitude Workshop on Climate Change for the Rocky Mountains Anthropological Society.

Dr. Yu was featured in the Faculty Spotlight section of the January 2016 Boise State Explore magazine. “Farming, Foraging and Human Resiliency” was the focus of her article.
In April, Dr. Ziker gave an invited lecture at the University of Utah entitled, “Village Life in Siberia: Economic Inequalities, Reproductive Dynamics, Fairness, and Sharing in an Indigenous Community.” His visit was funded as part of Title VI NRC funding for the U’s Asia Center.

In May, Dr. Ziker gave a paper at the 27th annual Human Behavior and Evolution Society meeting held at University of Missouri. The talk, co-authored with Dr. David Nolin was entitled, “Reproductive Decision Making in Ust’-Avam, Siberia: Fertility decline as a response to economic uncertainty?” The talk was written up as an article over the summer and submitted to the journal Human Nature.

During the summer, Dr. Ziker worked with Dr. Snopkowski on a grant proposal to the Fulbright US Scholar Program. This proposed project will investigate multiple pathways to depression and drug use using Canada’s National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. The results will add to understanding the developmental causes of health and disease considering the sensitivities expected across the life course.

In September, Dr. Ziker traveled to Aarhus, Denmark to give a presentation at the University of Aarhus, Arctic Research Centre. The Centre hosted a two-day international conference entitled, “Forging of Cultures in the Circumpolar North – a comparative perspective.” Dr. Ziker’s talk was entitled “Inequality, Demographic Health, and Social Support in Northern Siberia.”

http://conferences.au.dk/arctic2015/. Dr. Ziker has the following recent publications:


Boise State Joins Largest Science Network in the Country

Dr. Yu, together with Dr. Brittany Brand from the Geosciences Department, presented Boise State’s application to the Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit in October. They highlighted Boise State research talent and capacity in the departments of Public Policy, Biology, Geosciences, Anthropology and more. Dr. Yu was formerly the Research Coordinator for this network, and together with the Office of Sponsored Research assembled the application packet.

The Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU) is the largest CESU network in the country and helps federal land managers find scientists, educators and students who study topics like ecosystem health, public lands policy, climate change, invasive species, archaeology, history, and sustainable recreation and resource use. Boise State’s application was enthusiastically approved (called a “slam dunk” by the selection panel) thanks to the caliber of our faculty.

What does partnership in the RM-CESU mean for Boise State? When the partnership is activated in early 2016, our faculty and students will be able to reach out to federal land agencies across the country to obtain funds for research and provide technical assistance for public lands. This will provide a major conduit for Boise State researchers to be involved with federal science, specifically to help understand and preserve our natural and cultural resources in national parks, forests and other public lands, as well as communicating their value to our fellow citizens. This includes the fields of anthropology and archaeology.
Students Experience Field School in Altopascio, Italy

The Field School at Badia Pozzeveri is an outstanding opportunity for students to gain practical experience in archaeological and bioarchaeological excavation by work closely with leading researchers in the field. Excavations took place at San Pietro’s church which was once part of a monastery dating back to the 11th century. The field school was designed to provide all students with an in-depth knowledge of archaeological and bioarchaeological field and research methods. These include but are not limited to:

- Survey
- Excavation
- GIS (geographic information systems)
- Recovery
- Restoration
- Analysis of human remains.

Outside field requirements, which included daily journal entries, supplemental lectures and reading material developed a background knowledge for the students in bioarchaeological theory as well as application studies. Students were allowed to further explore specific research interests with the participation in laboratory activities regarding bioarchaeology and archaeological informatics.

Field School Background

The Field School in Medieval Archaeology and Bioarchaeology at Badia Pozzeveri is an academic program aimed at training students in archaeological and bioarchaeological field and laboratory methods. Excavations take place at the church of San Pietro a Pozzeveri in the town of Altopascio, Italy. San Pietro’s church was once part of a Camaldolese monastery, which was founded in the 11th century and flourished during the 12 and 13th centuries....

Why I chose to go to Badia Pozzeveri Field School

There were three main reasons why I chose to attend a field school at Badia Pozzeveri. First of all, this Ohio State-supported bioarchaeology field school came highly recommended to me as a structured, rigorous learning experience that could help me find what I liked and didn’t like about bioarchaeology. Second of all, I was impressed that the field school was co-taught by Clark Larsen, the premier bioarchaeologist focusing on integrating the natural sciences with anthropology worldwide. Lastly, I wanted to see what kind of work in bioarchaeology would be available for me if I chose to specialize in the Mediterranean and what kind of skills I would need to know....

Go to http://anthropology.boisestate.edu/newsletter-articles/ to read the complete article.
Shaylyn Berntzon
B.A Anthropology

Studying abroad was always a venture which I knew would be important for me to undertake at some point in my college career as it would have important implications for my own personal growth and for gaining international cultural competence. My fascination with the culture and history of North Africa began as a young child, and I was pleased to find that Morocco exemplified many of my expectations, and then exceeded them. As I walked through the vast medinas I was overwhelmed with the smells of the spice markets, the human stampede, and the extensive variety of merchandise colorfully decorating the medina walls. When I was out in the middle of nowhere I was constantly in awe of the beauty of the landscape—so different than home. The languages of Morocco (Darija, Arabic, French) always bounced back and forth in my mind nonsensically until I had spent enough time there learning the languages and the norms of communication particular to the region in which I was living.

Studying abroad provided me with an opportunity to assess different perspectives, learn new languages, and thrive in a different country whose culture is so vastly different from my own. I will forever cherish my time abroad and I know that it had many positive consequences on my life both personally and academically.

Melissa Kidd’s Service with the Peace Corp

Hello from Africa! My name is Melissa Kidd. I graduated from Boise State in the December of 2014 with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Biology. I was highly active in the department with the goal of going to graduate school soon after my graduation, but I had a bad habit of biting off more than I could comfortably chew and burning myself out. A much needed break and a desire to see more of the world led me to apply to the Peace Corps and now, a year later, I am in the middle of my service as a volunteer in Ghana, Africa. I teach Biology to high school students in a small village, but my real work is in the grants I write attempting to equip the school with microscopes and a library, and in promoting a Ghana-wide biology manual. While Anthropology itself did not secure me a position in the Peace Corps, I feel that my background in the field gives me an advantage over some other volunteers here. I can more deeply understand how and why this culture is so different from mine. This has helped immensely in my goal of being a bridge between cultures.

The work I am doing in Ghana has been anything but easy, mentally and physically, but it has been personally very rewarding. I have learned so much about myself as a person. I’ve learned to slow down, to be flexible, and to enjoy the small things. It is, and has been, an experience of a lifetime and I am glad I decided to take the chance. From my village’s local language, Twi, I will conclude by giving one of our goodbyes: Yebešia!
Forensic Anthropology Field School in Albania and Romania

by Venessa Cardiel
BA Anthropology

What needs to be said about this experience is that it was completely new for me who had never done this before—a first-time traveler outside the United States. What are you going to eat? How are you going to survive? What strangers are you going to be around for the next month? These are the kind of question’s that are constantly racing through your mind as the day to leave gets closer and closer.

The day that I was supposed to leave, the unexpected happened. I missed my flight by mere minutes. At the security line, they held me their even though the intercom was calling my name for last minute boarding to check my bag while someone in front of me was getting checked by security who was in training. Thankfully, I was able to find a new flight to make it to New York by the next day.

Once I arrived in New York, I couldn’t get my ticket because Germany does not accept passports that expire with less than three months. I didn’t know this. So you can imagine what I was feeling at the time. Dread. Sadness. Emotions and stress. I had to call the professor and explain why I couldn’t get my airline ticket. The professor arrived along with his team to figure out my situation. We eventually had to take a taxi all the way to Manhattan to get me a new passport before our airplane took off. We ended up getting my passport fifteen minutes before our airplane took off, so I missed my flight again.

I have to say this next part was one of the many highlights of my trip. I have been to New York before with my family but never on my own. I was so excited that I got to stay in Brooklyn at a hostel. Never before have I done this. You always hear people staying at hostels in different countries and even though it was in New York, I still loved that I got this opportunity. We didn’t do too much that night but it was getting to know Mike who would be teaching the history of Albania. The next day was so relaxing since we didn’t need to rush and our flight wasn’t until the early evening.

We arrived in Tirana the next day and I was exhausted from five days of traveling almost nonstop. I was getting nervous because I didn’t know what kind of group I would be traveling with and we were trying to catch up with them. The environment is different and you can see how slowly Albania has grown. You have traditional meets modern but there is no middle. There is little progression from one to another in Tirana. On the road when we left Tirana, you could see unfinished buildings encompassing almost every bit of land to more houses that have been previously built. I saw more skeletal buildings than completed homes. We could see new models of cars passing us and then the next few minutes you could see a man in his carriage being pulled by a donkey. What I noticed about the agriculture is that it is similar to China’s; Mike pointed out that China had helped Albania at a time when they needed help with agriculture. So China taught them their way and now you see the method throughout most of what I saw in Albania.

Forensic Anthropology Field School

Professor Thomas Crist is the one who lectured on forensic anthropology and Professor Mike Washburn lectured on the history of Albania. Both of what they lectured went hand-in-hand. You first must know the history of the area before you do any field work. Osteology is a big part of the field work and as Professor Crist explained, you have to know this when excavating in an area that has human remains.

For the remaining nine days we were in Albania, we studied at the archaeological site Butrint, which is known as Buthrotum. This is an ancient city that was inhabited by Greeks and Romans. The top room of the castle is where our lectures took place. The room is small and contains numerous boxes containing human remains that were found in Butrint at the time of excavations. Unfortunately, on this trip they didn’t have any archaeological excavation for us but most of what we learned was about osteology, excavating human remains, and the history of Albania.

Albanian countryside.

The important things that I found helpful when we were learning about osteology and forensic anthropology is what Professor Crist used in his teachings. Much of his
Butrint was founded between the 10th and 8th century BCE. The city flourished between the 4th and 2nd century CE. The picture is the Basilica that was built during the 6th century when a Bishop took the place and created what used to be one of the largest Paleo-Christian buildings of its type. Once we learned about osteology, forensic anthropology, and the history we then moved on to Romania to finish what was left. I was excited for Romania because the University where we would be studying held a thousand and more human skull craniums. The group applied what we had learned by choosing a certain topic that would include chosen human remains to work with. The remains that I chose were the oldest found. The man was dated to be 4,352 B.P. I had estimated him to be between 45 and 50. As it turns out he was aged 45+/-. I was pretty close with my estimation of the age by using the skull to estimate my findings.

The cause of death was a blow to the left side of the skull, possibly with a hoe. There are fractures radiating from the blow across each side. The man was buried in a mound and after a few years was buried with two more at different times. There is no explanation for why this man was buried in the mound with two others who didn’t have any sort of trauma. During the time period which he was dated, the people lived in an agriculture period. This in a way explains why he could have been killed by an agricultural tool at the time of death. The University providing the human remains had already done some work with the remains I had chosen, so it was a mockup of what others had already done before. I had to measure the bones that were available to me and then record the findings of what was on the bones. We know that the man was killed at an early age but other things that I noticed were things such as an abscess in the right side of his mouth. This suggests that the man was going on the beginning stages of periodontal disease which would have eventually led to the man loosing most of his teeth and infection in the gums if he had lived.

**Highlights of the Trip**

I have learned a lot from this field school trip and I am glad that I got to apply myself to something that will be useful for me in the future. There are other things beside what I learned from this trip that I want to mention as well. Albania was my favorite mainly because of the people I met there as well the group I was with. The people are so nice and the land is very beautiful. My favorite places in Albania were Sarandë, and Ksamil. The place was so peaceful and the food was amazing. I love fresh seafood and since we were near the Mediterranean, mussels were part of almost every meal for dinner. The beach, the sun, and the mussels were definitely highlights!

Another highlight was that I jumped in the entrance of a cave called The Blue Eye. The cave is really deep and nobody knows how far it actually goes since the current that pushes out is too fast for anyone to actually swim down. I really enjoyed this part of the trip. It was one of my favorite things about Albania.

I was excited to visit Romania. I enjoyed the Carpathian Mountains and I went
to the castle where Bram Stoker was when he had been writing about Dracula, which is actually Dragul the Impaler. I learned a lot about Romania and how Romanians view Vlad. First I didn’t even know Dragul was the meaning for Dragon and Romania’s version of their dragon is a creature that is a mix of wolf, serpent, and dragon. I thought this was very interesting to learn about Romania that was different and positive instead of learning about the negative aspects. Some people believe that Vlad was a hero and some think he was a tyrant who thirsted for blood. I got to hear different aspects besides our typical American view of Vlad as Dracula.

The Makings of an Excellent Trip

This trip wouldn’t have been as great if it weren’t for the teachers, the students, and the people that we became acquainted with during the month-long field school. I learned a lot about how far I can go if I want to pursue a career in forensic anthropology. If I ever need guidance then I have the professors to help me. By taking the knowledge that was given to me I can see a clearer path of where I want to go. I found this program through the American Anthropological Association, and this resource will guide me to where I can get more field work experience. Professor Thomas Crist told us which universities are the best for forensic anthropology and whom to study under. I will be taking his advice and put it to good use.

I learned a lot about forensic anthropology, and if I could do it again I would! This is just the beginning of the many trips that I hope to take to gain additional knowledge and experience, not only in archaeology but with forensic anthropology.

The castle where Bram Stoker was when he wrote about Dracula.

2016 NWEEHB Symposium

The fourth annual Northwest Evolution, Ecology and Human Behavior symposium will be held at the Boise State Downtown location April 22-24, 2016. This year’s symposium has an impressive line-up of talks and posters from presenters based in the Northwest. The presentations include a wide variety of topics that speak to the broader research area of human evolutionary ecology. This conference offers a unique opportunity to meet some of the best researchers in the field, in a less formal, more intimate setting. As we enter our fourth year of the NWEEHB conference, we hope it continues to promote greater interaction between departments, scholars, and students in the region and further afield. We envision this conference as an event where undergraduates can learn more about graduate programs and meet potential advisors, and where graduate students can present and solicit feedback on their own research from other scholars. The event is free and open to the public. Please register online at http://anthropology.boisestate.edu/northwest-evolution-ecology-and-human-behavior-symposium/

The Anthropology Club and Archaeological Students Association Club students are instrumental in organizing and working the conference. A special thanks to the Anthropology Club president, Caleb Thom, and the ASA Club Director, Phil Daily, for the many hours they put into organizing the conference. Funding comes through the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, the Associated Students of Boise State University, and the Dan Montgomery NWEEHB Symposium Fund.

Plenary Speakers

Hillard Kaplan, University of New Mexico
Leslie Knapp, University of Utah
Courtney Meehan, Washington State University
Chris Morgan, University of Nevada, Reno

Faculty and students attending Utica College’s forensic anthropology field school in Albania and Romania.
2016 Desert Studies Institute

The Desert Studies Institute (DSI) was established in 1997 as a cooperative program between the Department of Anthropology and Celebration Park, which is operated by Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways. Each year the Desert Studies Institute provides a broad range of academic offerings of interest and value to students, teaching professionals, Idaho’s citizens, and visitors.

The mission of the Institute is to provide educational programs and scholarly presentations concerning the prehistory, history, ecology, and politics of Idaho’s desert environments and deserts worldwide. The programs are presented to enrich the understanding and appreciation of complex desert ecosystems in Idaho and to promote their perpetual preservation as educational resources for the future.

The summer DSI workshops are offered for pass/fail credit at the undergraduate or graduate level. There is also a new non-credit option available. For more information call Extended Studies at 208-426-1709 or visit http://boisestate.edu/summer.

For descriptions of the workshops go to http://anthropology.boisestate.edu/desert-studies-institute/.

Great Basin Birds of Prey
June 6-9, 2016 by Marc Bechard, Boise State University

Ethnobotany: An Introduction to Edible, Medicinal, and Useful Plants
June 11 & 12, 2016 by Ray Vizgirdas, consulting biologist

Owls of the Snake River Plain
June 13-16, 2016 by Marc Bechard, Boise State University

Project Archaeology for Teachers
June 14 & 15, 2016 by Mary Anne Davis, Idaho State Historical Society and Jeanne Moe, BLM

Field Botany Crash Course
June 18 & 19, 2016 by Ray Vizgirdas, consulting biologist

Death of an Ecosystem: Ground Squirrels, Cheatgrass and Wildfires
June 22 & 23, 2016 by Eric Yensen, College of Idaho, Emeritus

The Impact of Sage Habitat Degradation in the West
July 20 & 21, 2016 by Beau Hansen, Boise State University

Fish and Invertebrates of the Snake and Boise Rivers
July 26 & 27, 2016 by Terry Maret, U.S. Geological Survey, Idaho Water Science Center

Guyana Isotope Analysis Study

Dr. Mark Plew and Co-Investigator Louisa Daggers, Director of the Amerindian Research Unit, University of Guyana, received a two-year grant through the World Bank to conduct isotopic analyses of human and faunal remains from shell midden sites in Northwestern Guyana. Using stable isotope analysis we hope to explore the paleo-diet of these sites in an attempt assess to what extent dietary shifts may reflect changing landscapes during the past 7000 years. To date, such studies—owing in part to issues of preservation and recovery—have not been common in the Northern Amazonia region and not at all in Guyana. Analyses are being conducted on campus where co-investigator Cynthia Bradbury, is supervising the preparation and analysis of samples. Undergraduate students Sarah Basso and Alex Edwards are assisting with sample preparations.
Undergraduates Win Prestigious AAA Award

The following article was printed in the January 11, 2016 Boise State UPDATE:

In late November, anthropology majors Shane Scaggs and Delaney Glass achieved a goal that most undergraduate students only dream of: The pair presented a paper at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) – the nation’s oldest and the world’s largest anthropology conference – and among the 6,000 attending faculty, graduate students, post doctoral students and undergraduates, their research was so well received, a special award was created to recognize it.

Their nine-month research project, titled “Four Pathways To Generosity: Evolutionary Mechanisms Differentially Affect Charitable Donations,” and overseen by department chair and professor John Ziker, used a method called behavioral economics to investigate what factors change people’s willingness to donate to charity. You can watch a recording of their Nov. 21 presentation at https://www.facebook.com/486067614819101/videos/973844479374743/.

“This award is confirmation that Boise State is at the cutting edge of undergraduate research on a national level,” Ziker explained. “This is a national award adjudicated by faculty all over the country. They decided to create this new award because of our students’ presentation. It was on par with that of some grad student and faculty presentations.”

“It was an impressively polished presentation based on nice work,” said Peter Richerson, president of the Evolutionary Anthropology Society, a section of AAA. Richerson added that although not enough undergraduates present work to run a competition, the awards committee proposed a special award this year in recognition of their achievement. “There was some enthusiasm for encouraging other faculty members to bring undergrads to the meeting to give presentations.”

The award is a huge win not only for Scaggs and Glass, but for the entire anthropology department. Last spring, the department took the unusual step of creating lab groups to give undergraduate students the chance to work collaboratively on longer research projects with graduate students and faculty mentors. While lab groups are typical of hard science departments, it’s a relatively novel approach for the social sciences.

“It was a great way to work in a research cohort, work one-on-one with a professor, but it was really up to us and on us to conduct research and put out this study,” Glass said.

“Going into the lab I wasn’t aware that we’d be given the opportunity to do our own thing and really participate as students,” Scaggs added. “It’s very exciting.”

After that first meeting of the human anthropology lab group, Glass and Scaggs were both left wondering, ‘what motivates people to be generous?’

They began a nine-month research project examining if social factors affect people’s willingness to give to charity. The students met weekly on their own to plot out their research, write their abstract and design an experiment to test their hypotheses. Then, in October, they hosted several volunteers in a public goods game, a standard of experimental economics. In the experiment, they gave volunteers one minute to choose who to hypothetically give a charitable donation to, and how much to donate.

“We brought people in and gave them an endowment of $10,” Scaggs, who graduated in December, explained. “Then we solicited donations based on relationships we knew are significant: family members, friends, a local nonprofit and a local celebrity. Our question was, if someone from one of these four groups solicited money from you, how much would you give?”

The overwhelming theme of the study: People’s expectations and life experiences determined where they gave, to whom and how much. “For example, if an individual expected others to give a lot, they gave more,” Scaggs said. They also found that people who donated less often to charity were more likely to donate if a relative solicited them for money, while people who volunteered on a regular basis allocated more money when a nonprofit member solicited them.

While the duo still needs to have their experiment replicated and research paper peer reviewed, both students touted the unique opportunities the anthropology lab presented them. “The opportunities we’ve received from doing this – working closely with faculty, designing research, presenting paper, maybe even getting published.”

“With our vertically-integrated lab groups, the anthropology department is fostering environments that help students achieve a caliber of scholarship that is recognized nationwide,” Ziker said. “As a department we are focused on the evolution of human-environment interactions, from prehistoric life ways to climate change to the urban ecosystem. We support development of research and communication skills for applied careers and advanced study in graduate programs.”

Glass, Scaggs and Ziker would like to thank The Dan Montgomery NWEEHB Symposium Fund, The Arts and Humanities Institute: Translating Sustainability Research Cluster, and Bone and Joint Solutions, LLC for their support with this research project.
Alumni In Action

- **Matthew Douraghi** (BA ‘12) has completed his MA in Applied Medical Anthropology at Cal State University, East Bay and has accepted a research assistant position with the San Francisco Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center.

- **Nicki Schwend** (MAA ‘13) is the new Outdoor Recreation Planner for Crossroads, Canyon County Park, Recreation & Waterways in Melba, ID

- **Lora Bradshaw** (BA ‘89) is a reporter-photographer for the Herald Chronicle and Standard Journal newspapers.

- **Dianna Ezzell** (BA ‘15) has been accepted into the Duquesne University School of Nursing program to begin her studies in forensic nursing.

- **LeAnn Purtzer (nee Schuster)** (BA ‘03) is the Lead Archaeologist for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, NM. She oversees several large contaminant remediation, roads and grounds, and LANL mission-driven projects.

- **Ashley Hislop** (BA ‘13) is completing her 2-year Peace Corp assignment in Mongolia.

- **David Christenen** (MAA ‘13) is the new BLM archaeologist in Vernal, Utah.

- **Choya Davis** (MAA ‘14) is a Senior Archaeologist at ASM Affiliates in Boise, ID.

- **Shawn Roberts** (MA ‘15) is the RFP Coordinator at AmeriBen Group in Meridian, ID.

- **Jon Dugmore** (MAA ‘14) is a Senior Archaeologist at Tetra Tech, Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT.

Well Done!

Congratulations to **Melissa Kidd, Audrey Rogers, Nicole Inghilterra, and Beki Jumonville** for winning the 2nd place Student Poster Award ($50) at the Western Bioarchaeology Conference at UNLV. Their poster entitled, “In from the cold: using cultural context in the reconstruction of cause of death,” is co-authored with Dr. Blatt.

Congratulations to **Phil Daily** for receiving a $1000 award from the College of Arts and Sciences Higher Education Research Council to support his research project/independent study on the role of shellfish in cultural evolution in prehistoric coastal Oregon. He is using original data from Lewis Binford’s Hunter-Gatherer Database to derive projections and expectations regarding forager subsistence and mobility, and assessing his hypothesis using archaeological data from the Oregon State Historic Preservation office.

**Emily Moes** is conducting research and analysis about collaborative research networks and databases for Pei-Lin Yu’s Fellowship project for the College of Arts and Sciences. She is also a team member for the Core Advisory Group for the “COAS Colleagues Forum” project. She is defending her MA thesis on March 1, 2016. Her thesis is entitled, “Reading Between the Lines: Indicators of Developmental Stress in Prehistoric Ohio Valley Children from Linear Enamel Hypoplasias.”

Congratulations to **Delaney Glass** for receiving a $2500 student research award to facilitate her research on understanding the factors influencing whether or when women decide to have children by examining the relationship between education and wealth. Delaney’s research project is entitled, “Regional Effects of Democratic Transition: The Interrelationship Between Education and Wealth in Fertility Decisions.”


**Katherine Petersen** is defending her MA thesis on March 11, 2016. Her thesis is entitled, “Revisiting the Age Old Problem of Old Age: Estimating Age of Mature Adults from the Sternal End of the Clavicle”
Master’s in Anthropology Graduates

Mark Beil (M.A. 2015) received his BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. He completed the Boise State Masters of Arts in Anthropology program with his thesis entitled, “Local Knowledge and Chronic Disease in the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.”

Shawn Roberts (M.A. 2015) received her BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. She completed the Boise State Masters of Arts in Anthropology program with her thesis entitled, “Reassessing the Use of Kelly’s Mobility Index in Examining Late Archaic Assemblage Variability in Southern Idaho.”

Michael Bishop (M.A.A. 2015) received his BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. He completed the Boise State Masters of Applied Anthropology program with the completion of an internship with the Idaho Army National Guard.

Jeremy Johnson (M.A.A. 2015) received his BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. He completed the Boise State Masters of Applied Anthropology program with the completion of an internship with the Idaho Army National Guard.

Karl Mertens (M.A. 2015) received his BS in Social Studies Education from Minnesota State University. He completed the Boise State Masters of Arts in Anthropology with his thesis entitled, “Mobility and Economy of the Evenki in Eastern Siberia.”

Audrey Rogers (M.A.A. 2015) received her BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. She completed the Boise State Masters of Applied Anthropology program with an internship with the Idaho Army National Guard.

Beki Jumonville (M.A.A. 2016) received her BA in Anthropology from Boise State University. She completed the Boise State Masters of Applied Anthropology program with an internship with the Ada County Coroner’s Office.

2015-16 MA and MAA Anthropology Cohort

Four students have been accepted into the Fall 2015 graduate program cohort. We welcome Valerie Hayes, BA in Anthropology from Boise State University, Elizabeth Kringen, BA in Anthropology from St. Catherine’s University, St. Paul, MN, Kaitlyn Mansfield, BA in Anthropology from Boise State University, and James Nelson, BA in Anthropology from the University of Utah.
Donations Needed for Scholarships

Help endow the Anthropology Department Scholarship Fund!

Donations can be made to the Boise State University Foundation, a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established to raise, manage and invest funds on behalf of Boise State University. Designate fund SR026 on the form: https://giving.boisestate-foundation.org.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

If you are interested in making a donation to the department but have questions, please make your inquiries to:

Jim Ogle
Development Director of Arts & Sciences
1910 University Drive
Boise State University
Boise, ID 83725-1500
jimogle@boisestate.edu

Boise State Archaeology Field School

During May and June 2015 the Boise State Archaeological Field School conducted test excavations at two sites along the Snake River near Hammett and Glenns Ferry, Idaho. Students were introduced to methods of data recovery that included five weeks of intensive excavation. A field laboratory ran con-currently with the excavation which operated in our field camp at Three Island State Park—the field location for the 2016 field season. Testing served to further expand our understanding of the Late Archaic (2000-150 B.P.) occupations at these two sites. Though both sites produced faunal assemblages indicating a common use of ungulates and rabbits, the two sites differ in the range of activities conducted at each and in their use of raw material types. At site 10-EL-1367, the Medbury site near Hammett, Idaho, two morphologically distinct pottery types were found to be produced from the same constituents—a finding relevant to debates regarding a Fremont Culture presence on the Snake River Plain. The last week of the field school saw students conducting field surveys on the Orchard Training Center south of Boise with staff of the Idaho Army National Guard whose cultural program conducts annual survey and monitoring activities.

The field school participants included Linda Campbell, Phil Daily, Alexandria Edwards, Tina Grove, Kaitlyn Higgins, Royce Johnson, Jessica MacDonald, Allison McCallum, Cambrea Parker, Vicki Stark, Cody Walton, and Layne Wynn. Jeremy Johnson served as graduate field school assistant.

The department has a Facebook page! Take a moment to check out what the department is doing, and make sure to “like” us!
Anthropology Club
The officers for 2015-2016 are:
President—Caleb Thom
Vice-President—Katie Taylor
Secretary—Holland Owens
Treasurer—Shane Scaggs

Archaeological Student Association (ASA) Club
The officers for 2015-2016 are:
Director—Phil Daily
Events Coordinator—Allison McCallum
Secretary—Royce Johnson
Treasurer—Cody Walton

2016 FAST FACTS:
• Anthropology Majors: 96
  Freshmen: 7
  Sophomores: 16
  Juniors: 27
  Seniors: 46
• 2nd Degree Majors: 3
• Anthropology Minors: 36
• Native American Studies Minors: 12
• Internships: 10
• Independent Studies: 11
• Students served by department: 2,404

Dean's List Spring 2015
Highest Honors: Lantz Brown, Lauren Chaffey, Chyanne Halone, Royce Johnson, Kim Neagle, Donera Owen, Aimee Rollins, Shane Scaggs, Caleb Thom, Weston Wardle, Laura Wood
High Honors: Shaylyn Berntson, Olivia Eagan, Delaney Glass, Cassie Green, Tina Grove, Chris Harper, Ruby Kyle, Kelly Meginnis, Kaitlyn Mourton, Sarah Tazelaar, Cody Walton
Honors: Ellen Ansoetegui, Savannah Culp, Joshua Danes, Sarah Farrar, Ross Griffiths, Joe Hall, Melanie Mills, Nathan Philipps, Bridget Strang

Dean's List Fall 2015
Highest Honors: Phil Daily, Chris Harper, Ruby Kyle
High Honors: Shaylyn Berntson, Lantz Brown, Cynthia England, Michaela Eaugster, Royce Johnson, Denell Letourneau, Kaitlyn Mansfield, Scott May, Chelcie Nichols, Nathan Philipps, Vicki Stark, Caleb Thom

2015-16 Scholarship Recipients
Phil Daily, Shaylyn Berntson, Lantz Brown, Delaney Glass, Cynthia England, and Kelly Meginnis received Anthropology Department scholarships. Phil Daily received the Charlotte and Perry Silver Scholarship in Archaeological Studies. Michael Bishop, James Eschenbrenner, Jeremy Johnson, and Emily Moe received the John and Florence Schaertl Archaeology Scholarship.

Anthropology Graduates
Summer 2015—Cambria Parker
Fall 2015—Jared Albrecht, Michael Bishop, Lantz Brown, Sarah Farrar, Tina Grove, Jeremy Johnson, Jason Lawrence, Kelly Meginnis, Drew McGuire, Karl Mertens, Audrey Rogers, Macy Vleck, Matthew Wordell, Layne Wynn

We're on the Web!
See us at:
http://anthropology.boisestate.edu