

# ISU anthropology news

Keeping in touch with the Alumni, Students, Friends and Faculty of  
the Department of Anthropology of Iowa State University

Fall 2003

## From the Department Chair

I want to extend a warm welcome to you all for the new academic year. We finished last year with two major accomplishments.



The first one is the completion of the external review of the department. This is the third time that the Anthropology program at ISU was reviewed (The first time was in 1989 and the second time in 1994). Three distinguish scholars, Drs. Allan Burns, University of Florida, David Fryer, University of Kansas, and Dr. Larry Todd, Colorado State University, visited ISU from March 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> of this year. During these three days the reviewers interacted with faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, and affiliated programs. While acknowledging the rapid faculty

turnovers in the past dozen years has created a shortage of senior faculty in the department, the reviewers gave extremely positive praises to the existing faculty and teaching programs. Comments such as: "We also were impressed by the department's commitment to the four-field approach in graduate teaching, which results in well-rounded anthropologists. Finally, few departments nationwide drive students through an MA program in two years—this standard at ISU should be followed elsewhere." At a time of continuous budget cuts, the reviewers' positive remarks certainly boosted our morale.

The second accomplishment last year was the filling of the North American Archaeologist position. Former LAS Dean Peter Rabideau gave us the permission to fill this tenure-track position, and a nationwide search was conducted. We had many outstanding candidates who applied, and the three finalists who came for campus

interviews in early February, 2003, were truly excellent. The faculty selected Matt Hill, who was with us the year before as a one-year replacement for Dr. Joe Tiffany. Dr. Hill was the top choice because his research and teaching are compatible with the majority in the department (please see below).

For those who are not as well informed about campus events, I want to mention that one of our anthropology colleagues, Mike Whiteford, is now the interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. After two years serving as Associate Dean, Mike is the logical choice to succeed Peter Rabideau. I want to congratulate Mike for his new appointment and wish him the best in many years to come.

Spring registration begins October 22. Undergraduates please make an effort to sign up the appointment sheet outside your advisor's office.

*Shu-min Huang*



## Whiteford named interim LAS dean

Michael Whiteford, associate dean for administrative affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has been named interim dean of the college effective Sept. 1.

Whiteford, who currently directs budget and personnel matters for the college, also is a professor of anthropology and served as department chair for 10 years. He will lead the college during the search process to replace former Dean Peter Rabideau, who last month accepted the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Mississippi State University.

Iowa State Provost Ben Allen said Whiteford's 31 years of experience at Iowa State will serve the university and the college

well during the transition.

"He is respected by students, faculty and staff," Allen said. "He is committed to teaching, research and outreach, and is internationally recognized for his social anthropological research in developing nations."

Whiteford earned a bachelor's degree from Beloit College (Beloit, Wis.) in 1967, and master's (1970) and doctorate (1972) degrees from the University of California - Berkeley. He has been a member of the Iowa State faculty since 1972.

Whiteford's research interests focus on alternative curing practices and healthcare  
*Continued on page 5*

# anthro faculty activities

## David Gradwohl

### *Professor Emeritus*

David is keeping busy with things professional and personal in his retirement. He gave a paper at the meetings of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Providence. While “back east” he made an invited presentation to the Aristides de Sousa Mendes Society in Providence; in addition, Hanna and David delivered an invited presentation at Temple Chayai Shalom in Easton, Massachusetts, on their translation of letters written by Hanna’s family in Germany and the United States during the Holocaust period. David gave a paper and chaired a session on cemetery research at the American Culture Association meetings in New Orleans. During the past several months he has published several papers and a poem; and two additional papers have been accepted for publication. In addition, David is organizing the 2004 volume of the *Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society* which will honor Yankton Sioux tribal member and Indian activist, Maria Pearson, who died unexpectedly last May.

David had the pleasure of serving on MA committees for Adam Meseke and Aaron Greiner who finished up their graduate work in fine style. Along with Norma Wolff, David attended the grand opening of the African American Historical Museum in Cedar Rapids in September. Both Norma and David have consulted with the AAHM on various African and African-American topics featured in the museum; among the museum’s permanent exhibits are artifacts collected by ISUAL at the Buxton townsite. David helped write a successful grant to Humanities Iowa which will fund an exhibit at the Caspe Museum of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society; David is a consultant (unpaid!) for the exhibit which will open November 9, the 65th anniversary of Kristallnacht in Germany. In November, Volume 50 of the *Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society* edited by Larry Zimmerman and containing 15 papers will appear as a festschrift entitled “Always on the Edge: David M. Gradwohl and Prairie-Plains Archaeology”.

At the end of August Hanna and David David were blessed with the arrival of their sixth grandchild and first grandson: Joshua David Flaminio. In November and early December David and Hanna will travel in Chile, visiting Easter Island, Santiago, the Atacama Desert, Puerto Montt and the Lake Country, and Patagonia, and then the Straits of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, and Cape Horn via ship. David has a paperback copy of Darwin’s journal aboard the *Beagle* to read en route.

## Matt Hill

After serving as a temporary lecturer for the 2002-2003 academic year, Dr. Matthew Hill joined the Department as a new faculty member in August as the North American archaeologist and Director of the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory (ISUAL). Originally from Green Lake, Wisconsin, Dr. Hill earned his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (1991), an M.A.

from the University of Wyoming (1994), and a Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2001). Prior to coming to us, he held temporary teaching appointments at Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming. His research interests focus on hunter-gatherer diet and subsistence behavior, mobility strategies, and site structure using archaeological data and methods. Most of his research to date has centered on late Ice Age Paleoindian hunter-gatherers on the northwestern Great Plains and in the western Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River Valley.



## Shu-min Huang

### *Professor and chair*

With a Wenner-Gren Foundation grant, Shu-min began his research in Northern Thailand in December 2002. He made the second trip to the field in July and August 2003. This is a multidisciplinary and multinational project, with three anthropologists (China, U.S., and Hong Kong), one geographer (Thai), one soil scientist (Thai), and one photographer (China). The focus of the project is the Chinese expatriates who settled in the Golden Triangle. More specifically, researchers want to investigate the sustainability of the newly introduced hill farming systems brought over by the Chinese, their changing ethnic identity in the host society,



and the transnational networks they developed in the emerging global society. This project will extend to summer of 2005, with the publication two monographs and one or two ethnographic films.

## Ann Jones

This past summer, Ann returned to South Africa where she conducted her dissertation research. Ann's initial plans included participation in an International Gender Conference; however, since this event was cancelled, she decided to conduct two mini-research activities: one involved completing a research proposal relative to the development of a model for service intervention in rural communities to deal with the issues of HIV/AIDS/TB.

During this brief visit, Dr. Jones was able to obtain support for this model from government officials, NGOs and academics. The second research activity included a follow-up analysis of the level of economic development regarding rural women in the Eastern Cape. She was able to revisit her dissertation research site and meet with persons who had been informants in her primary research. Dr. Jones conducted a sample review of the current activities related to the economic and skills improvement of rural women and met with many of these women on sites where they were engaged in economic development activities.

At least one of these programs was initiated while she was in South Africa 1998-99. A significant discovery during this trip was to learn that although there have been some improvements with respect to the level of participation of educated, urban African women in the South African political economy, in the minds (and reality) of rural women (who are typical of her target population), nothing has changed. Based on her personal observations and discussions with people in the Eastern Cape, Dr. Jones would strongly suggest this to be the case. A contrasting perspective was offered by women who are government officials who argue things are better.

Finally, Dr. Jones traveled with a senior anthropology major, Larissa Begley who had an opportunity to learn about the people first-hand. She was able to write two papers based on her observations.

## Karen Kessel

Karen Kessel (Assistant Professor) received a foreign travel grant from ISU to initiate a new research project in the Commonwealth of Dominica this past summer. The new research was supposed to focus on farmers' economic decision-making regarding agricultural diversification in light of the demise of "green gold" (the banana industry)—but this summer's preliminary fieldwork revealed some unexpected outcomes and a wealth of other, related avenues for investigation.

For example, the most common remark Dr. Kessel heard this summer was that, rather than replanting bananas or investing in an alternative export crop, people "had left bananas" and were "not doing anything again." On the other hand, the banana industry isn't

quite dead yet but appears to be trying to reinvent itself again in the guise of fair trade. Further consolidation of this important commodity in the hands of a few larger farmers has taken place, and the gender gap appears to have widened.

In addition to trying to lay the groundwork for a new research project, Karen also collected data to update her earlier work on Dominica's Maintenance Act. On a short visit to the cultural heart of Dominica (Grand Bay), Dr. Kessel and some development colleagues participated in the St. Isadore celebrations. (St. Isadore is the patron saint of farmers, and interestingly is associated more with women.)

In between visiting old friends and running back and forth between the village (east coast) and town (west coast) for interviews, Dr Kessel also stumbled across another interesting phenomenon, which concerns the increasing—and new—usage of the internet for tackling old problems related to development and migration (such as the "brain drain"). It fits well with the stronger ITC component Dr. Kessel have planned for her fall 2003 course on Global Culture, Consumption, and Modernity.

In other news, Karen's Women and Development course is now an official part of the Women's Studies curriculum. It continues to have a strong, anthropological focus and offers a pretty good look at what actual development work is like. Anthropology students (undergraduate and graduate) are welcome.

## Nancy Osborn Johnsen

Nancy is pleased to continue her association with the Anthropology Department in an adjunct manner, and she does get to talk with Anthropology students and the Anthropology faculty who advise them on a fairly regular basis.

As an Administrative Academic Adviser in the Office of the Dean of the LAS College, one of Nancy's roles is as the official liaison for advising purposes to the Anthropology Department — and this often involves helping to "translate" and interpret the myriad catalog rules, graduation regulations, and academic standards issues that are the "nuts and bolts" of guiding our Anthropology students successfully to graduation. It is a rewarding endeavor — but perhaps not nearly so glamorous as her days of teaching archeological field and lab methods in the past.

Nancy continues to enjoy her honorary lifetime membership in the Iowa Archaeological Society, and she takes pleasure in representing Iowa State at as many professional meetings as she can get away to attend. As time allows, Nancy is working on some research projects that she hopes to bring to written fruition, such as the documentation of a specific type of Iroquoian beaded bag — used as souvenir trade goods of the 18th and 19th centuries — that show up in museum and private collections even here in Iowa.

She also is working (into a book, she hopes) from a series of primary documents that chronicle the history of one extended family from England who went through the homesteading experience in Dakota Territory in the latter half of the 19th century. Nancy's interest

in the day-to-day life of 19th-century Americans carries over to her volunteering as a costumed interpreter at Living History Farms in Urbandale to demonstrate textile arts (wool processing, spinning, knitting, and quilting) at the 1850s pioneer farm and at the 1870s Norwegian settlers' house. The Iowa Department of Transportation utilizes Nancy's continuing participation as an archeologist twice each year on their Statewide Transportation Enhancements Funding Committee — which means that participants read through proposals and recommend funding of hundreds of thousands of dollars toward worthy projects that foster the historic preservation and interpretation of sites in Iowa directly related to tourism and the transportation industry. So—as she tells many students when they ask— it IS possible to be an anthropologist whether or not one's job or career has “anthropologist” in its title.

## Jill Pruetz

Jill spent the summer at her field site in Senegal, studying wild savanna chimpanzees. She and her students went from knowing only 2 chimpanzees individually to being able to identify over 15!! They



also determined that there are at least 25 chimpanzees in the Fongoli community that is the focus of her study (the immature chimpanzees are difficult to identify right now, since the chimpanzees are still becoming used to the researchers, but they are able to recognize some of them by noting which female they travel with...).

Dr. Pruetz's graduate student, Alex Piel, started his Master's thesis research in Senegal with these chimpanzees this summer also. Alex is examining the effect of scarce resources on chimpanzee party/group size, and he will remain in Senegal, collecting data, until

December.

Paige Knutsen is currently in Senegal, collecting data on agricultural practices of the people who live in the same area as the Fongoli chimpanzees. Paige and Jill received a grant from the Iowa State Institute for Science and Society so that Paige could further explore the relationship between humans and chimpanzees in this area (from the human point of view!).

Paige successfully defended her Master's thesis project this fall before she went back to Senegal. Her thesis project focused on an economically important fruit that both chimpanzees and humans in Senegal rely heavily on during the dry season. Paige will receive her Master's degree in Sustainable Agriculture in December when she returns. Anthropology is her home department.

Dr. Pruetz plans on going back to Senegal over Christmas to break in a new research assistant and will be heading back out again in the summer to continue work on chimpanzee behavior and ecology. She just received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Great Ape Conservation Fund that will allow her to continue this research until December 2004. Two of her current graduate students (Michel Waller and Stephanie Bogart) will join her in Senegal this summer. Both Kristina Walkup and Jennifer Campbell are graduate students of Dr. Pruetz who are writing up the results of the research they conducted this summer. Kristina compared two populations of Japanese macaques at zoos in the Midwest, and Jenny travelled to India to examine human and macaque interactions in a small village.

Finally, Dr. Pruetz will be taking the Primate Behavior and Ecology Field School to Costa Rica again this summer. She will be able to provide several small scholarships through the non-profit organization that coordinates courses (DANTA) to ISU students who are interested in taking the course. Dr. Pruetz has scheduled the course to run from July 15-August 10. Participants of the course work every day, but students are given a 2-night, 3-day trip to a seaside village midway through the course - and everyone seems to really appreciate it!

## Mike Whiteford

### *WHITEFORD IS ALIVE AND WELL*

In early August, 2001, I was lounging around our rustic cabin that we share with my siblings and their families in northern Wisconsin when the telephone rang. It was Peter Rabideau, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He was calling to see if I'd be interested in a job change and asked me to join the college administration as an Associate Dean. As many of you know, I had been Chair of the Department of Anthropology since we separated from Sociology in 1989 or 1990 and before that I had been the Professor-in-Charge since 1982. I was ready for a change and the department was probably equally excited about getting someone new at the helm.

For two years I was the Associate Dean in charge of administration (a nebulous job description which includes items related to budget and personnel, promotion and tenure, awards, and

[the old favorite] "other duties"). Although I missed the daily interactions with students and colleagues in Curtiss Hall, I have truly enjoyed the challenges and excitement in being in the Dean's office. Together we survived painful budget cuts, rebounded and watched as the college hired new and incredibly talented faculty, ushered in some exciting new programs, and saw Iowa State University reach record enrollments.

Almost two years to the day after receiving that particular telephone call, the phone rang again while we were at Madeline Island. This time it was Provost Benjamin Allen calling from Ames. Peter Rabideau had resigned a couple of weeks earlier to accept the job as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Allen wanted to know if I'd accept the position of Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. I returned to Ames a week later to a new job – it runs until July, 2004, or until a new Dean is appointed. This has been an exciting time and I am extremely fortunate to be surrounded by a very dedicated and gifted group of individuals in the Dean's office. Although we are almost mid-way through the fall semester, it is safe to say that I am looking forward to a productive and (dare I say) fun year.

On the home front, eldest son Scott, wife Heather and daughter Audrey moved to Oregon in late May. We miss the fact that they are no longer several hours away (in Lincoln), but are delighted that they are in Portland, one of the prettiest spots on the continent and home to Patty's family. He is finishing his dissertation, Heather's enrolled in school at Lewis & Clark College, and Audrey's just turned one. Aaron (aka Chip) has taken a year off from graduate course work (in anthropology) at Michigan State and is teaching introductory Spanish at MSU. His wife, Jill, is finishing her MSW at the same institution. Daughter Cindy has decided that computer graphic arts is not her

calling and has re-enrolled in school in search of another career path. Patty is enjoying being a grandmother and has become quite an accomplished (if I may gloat) artist. She is delighted with her new vocation and only wishes she had more time to devote to it.

My best to the extended family of ISU anthropologists.  
*Mike Whiteford <jefe@iastate.edu>*

## Whiteford named interim LAS Dean

*Continued from page 1*

decision-making processes in Latin America. He has worked in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Whiteford's research has been published in "Medical Anthropological Quarterly," "Human Organization," "Medical Anthropology," and "Social Science and Medicine." He is co-author (with John Friedl) of an introductory anthropology textbook, "The Human Portrait." With his brother, Scott, Whiteford edited "Crossing Currents: Continuity and Change in Latin America."

Whiteford also has edited the Society for Applied Anthropology's quarterly "Newsletter" for the past eight years. He has taught 17 courses at Iowa State.

"Mike Whiteford is an accomplished scholar, an award-winning teacher and an experienced department chair and administrator," said Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy. "We are delighted that he has agreed to lead our largest college as interim dean."

## Contributions received

The Department of Anthropology wants to acknowledge and thank the following alumni who have made financial contributions to the department in the past year.

**Dr. Garbiele R. Lubach** (first degree year 1976)

**Geraldine M. Cox** (first degree year 1976)

**Katherine L. Lawrence** (first degree 1986)



*Mike Whiteford and granddaughter Audrey resting in northern Wisconsin*

# anthro student awards

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## **Undergraduate Majors or Double Majors who graduated in summer 2002**

*B.A.*

Michelle Marvick  
Rose Swalla

## **Undergraduate Majors or Double Majors who graduated in fall 2002**

*B.A.*

Tynesia Hill  
Renaë Raap  
Ana Ybarra-Rojas

*B.S.*

Heather Abba  
Andrew Heil  
Joan Huling  
Stephanie Wellen  
Anna Ziegenhorn

## **Undergraduate Majors or Double Majors who graduated in spring 2003**

*B.A.*

Maria Cabrera  
Jason Hall  
Lindsey Jenny  
Sarah Mitchell  
David Stember  
Leah Holck

*B.S.*

Amy Augspurger  
Adam Huisman  
Tiffanie Kinney  
Samantha Tam

## **Congratulations to Anthropology Majors on the Deans List, Spring 2003**

Emily Benetti  
Abbie Bollans  
Benjamin Bryden  
Laura Burke  
Elizabeth Danforth  
Jessaca Fox  
Christine Hall  
Jason Hall  
Leah Holck  
Lindsey Jenny  
Tiffanie Kinney  
Heayoung Lee  
Pamela Madsen

Kerry Matveia  
Sarah Mitchell  
Steven Mussmann  
Amy Pavlik  
Rachel Peterson  
Tonya Ruddick  
Molly Schiel  
Emily Snyder  
Anna Stephan  
Mary Thimmesch  
Tonya Weber  
Julie Yambasky  
Emily Zentner

## **Department Award Winners**

### ***Gradwohl Endowment Award***

2002 - Adam Richard  
2003 - Leah Holck

### ***Helen Schuster Award***

2002 - Rachel Studer  
2003 - Molly Schiel & Larissa Begley

### ***Dennis M. Waren Award***

2003 - Larissa Begley

## **Anthropology Club Officers**

President: Joanna Harbaugh  
Vice President: Abbie Bollans  
Treasurers: Meredith Feuquay  
Secretary: Larissa Begley  
LAS Council Representative: Jessaca Fox  
Social Chair: Jenn Riggs  
Social Chair: Teresa Faura

If you would like to be included in the Anthropology Club e-mail network, you can either give your e-mail address to club officials or stop by the main office.





## Digging summer

*Department of Anthropology holds month-long field school at western Nebraska site.*

**S**eventeen days into an archaeological field school in western Nebraska, the conversation turns from whether Darth Vader made his own cape or if there was a tailor on board the Death Star to which

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle was smarter. Or which Elvis was better – the young, skinny version or the fat older singer?

The 15 students and instructor who were at an excavation site that day will tell you that these conversations

were fairly typical. After all, it is somewhat boring work that they signed up to do for a month.

“Because of the mass media, archaeology has become very popular,” said Matt Hill, assistant professor of anthropology and the field school’s director. “But you really can’t make the decision on whether this is going to be your life’s work until you come out to a site like this. It’s monotonous work, mentally draining and it can be cold or hot.”

The Iowa State undergraduate and graduate students in anthropology and geology spent a month at the Clary Ranch site near Ogallala in western Nebraska meticulously going through layer by layer of earth, centimeter by centimeter in a 3 meter by 8 meter site.

The students and Hill spent three 10-day periods living at the site from May 20 through June 26.

Hill says the students undertook real archaeological fieldwork, which was designed to resolve several questions about the site’s formational

history, as well as reconstruct the local, basic and regional paleoecology. The site was first reported to professional archaeologists in 1970.

The Nebraska State Museum excavated some of the site, revealing exceptionally well-preserved bison bonebed and associated stone tools, dating back 8,500 to 9,000 years ago.

The field school also gave the Iowa State students real-life experience in archaeology including archaeological field research strategies, site structure, stone tool and tool-stone identification, plains prehistory and grassland ecology.

“Hopefully the students will develop skills that will help them in whatever career they choose to pursue,” Hill said. “Students learn how to collect raw data for a research project and massage it to support or refute an argument.

“This field school is much more than just archaeology.”

Not only were artifacts recovered from the site, but also the entire excavation was mapped. The artifacts and other information were brought back to Iowa State where Hill expects it will take almost a year to evaluate the data.

The students worked on a common site from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. In the late afternoon and early evening hours, they broke into small groups to undertake a supervised field research project. Hill says that these projects were archaeological, experimental or actualistic in orientation.

Hill hopes that by the end of the month-long field school, the students will have an idea whether they wish to pursue this line of work after graduation.

“These types of experiences are great for students. This is where their classroom work comes into focus and they begin to understand the processes,” he said. “They also understand how difficult and time consuming this is.” ♦



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Shu-min Huang, chair  
Design: Dave Gieseke

The ISU Anthropology News is published once a year (fall) for the students, alumni, friends, and faculty of the Department of Anthropology at Iowa State University.

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