MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DEPARTMENT NEWS

It’s been another exciting year in our department. It began with the move into our new departmental offices and it ended with Dr. Steve Black receiving a substantial private donation to support his Ancient Southwest Texas research project, and a National Science Foundation award to Dr. Danny Wescott, Dr. Kate Spradley and Dr. Garland Upchurch (Department of Biology) for the project “MRI: Acquisition of a High Resolution Computed Tomography System for Research and Education.” Please read about these and many other faculty and student accomplishments in this newsletter.

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to tell us where you are and what you are doing, and share that information with your former classmates, please email Mary Gibson at m.gibson@txstate.edu. Take care and stay in touch.

Dr. Beth Erhart

New Graduate Advisor

Dr. Michelle Hamilton will be taking over the duties of Graduate Advisor for the Department of Anthropology at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester. She has also been nominated and approved as a member of the Graduate Council.

New Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Dr. Jon McGee will be taking over the duties of Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the Department of Anthropology at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester. Dr. McGee works closely with Daniel Gray, Liberal Arts Academic Advisor (dgray@txstate.edu)
LIVING A DREAM THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK

Teresa Nugent, 2010 Masters Graduate, has been living her 17 year dream of using her anthropology skills since April, 2013. She is currently in Guatemala City, Guatemala where she is volunteering for the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), assisting them in their laboratory in the analysis of human skeletal remains of victims of human rights abuses. The following is a link to a short documentary about the current situation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOIJ1-7LDQs&sns=e. You can also visit FAFG’s website at http://www.fafg.org.

Teresa worked in the field in the Ixil region for about 15-22 days. She said “this region is about 10 hours by car from Guatemala City, with an hour hike from our basecamp, where I will be assisting with an exhumation of a clandestine cemetery where we expect to encounter a minimum of 42 sets of remains.” At last communication in May, she wrote “I started analyzing remains this past week and truly love everything I have seen and done thus far. I was at the genocide hearing on the day the defense lawyers abandoned the defendants and on the day the amazing judge sentenced Rios Montt to 80 years!!!”


This link is a video of an identification project at a local cemetery - Cementerio la Verbena: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa0qXp9fLW8

Student Highlights – Past & Present

- Maggie McClain received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award and Sarah Himes was given the Outstanding Undergraduate Award for 2012-2013.

- Seven graduate students received Graduate College Scholarships which will make them eligible for in-state tuition. Congratulations to Lennon Bates, Amelia Hessey, Alex Molina-Ortiz, Matthew Naparstek, Bita Razavimaleki, Felicia Wun and Maggie Zywicki!
• Master’s student Jacob Hooge worked with underwater archaeologist Fritz Hanselmann (Meadows Center for Water and the Environment) to excavate and recover artifacts from the wrecks of Henry Morgan’s ships lost in 1671 off the coast of Panama. This work and Jacob are featured in a Sundance channel documentary “The Unsinkable Henry Morgan” (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZhKpaCZWM).

• 2012 Masters Graduate, Caryn Tegtmeyer, has been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

• Two undergraduate students, Heather England & Briahna Logan, who participated in Dr. Agwuele’s 2013 study abroad to Ethiopia, received the prestigious Gilman Scholarship. This scholarship program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go by supporting undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints. Congratulations to them both!

• 2012 Masters Graduate, Lauren Springs, was accepted into the PhD program at the University of Texas in Austin with partial funding.

• Read SHUMLA’s recent Red Linear article in the newest volume of American Antiquity from the Society for American Archaeology “A Reassessment of Red Linear Pictographs in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas”. The article was written by Dr. Carolyn Boyd, 2012 Masters graduate, Charles Koenig, and incoming graduate student, Amanda Castañeda.

• Former undergraduate student, Tamara Seals Hughes, has recently acquired a position as Business Development Officer at the School of Anthropology at the University of Kent. She is married and living in England. Congratulations Tamara!

• 2010 Masters Graduate, Matthew Colvin, will begin the PhD program at the University of Georgia in the fall of 2013.

• 2010 Masters Graduate, Stephanie Schorr, is reported to be doing extremely well in the PhD program at the Max Planck Institute. She recently spent living with the Hadza. She is now analyzing her samples in the Netherlands.

• 2013 Masters Graduate, Brianne Herrera, received full funding to attend the doctoral program at Ohio State.
Dr. Jill Pruetz 2012 Distinguished Alumna

The Texas State Alumni Association has bestowed its highest honor upon Dr. Jill Pruetz – 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award. First given to President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1959, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the Alumni Association’s most prestigious honor. Award recipients are Texas State graduates who have distinguished themselves in their chosen occupations and whose leadership serves as an example for the Texas State community.

Jill Pruetz earned her bachelor’s degree in anthropology from Texas State in 1989. She serves as an associate professor in the department of anthropology at Iowa State University, specializing in the behavior and ecology of primates. Her fieldwork, funded by such prestigious national and international agencies as the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation and the Leakey Foundation, has taken her on research expeditions in Peru, Costa Rica, Morocco, Panama, Nicaragua, Kenya and Senegal. Pruetz was one of only nine “Emerging Explorers” named by the National Geographic Society in 2008.
Anthropology Alumna makes the local and national news in Sri Lanka!

Katie Bonnet is working with blacksmiths in a village in Sri Lanka and excavating at a cave site nearby. The project will help create a new gallery in the National Museum and was developed by a committee of engineers representing the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka. Dr Premala Sivaprakaspillai, Sri Lanka's first female engineer, is leading the work to include an explanatory model and video of the wind-powered furnaces in the exhibition. Katie is a graduate student at the University of Exeter in the UK. She is a Texas State anthropology alum and a 2011 Texas State to Canterbury Study Abroad alum.

Katie is working with Exeter Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Dr. Juleff, in Samanalawewa to carry out further smelts in collaboration with IESL, the Central Electricity Board, engineers and industrialists in Sri Lanka. This research is the first in the country to discover that wind was used in early Sri Lankan smelt processes.

Field Schools and Study Abroad Programs

2013 Lower Pecos Canyonlands Archaeological Field School at Eagle Nest Canyon

Led by Dr. Steve Black and Dr. Carolyn Boyd (SHUMLA School), students explored the little-known fragmented archaeological record left by those for whom we lack true name: the hundreds of generations of aboriginal foragers who frequented the Lower Pecos Canyonlands over more than 13,000 years. The combination of dirt and rock art archaeology and the spectacular setting was unique among archaeological field schools past and present.
2013 Monkey Mayhem and Maya Mysteries Field School in Belize

Led by Dr. Christi Conlee and Dr. Beth Erhart, students learned about rainforest ecology/conservation and howler monkeys, and the ancient Maya through visits to sites in Belize (Altun Ha, Caracol, Cahal Pech, Xunantunich, and Actun Tunichil Muknal) and Guatemala (Tikal).

Archaeology on St. George’s Caye, Belize - 2013

This past summer, Dr. Jim Garber continued the archaeology project on the small island of St. George’s Caye, Belize. This was the fifth summer of archaeological investigations carried out by Texas State University on the island. It was initially the base for pirates and buccaneers and was later the home for English merchants and traders. It also served as their first capital. During the Battle of St. George’s Caye, from September 3-10, 1798, the Belizeans fought off a substantial Spanish flotilla which was Spain’s last attempt to take Belize by force.

The 2013 excavations were carried out by 10 undergraduate students and three staff under the direction of Dr. Garber. The excavations focused on the country’s oldest Anglo cemetery, and a habitation area in the southern portion of the island.
FACULTY NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Danny Wescott and the Forensic Anthropology Research Facility were featured in an article in the Community Impact Newspaper. To read the full article, go to http://impactnews.com/austin-metro/san-marcos-buda-kyle/forensic-anthropology-research-facility/

- Dr. Kent Reilly was inducted as a new member of the Pi Gammu Mu and Sigma Iota Rho honor societies sponsored by the Center for International Studies.


- Dr. Christi Conlee was quoted in a USA Today article about a royal tomb discovered by Archaeologists in Peru. Read more at http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/sciencefair/2013/06/27/wari-tomb-queens-peru/2464645/

- Dr. Kate Spradley, Dr. Lori Baker (Baylor) and Hailey Duecker (Texas State Anthropology masters student) were featured in an article by KSAT-San Antonio news on their work to recover and identify immigrant remains. Read this article at http://www.ksat.com/news/forensic-experts-students-work-to-identify-immigrant-remains/478452/20941660/qgec3j/index.html

- The work done at the Gault archaeological site by Dr. Mike Collins, Dr. Clark Wernecke and their colleagues was featured by local news media. They have discovered 2.6 million artifacts at the site! Read more about this discovery at: http://www.kcentv.com/story/21642967/local-dig-site-uncovers-artifacts-to-refute-current-history-textbooks and http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/21812925/new-artifacts-suggest-civilization-in-america-began-earlier-than-thought.

- Dr. Jon McGee was awarded the title of honorary professor of International Studies.