McGee's Message

Since becoming Chair of Anthropology in 2005 I have had a goal of reestablishing contact with you all through a department newsletter. I am happy to finally have the chance to fill you in on the changes in the department since you graduated.

Dr. Glassman left the department to become Dean of Liberal Arts at the University of Southern Indiana in 2004. I took over as Chair in 2005. Since that time we have added eight new members to the faculty, added a B.S. degree, started an internship program, added courses in Linguistics, a field school in prehistoric Texas rock art, and created one of the largest forensic anthropology programs in the country. Additionally, our M.A. program which started in 2003 with 6 students now has almost 50 students. I am very proud of the department and faculty, and all that we have accomplished in the last few years.

We hope that through this newsletter we can reestablish contact with you, tell you what is happening in the department, and we hope that you will provide information about your lives that we can share in future editions of this newsletter.

Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS)

Dr. Michelle Hamilton has been appointed the Director of the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State, and will oversee forensic center growth and development, course curricula, forensic casework, law enforcement training, and community outreach programs. “My role is to help Texas State provide world-class graduate student instruction in forensic anthropology, and to ensure that FACTS is at the forefront of research and training in human identification services” says Hamilton.

Dr. Kate Spradley has been appointed the Director of the Forensic Research Facility, Texas State University’s new outdoor forensic laboratory. She will oversee the development and expansion of the new body donation program, curation of the new donated skeletal collection and associated databank, and research at the facility. “I am excited to accept this position and look forward to getting students involved in real world forensic research, and assisting law enforcement and the community with forensic investigations” Spradley says.

Drs. Hamilton and Spradley both received their Ph.D.s at the University of Tennessee, where they worked at the world-renowned “Body Farm.” Together, they bring 20 years of experience to Texas State’s forensic anthropology program and will work to expand this program into the national spotlight.
Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS)

Last year CAS moved into a new lab and curation facility that was officially certified by the Texas Historical Commission as a State Curatorial Facility. We also re-organized the director’s duties at CAS and Dr. Jon Lohse is now the Director of Contracts, while Dr. Britt Bousman became the Director of Grants and Curator of the new Archaeological Curation Facility. In 2007 David Yelacic (graduate student in Geography) and Drew Sitter joined Dr. Lohse to begin work on the Zatopec Site (41HY163) funded by the City of San Marcos and this work is continuing. Other contract projects undertaken by Dr. Lohse and the CAS team (which now includes undergraduate student Spencer LeDoux and graduate student Brooke Boyer) include a survey of Fairfield State Park funded by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, an archaeological survey for the Bobcat Stadium Expansion funded by the University, and the analysis of the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2006 field school excavations at the Spring Lake Site (41HY160). Additionally, Molly Morgan (a PhD candidate from Vanderbilt University) directed a project at the Wilson Pottery Site (41GU4) near Seguin. This was one of the few black-owned pottery factories in Texas. In the summer of 2008 Dr. Bousman undertook excavations at the Cross Bar Ranch, on the Canadian River north of Amarillo, for the Texas State summer field school at the Antelope Creek farmstead (41PT283), and he continued excavations at the Middle Stone Age site of Erkroon in collaboration with Dr. James Brink of the National Museum in South Africa during the Fall semester while on faculty development leave. Finally, during Christmas break Dr. Lohse began preliminary investigations at the Early Paleoindian site of Chivacabe in Guatemala, funded by a prestigious National Geographic Society research grant.

Center for the Arts and Symbolism in Ancient America (CASAA)

F. Kent Reilly, III, Ph.D. is the director of the Center for the Arts and Symbolism in Ancient America. The center is dedicated to the research of art and symbolism of ancient indigenous Texans and other New World peoples. The Center for the Arts and Symbolism of Ancient America (CASAA) will host a guest speaker and the 16th annual workshop on Mississippian Symbolism. The annual Mississippian Period Workshop will meet between May 19th and 21st. This will be a particularly exciting meeting since we hope to have the proofs of the Workshops newest publication, Visualizing the Sacred: Cosmic Visions, Regionalism and the Art of the Mississippian World, ready for distribution to the workshops participants.
“Language encodes the life of a community and provides a lens through which we can study various aspects of the community and its inhabitants.”
Augustine Agwuele, Ph.D., Linguistics

Recent Events

**Friday, March 27 2009**

Robert V. Sharp, Director of Publications at the Art Institute of Chicago, presented a lecture "Snakes Alive: Finding Our Place in Their World" on Friday, March 27, 2009. Dr. Sharp became interested in the art of the Mississippian Period while editing the catalog “Hero, Hawk, and Open Hand: Ancient Native American Art of the Midwest and South.” He has joined the group of scholars who annually converge of our Anthropology Department for the Mississippian Workshop.

Current Faculty:

- Augustine Agwuele
- Steve Black
- Britt Bousman
- Christina Conlee
- Beth Erhart
- Jim Garber
- Neill Hadder
- Michelle D. Hamilton
- Ana Juarez
- Kerrie Lewis
- R. Jon McGee
- Jerry Melbye
- F. Kent Reilly
- Garth Sampson
- Kate Spradley
- Richard L. Warms

In memoriam: Professor Norman M. Whalen – 1920 - 2008

Dr. Whalen joined the Department of Anthropology in 1971. He taught courses and conducted research on the ancient cultures of the American Southwest, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. He was fond of his students and enjoyed talking about archaeology and the people of the Middle East, for whom he had a profound respect. He retired from Texas State in December 2003 and died in February, 2008 in Tucson, Arizona.
If you wish to receive future newsletters via email, please send your email address to anthropology@txstate.edu!

Also don't forget to send us information about your lives that we can share in future editions of this newsletter.

Student Highlights

Adam King and Dr. Kent Reilly's work at the Etowah Indian Mounds site was featured prominently with an article in the Nov/Dec issue of Archaeology magazine.

Ingrid Marrero, a first year grad student, served as a student intern at the San Antonio Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) during the summer of 2008. She was able to participate in the execution of search warrants, witness interviews, case strategy meetings with FBI Agents and Assistant United States Attorneys, Evidence Recovery Team missions, and observation of a SWAT training exercise.

Spencer LeDoux has been accepted into the Master of Philosophy program at Cambridge to study under Dr. Lila Janik. He has also been accepted into the M. Phil. Program at Oxford to study under Dr. Chris Gosden. He is anxiously waiting to hear which college he will attend.

Look for Nicole Reeves' article "Taphonomic Effects of Vulture Scavenging" in the March issue of the Journal of Forensic Sciences.

Abby Weinstein (Payton) is now working at SWCA in Austin and pregnant with her second child.

Holly Meier is working on her Ph.D. in the Geology Department at Baylor University.

Kat Chapman was recently offered a fellowship with the ORISE POW/MIA office in Washington, DC.

Johann Sawyer has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at University of South Carolina in Columbia.

Former student, Nathaniel Ramsey, 1LT, OD Convoy Security Operations Platoon Leader, is currently deployed to COB Adder in Iraq. He recently had the unique opportunity to visit the ruins at the City of Ur. He wrote "seeing it in real life was really unbelievable, and made me realize the text books do no justice to these historic sites".

Greg Labude is now working for the Louis Berger Group in Richmond, VA.

Zac Selden is currently working on a paper based on his BA honors thesis documenting the legal case history of CRM laws in the US.

Hillary Huber has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She recently won third prize podium presentation at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Texas Association of Biological Anthropologists in Nov. 2008--her presentation title was "To what extent do field studies inform captive welfare? An investigation of environmental enrichment for captive gummivorous primates".

Want to see your name in Highlights? Keep us informed so we can celebrate your success!

Email us at anthropology@txstate.edu