



# Department of Anthropology

 University of Utah

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Message From  
the Department  
Chair



**SPECIAL  
POINT OF  
INTEREST:**



Click to 'LIKE' us  
on Facebook!

**We want to hear  
from U!**

Send a headshot and  
biography to:

[Rhonda.hypio@anthro.utah.edu](mailto:Rhonda.hypio@anthro.utah.edu)

and we will feature  
you on our  
Anthropology  
Alumni Page

**CONNECTIONS  
THAT MATTER**



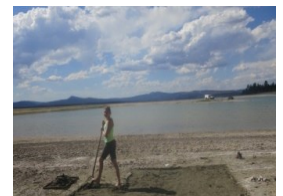
It is a pleasure to welcome all of our new graduate students, who were selected because of their experience and the research goals they bring to the Anthropology Graduate Program. We wish them the best in their work here at the University of Utah. I am also excited to welcome Professor Lisbeth Louderback and Professor Shane Macfarlan to the Anthropology faculty this year. Professor Lisbeth Louderback was hired in a joint position as Curator of Archaeology with the Natural History Museum of Utah and an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. She brings with her a strong background in archaeology, extensive museum experience and collection based research, along with her expertise in Archaeobotany and paleoecology.

<http://utah.academia.edu/LisbethLouderback>. Professor Shane Macfarlan was also hired as an Assistant Professor. He is an evolutionary anthropologist with strengths in social psychology and statistics. He works actively on multidisciplinary projects in Latin America and the Caribbean and hopes to engage and mentor graduate and undergraduate students at these field sites. [Visit Shane's Faculty Profile](#). Dr. Ryan Schacht has also joined the Department as a Postdoctoral Researcher working with Professors Kramer and Wiessner.

Additionally, we have new staff in the Main Office: Rhonda Hypio and Dr. Shawn Carlyle (see page 3). This Fall semester has also been notable for some of our graduate students. Justin Tackney presented his research at the Annual American Society of Human Genetics Conference and Christina Cloutier was awarded funding for her PhD research from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. As we look forward to the end of the 2014 and the coming holiday season, we want thank those of you who have made generous donations through the College of Social and Behavioral Science or directly to the Department of Anthropology. It is truly appreciated. As a State institution, our funds for research, equipment, and special projects are limited.

Your generosity, and that of private benefactors, enables our Department to provide undergraduate and graduate students with the best training possible and helps us communicate the importance of our research beyond academia, to the interested residents of Utah and beyond.

*Leslie*



**Undergrad Student  
Meg Baker at Eagle  
Lake Field School**

## My Eagle Lake Field School Experience *by Meg Baker*

Participating in the Eagle Lake Field School was the best decision I have made in my undergraduate career. The school focuses on vertebrate osteology, ecology of the surrounding area and archaeofaunal research. Daily lectures detailed zooarchaeological history, past and present research, and ecology, and the labs allowed us to have hands on practice identifying different vertebrate osteology.

During the afternoon and weekends we took field trips around the Eagle Lake area and to significant archaeological sites in California, Oregon and Nevada. These trips

reinforced what we learned in the lectures and labs by giving us a chance to observe and identify live animals and plants and make on the spot vertebrate bone identifications.

Professors Jack Broughton, Jay Bogiatto, Frank Bayham and Kevin Dalton, are what make the field school so memorable. Together they are an amazing team and they gave me the tools I needed to make accurate identifications, think critically and create my own research project. At the end of the trip, students

have the opportunity to present their research at the Stanley J. Olsen Eagle Lake Zooarchaeology Conference, where Zooarchaeologists from around the country also present their current research. I would strongly recommend this field school to anyone interested in a career in archaeology, zooarchaeology, ecology or biology. I will never forget my time at Eagle Lake, and if you attend this field school, I can promise you won't either.





A !Kung Bushman, sporting a Calvin Klein hat, tells stories at a firelight gathering in Africa's Kalahari Desert.

“What alternatives do men have when there aren't enough women?”

Professor Dennis O'Rourke Co-Authors Article in the Journal *Science*



ANTHROPOLOGY

## Firelight Talk of the Kalahari Bushmen

*Did Tales Told Over Fires Aid Our Social and Cultural Evolution?*

After human ancestors controlled fire 400,000 to one million years ago, flames not only let them cook food and fend off predators, but also extended their day.

A University of Utah study of Africa's Kalahari Bushmen suggests that stories told over firelight helped human culture and thought evolve by reinforcing social traditions, promoting harmony and equality, and sparking the imagination to envision a broad sense of community, both with distant people and the spirit world.

Researchers previously studied how cooking affected diets and anatomy, but “little is known about how important the extended day was for igniting the embers of culture and society,” University of Utah Anthropology Professor Polly Wiessner writes in a study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

“There is something about fire in the middle of the darkness that bonds, mellows and also excites people. It's intimate,” says Wiessner, who has studied the Bushmen for 40 years. “Nighttime

around a fire is universally time for bonding, for telling social information, for entertaining, for a lot of shared emotions.” Wiessner's study, which she calls “exploratory,” analyzed scores of daytime and firelight conversations among !Kung Bushmen – also known as Ju/'hoansi Bushmen – some 4,000 of which now live in the Kalahari Desert of northeast Namibia and northwest Botswana. (The exclamation, slash and apostrophe symbols represent click sounds in their language.)

Click [here](#) to read the full press release

## Testosterone Overload *by Ryan Schacht*

In ASIA there are 100 million more men than women and this excess of men, particularly in China, has led to fears of “macho militarism and imperialism”. These concerns portray a violent, socially unstable world, caused by a glut of testosterone-driven, unmarried men. But although it is generally true that men are more violence-prone than women, does it follow that an abundance of men will cause

an abundance of violence? Claims of “more men, more violence” come primarily from two scholarly traditions. From a biological perspective, male violence results from antagonistic competition over mates, which intensifies when partners are rare. Sociologists typically argue that violence increases when the sex ratio is male-biased because of the large pool of unmarried men

(the group most prone to violence.) But what does the evidence say?

Click [here](#) to read the full article

**\*Dr. Ryan Schacht joined the Department this Summer as a Postdoctoral Researcher**

## The Genetic Prehistory of the New World Arctic

The New World Arctic, the last region of the Americas to be populated by humans, has a relatively well-researched archaeology, but an understanding of its genetic history is lacking. We present genome-wide sequence data from ancient and present-day humans from Greenland, Arctic Canada, Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and Siberia. We show that Paleo-Eskimos (~3000 BCE to 1300 CE)

represent a migration pulse into the Americas independent of both Native American and Inuit expansions. Furthermore, the genetic continuity characterizing the Paleo-Eskimo period was interrupted by the arrival of a new population, representing the ancestors of present-day Inuit, with evidence of past gene flow between these lineages. Despite periodic abandonment of major Arctic regions, a single Paleo-Eskimo meta-population likely survived in

near-isolation for more than 4000 ago, only to vanish around 700 years ago.

Click [here](#) to read the full research article

# Kangaroos Win When Aborigines Hunt With Fire



Australia's Aboriginal Martu people hunt kangaroos and set small grass fires to catch lizards, as they have for at least 2,000 years. Professor Brian Codding of the University of Utah Department of Anthropology, found such man-made disruption boosts kangaroo populations – showing how co-evolution helped marsupials and

made Aborigines into unintentional conservationists. "We have uncovered a framework that allows us to predict when human subsistence practices might be detrimental to the environment and when they might be beneficial," says Codding.

"When subsistence practices have long histories, they are more likely to sustain ecosystem stability," he says. "But when there are sudden changes to the way people make a living on the land, expect the result to be detrimental to the

environment." The findings, published online in the journal *Human Ecology*, suggest that Australia might want to encourage small-scale burning to bolster wildlife populations in certain areas, Codding says.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

**"To be successful, management schemes should facilitate traditional burning and hunting regimes in remote communities, and incorporate this traditional ecological practice into future management protocols" Codding says.**

## Primate Field Trip to Costa Rica *by Natalie Spendlove*

The baby-stealing spider monkey was on the move and we fell behind as she swung across the river. "Are you all up for a swim?" – Such was our primatological introduction.

The primatology field school was an intense introduction to fieldwork and a constant source of adventure. Between collecting data, running through the forest and joking about the monkeys, I found myself

connecting to my classmates in a way that only happens in the field. Set apart from the world and amidst the monkeys in a foreign land, I discovered myself. This was not an experience I would trade for anything.

*(left to right: Nicole Herzog, Megan Mullineaux, Natalie Spendlove, Indrani Schelling)*

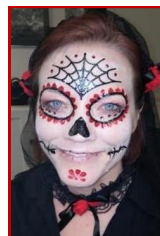


## Anthropology Staff Changes

The Department would like to say goodbye to Joy Velarde and hello to Shawn Carlyle and Rhonda Hypio. Joy was a tremendous asset to the Department, as Academic Coordinator to our undergraduate students. She has accepted a position and promotion to Academic Advisor for the College of Engineering. Best wishes Joy, you will be missed! Welcome back to the office Shawn! Dr. Shawn Carlyle has been an integral part of the Department for over 18 years. Shawn completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in Anthropology, worked in the

office for many years, and is currently a Department Adjunct Professor. Shawn will continue to teach, but has accepted a new role as our Academic Coordinator.

Rhonda Hypio is the new Marketing and Development Assistant. She is working with staff and faculty to help bring in more financial support and visibility to the Anthropology Department.



Joy Velarde  
*(Dressed for Halloween!)*



Shawn Carlyle



Rhonda Hypio



Click to 'Like' Us on Facebook!

## Support the Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology gratefully acknowledges our alumni, corporate partners, foundations and friends whose generous contributions enrich the lives of our students. Our commitment to excellence in education and research is more fully realized through your donations, grants, in-kind gifts and planned gifts. We sincerely appreciate all who have helped us. We also hope that many others will invest in us as we continue to support and graduate our students. Giving **now** online is **easy**. Click on the button below to make a donation directly to the Department of Anthropology:

Make a Difference  
**Give Now**

### CSBS Matching Scholarship Campaign

The University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS) is offering a challenge grant for scholarships that address three critical areas: achievement, access, and completion. Funds will be matched dollar for dollar with a minimum of \$250 up to a maximum of \$5000 per donor for all new gifts **before December 31, 2014**. With your support, we can continue to recruit and retain the strongest students.

Click on the link below for more details:

<http://csbs.utah.edu/matchingscholarshipchallenge.pdf>

*\*If you would like your donation to go directly to Anthropology Majors, indicate this in the special instructions box\**

## Students and Professors Undertake Great Basin Research

Researchers in Anthropology have initiated an interdisciplinary research project at several Great Basin field sites exploring topics ranging from the prehistory of the region's earliest inhabitants to the ethnography of contemporary communities engaged in collecting wild resources.



**Graduate student Kate Magargal (left) and undergraduate student Will Rath (right) collecting pine nuts in the Sweetwater Mountains of Nevada with Vinton Hawley, Cultural Affairs Coordinator for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.**

Photos by Brian Codding



**Assistant Professor Brian Codding on an archaeological survey in Grass Valley Nevada pointing to the Pleistocene shoreline of ancient Lake Gilbert and ash from the Mount Mazama eruption (approx. 7700 years ago) that formed Crater Lake in Oregon. Photo by David Zeanah**