



Anthropology

SUMMER 2018 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER





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Photo by Chelsea Cutright

Dear UK Anthropology Alumni and Friends,



Your enthusiastic responses to our fall 2017 newsletter have inspired us to make this a biannual publication, where we hope to highlight just a few of the many adventures and achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. The department has been transformed over the past decade by the hiring of many outstanding new faculty, and one exciting result of that for our students is new courses: two of these are explored on pp. 4–5, “Food Pathways in Ancient and Modern Times” (ANT351) and “Garbology!” (ANT 101). In addition to coursework, the department provides hands-on learning opportunities for students through individual faculty research programs, the immersive archeology summer field school, community engagement initiatives, and of course our own Webb Museum internships. The Webb Museum is where many of our students gain hands-on training in archaeology, bio-anthropology and cultural heritage.

A Webb Museum internship was crucial for one of our most notable alumni, Bill Schweri. It's not a stretch to call him a rainmaker for UK. After earning anthropology degrees here (M.A. '78, B.A. '71), he stayed at UK for a multifaceted career exemplifying how anthropological training can be applied to careers outside the academy. Through his efforts in research fundraising, management, and federal lobbying, Bill was present at the creation of many of UK's most significant research milestones. Now retired, Bill recently established the Anthropology Legacy Fund to support high-impact learning opportunities for anthropology students. That fund is currently accepting donations from others, and I urge you to read more about Bill on pp. 13–15 and consider joining him in support of our students. In our next issue, we'll profile a beneficiary of this fund and the difference it made for her studies.

Syrian artist and architect Mohamad Hafez, currently a Silliman College Fellow at Yale, visited campus in March to deliver a free public lecture. A longtime friend of Anthropology professor Hsain Ilahiane, Hafez spoke about the cultural and archeological losses from the ongoing destruction in Syria, and his art reflects the political turmoil in the Middle East through the compilation of found objects, paint, and scrap metal.

Prof. Mark Whitaker traveled to Sri Lanka last summer to lead a workshop on innovative religiosity, bringing together 17 anthropologists and religious studies scholars to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to explore why religion has reemerged as a major cultural force in the fragile postwar peace since 2009. You can read more about his trip on p. 7, and pp. 8–12 announce achievements by our students and alumni. Thomas Arcury (Ph.D. '83) and his wife, Dr. Sara Quandt were awarded the prestigious Alice Hamilton Award from The American Public Health Association for their longtime efforts to protect the occupational, safety, and health rights of immigrant workers.

Finally, please consider joining us for the 30th annual Living Archeology Weekend at Red River Gorge on Sept. 21–22, detailed on p. 16. Volunteers are needed for this public archeology outreach event that aims to provide free STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) experiences for underserved Kentucky school districts. I hope to see you at that weekend or on campus soon, and I thank you for your excitement about our work.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cliggett

CHAIR

Food Pathways in Ancient and Modern Times

How did indigenous groups use plants and animals in prehistoric times? That's one of the questions that Renée Bonzani and Bruce Manzano posit to their popular ANT 351 Special Topics in Archaeology course, Food Pathways in Ancient and Modern Times. Under the guidance of Profs. Bonzani and Manzano, students trace the food uses of selected plants and animals from prehistoric to modern times, incorporating comparisons with historic food pathways in Kentucky, and finally, creating their own business plans and marketing strategies to reincorporate these foods into modern life. Sponsored by UK's Food Connection Student Opportunities Grant in 2016 and 2017, Bonzani and Manzano taught this popular course for the third time this spring, and look forward to teaching it again in the future.



Bruce Manzano leads students in faunal analysis in ANT 351
(photo: Renée Bonzani)

Garbology!

Visitors to Lafferty Hall in late February could have been forgiven for thinking that teaching conditions had taken a turn for the worse as they would have found the lobby area strewn, from corner to corner, with garbage. However, there was no need to be alarmed. This garbage had an unusual purpose—it was being used for a classic “garbology” exercise in Dr. Shannon Plank’s ANT 101 (“What Makes Us Human: Introduction to Anthropology”) course. In this course, students develop an understanding of anthropological concepts through a consideration of the four subdisciplines: cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.

Intriguingly titled “What we learn about humans from their STUFF,” the garbology exercise introduced students to archaeological inquiry, while simultaneously pushing them to consider and challenge the assumptions they make about how human “stuff” signals and reflects age, gender, class, race, and ethnicity. Students used the contents of Lexington trash bins—pizza boxes, discarded toys, potting soil bags, craft beer bottles, roasted seaweed wrappers, Thai Hom Mali jasmine rice,valu-pak Cinnamon Toast Crunch—to infer aspects of household composition, dietary habits, and socio-economic status of diverse households.

ANT 101 students were particularly good at deducing the origins of the household trash of the graduate students, who had kindly gathered and processed their garbage for the exercise; some student write-ups concluded improbably, however, that these unnamed graduate students had time and resources to come home and cook healthy food, watch TV, and drink expensive beer, which, some suggested, they used to cope with stress.

Dr. Plank affirms that she did not raid her neighbors’ trash bins in the dark of night dressed in a black hoodie to acquire the materials for the garbology exercise.



ANT 101 students participating in garbage analysis (photo: Catherine Brereton)

Artist Discusses Syria's “Homeland Security”

By Gail Hairston

Syrian artist and architect Mohamad Hafez personifies the word “unique”—singular, exceptional, rare, distinctive, matchless, one-of-a-kind. Hafez’s work, which is attracting impressive national media attention, speaks to the conditions of forced migration of civilians and the destruction of a culture in his native Syria.

Hafez creates the most breath-taking, thought-provoking art imaginable by combining bits and pieces of what most people would call junk, smeared plaster and splatters of paint in an old beat-up suitcase. His artwork has recently been featured in four highly acclaimed exhibitions and profiled in National Public Radio, the New York Times, and the New Yorker, to name only a few. He serves as a 2018 Yale University Silliman College Fellow.

Hafez was born in Damascus, raised in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and educated in the Midwestern United States. His art reflects the political turmoil in the Middle East through the compilation of found objects, paint and scrap metal. Using his architectural skills, Hafez creates surrealistic Middle Eastern streetscapes that are architectural in their appearance, yet politically charged in their content.

In an interview with New York Minute Films, Hafez said, “Most people are just focused on the war. I try to shine a light on what is also at risk culturally and archeologically; and ... the most expensive price being paid is the human life. I was overwhelmed with the amount of destruction that was happening in Syria. I started remodeling the destruction of Syria, in miniature forms. And detailing them, because that was the only therapeutic way that helped me cope with the destruction of my country.”

Hafez visited the campus for a free public lecture in March, speaking to a packed auditorium in the Fine Arts Building. His visit was made possible by an Inclusive Excellence Grant. The Department of Anthropology is grateful for the support of the Inclusive Excellence program in UK’s Office of Institutional Diversity, as well as that of other departments within the UK College of Arts and Sciences, and in the College of Fine Arts and the College of Design.



Syrian artist and architect Mohamad Hafez delivered a free public lecture at UK on March 23. (photo: Cole Wilson)



Mohamad Hafez with Prof. Hsain Ilahiane

Prof. Mark Whitaker and Innovative Religiosity in Sri Lanka Since 2009

By Megan Foltz

In the summer of 2017, Prof. Mark Whitaker traveled to Sri Lanka to lead a workshop on innovative religiosity, during which he brought together 17 anthropologists and religious studies scholars at the campus of the Open University of Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Whitaker's workshop posed the question: "Why have innovative religious practices and institutions in Sri Lanka and its diaspora achieved a new prominence since the end of its inter-ethnic civil war in 2009?"

"This gathering of scholars of Sri Lanka's many politically and sociologically significant religions—Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity, as well as many new religious movements—explored the relationship between social upheaval and religious innovation in Sri Lanka and, by extension, in general," Whitaker said.

In an effort to achieve such an understanding, and to cultivate future research on this topic, participants of the workshop plan to publish a summary journal article and a special journal issue or scholarly anthology to bring together the results of their research so far.

"The support of two highly selective funding agencies attested to the timeliness and significance of this workshop," Whitaker said. "Timely, that is, because political conditions in postwar Sri Lanka have only recently made possible such a gathering of scholars; and significant because Sri Lanka offers the unique scholarly opportunity to view a group of interacting religions responding to a common, disruptive shock: inter-ethnic civil war and its complex aftermath."

Sri Lanka is a teardrop shaped island nation roughly 250 miles long from north to south located just south of India. Its population of roughly 20 million people is divided between three major ethnic groups: Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. Most Sinhalese people are Buddhist, though less than 1 percent may be Christian; most Tamil people are Hindu, though again less than 1 percent may be Christian. According to Sri Lanka's 2001 census, Sinhalese people, who control the government, make up 82 percent of the population, while Tamil-speaking Sri Lankans make up only 9.4 percent of the population, down from 18.2 percent in 1991. "Moors" or Muslims make up 7.9 percent of Sri Lanka's population.

Since 1948 when Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, achieved independence from Great Britain, Sri Lankan politics have been dominated by a conflict between two competing forms of nationalism, one Sinhalese (emphasizing Buddhism) and

one Tamil (advocating a separate state for Tamils). In 1983, civil war broke out between the Sinhalese controlled Sri Lankan central government and various militant, separatist Tamil groups. This war continued until May 2009 when the sole remaining Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was defeated. The war cost well over 100,000 civilian lives and many Sri Lankan Tamils had to flee abroad. They now live in various countries around the world though the largest enclave of diasporic Tamils, over 200,000, is found in and around Toronto, Canada.

"For Sri Lanka, however, the end of the war has hardly settled the underlying issues of ethnic and religious tension that provoked it," Whitaker said. "It is in the context of this fragile postwar peace that Sri Lanka's recent religious innovations require study."



Scholars at the Workshop on Innovative Religiosity, July 2017 (photo: Mark Whitaker)



Dr. Mark Whitaker presents at the Workshop on Innovative Religiosity, July 2017 (photo: Mark Whitaker)

Graduate Student Awards

Susan Abbott Jamieson Pre-Dissertation Research Award

This spring, three of our outstanding PhD students were the recipients of the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Pre-Dissertation Research Award. These awards—made possible by the generosity of Anthropology alumna Ashley Judd and named for emerita professor Susan Abbott-Jamieson—offer financial support to graduate students in the early stages of their dissertation research. This year's recipients are **Shayna Lindquist**, **Megan Parker**, and **Brittany Stanfield**. Shayna will use the funds to attend a Spanish language immersion program in Pueblo, Mexico and to travel to her dissertation site in order to begin networking with the landowners and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Megan will be working with the Northern Basin of Mexico Historical Ecology Project (directed by Dr. Christopher Morehart at ASU) over the summer, carrying out preliminary survey work to document the location of household sites that date to the time period just prior to and following Spanish conquest. She hopes to be able to identify sites for future excavations that can provide information about changing household production, consumption, and exchange practices in the wake of Spanish conquest. Brittany plans to begin Xhosa language training and commence her preliminary data collection at two newly constructed AgriParks in South Africa's Eastern Cape. All three recipients will carry out their preliminary research over the summer. We look forward to sharing more information about their research progress in the fall semester.

We are grateful to Ashley Judd for her continued support of the department; without her backing, we would be unable to offer this crucial financial assistance to our students at such an important stage in their PhD programs. Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sarah Lyon, commented "the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Award continues to assist our pre-dissertation students with the preliminary research necessary for a successful dissertation research proposal and eventual project. This year's recipients are doing innovative and important work. I look forward to seeing how their research unfolds in the coming years."

Adelski Dissertation Research Award

Ruth Dike and **Kaitlin Zapel** are the recipients of this year's Adelski Dissertation Research Award. Both Ruth and Kaitlin's research projects focus upon gendered labor: Kaitlin's research project is titled "Otavalan Women Weavers: Rethinking Gendered Labor and Crafts in Ecuador"; Ruth's is titled "Gendered Labor In- and Outside the Household for Middle-Class Urban Newlywed Moroccans."

Rhoda Halperin Memorial Fund Award

In February, the department was delighted to learn that PhD student **Megan Parker** was a recipient of the 2018 Rhoda Halperin Memorial Fund Award, awarded by the Society for Economic Anthropology. This prestigious award, which attracts applications and attention from around the world, provides students engaged in economic research on social exclusion and poverty with grants for their preliminary dissertation fieldwork.

Megan's project—Documenting Change in Domestic Household Production in the Northern Basin of Mexico Before and After Spanish Conquest—is especially noteworthy as this is the first time that the Halperin committee has selected an archaeological research project for the award. Megan will present her work at the spring conference of the Society for Economic Anthropology in 2019. Speaking to the importance of Megan's work, Megan's advisor Dr. Scott Hutson commented, "Megan takes a sophisticated approach to the impact of Spanish conquest and colonialism on household economies in the Americas. Megan's research in the northern Basin of Mexico will evaluate not just how native households worked to satisfy labor drafts and tribute collection, but the ways in which such transfers of surplus lead to new institutions and projects that further transform unequal relations."

Katharine Alexander was the recipient of an Association for Environmental Archaeology Award.

Lee Bullock received an NSF DDRIG grant to aid with his dissertation research.

Justin Carlson was the recipient of a Legacy Fund Dissertation Writing Fellowship and a UK Anthropology Excellence Dissertation Fellowship.

Tammy Clemons was awarded the Academic Excellence Scholarship for Graduate Students by the Student Government Association and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. She was also the recipient of a Kentucky Historical Society Scholarly Research Fellowship.

Chelsea Cutright successfully completed her qualifying exams in December 2017. Chelsea was a runner-up in the Dean of Arts & Sciences Fellowships for the spring 2018 semester.

Gavin Davies's work illuminating the nature of the Classic to Postclassic transition in the southwestern Lake Atitlan Basin, Sololá, Guatemala was a recent cover story in *elPeriódico*, a popular Guatemalan newspaper. <https://elperiodico.com.gt/domingo/2018/01/21/mientras-los-mayas-abandonaban-las-tierras-bajas-las-tierras-altas-crecian-y-prosperaban/>

In March, **Takami Delisle's** ongoing work in organizing and supporting conversations and activities focused on decolonizing the university was recognized by the UK Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives; Takami was the recipient of the Exceptional Student Service Award. Takami also defended her proposal successfully in January 2018. Takami also received a Graduate Student Congress Travel Award.

Ruth Dike successfully defended her proposal in October 2017, and passed her qualifying exams in March. She travelled to Morocco in April, where she will spend a year conducting research on the influence of women in the paid workforce upon the distribution of reproductive labor inside the household.

Vanessa Hanvey was a finalist in for the Provost's Outstanding Teaching Award. She successfully defended her proposal in October 2017 and passed her qualifying exams in April 2018.

Ana Hasemann received a NSF DDRIG grant for her proposal "Development with Identity or Commodities with Identity? Lenca Craftswomen, Honduras' Cultural Identity Politics, and Global Economics of Culture." Ana also received a National Geographic Society Explorer's Award. She is currently conducting fieldwork in Honduras.

Stacie Hatfield successfully completed her qualifying exams in December 2017.

Daniel Joseph was awarded the Michael Cernea Involuntary Resettlement Travel Award by the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Chhaya Kolavalli received the UK Women's Club Endowed Fellowship and a Graduate Student Congress Travel Award.

Anthropology PhD candidate **Zada Komara** was awarded the Society for Historical Archaeology Student Paper Prize at the 21st Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology held in New Orleans in January 2018. The prize is given to a student whose written version of their conference paper is judged to be superior in the areas of originality, research merit, clarity of presentation, professionalism, and of potential relevance to a considerable segment of the archaeological community. The winning author is encouraged to submit his/her paper to be reviewed for possible publication in the Society's journal, *Historical Archaeology*.

Zada's paper, "Discourse, Dumpsites, and New Directions in the 'Land of Trump': Archaeology and Representation at an Appalachian Company Coal Mining Town," investigates archaeology's potential to challenge persistent narratives with contemporary consequences through artifacts and oral histories. She goes on to suggest economic strategies adapted from historic strategies to aid Appalachia's just transition post-coal using examples from investigations of coal-mining towns across Appalachian Kentucky.



Zada Komara receiving her award in January 2018
(Photo: Kim McBride)

Céline Lamb was awarded a UK Anthropology Excellence Dissertation Writing Fellowship.

Shayna Lindquist was awarded a Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program Travel Grant for Research to support her summer research activity. She is also a recipient of the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Pre-Dissertation Research Award (see p. 8).

Anahid Matossian successfully defended her proposal in December 2017.

Alexander Metz successfully completed his qualifying exams in March 2018.

The Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) awarded **Gabriela Montero Mejia** an “honorary mention” in the category of “Francisco de la Maza” (for the conservation of architecture and urban patrimony) for her licenciatura (BA) thesis.

Gabriela was also awarded a Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program Travel Grant for Research to support her summer research activity and a 2018 Robert O’Dear Award for research in Latin America.

In December 2017, **Elizabeth New** successfully defended her dissertation, “Racism, Resistance, Resilience: Chronically Ill African American Women’s Experiences Navigating a Changing Healthcare System.”

Alberto Ortiz Brito was the recipient of a 2018 Robert O’Dear Award.

Pathmanesan Sanmugeswaran was the recipient of a Dean’s Competitive Graduate Fellowship for the spring 2018 semester. Pathmanesan was also awarded an NSF DDRIG grant for his proposal, “‘Village-Temple Consciousness’ in Two Jaffna Tamil Villages in Post-War Sri Lanka.” Pathmanesan is conducting fieldwork in Sri Lanka and will return to Lexington to complete his dissertation in December of this year.

Mary Beth Schmid’s chapter “Enterprising Mexican-American Farming Families of Southern Appalachia” was recently published in *Immigration, Immigrants, Agriculture and Food in North America*, edited by Dr. Julian Ageyman at Tufts University. Mary Beth’s work shares the perspectives of Mexican-American (binational) women in fruit and vegetable (FFV) farming families in Southern Appalachia. It explores the challenges they face in the FFV industry and the kin-based collective strategies they created to mitigate those enterprise challenges. Her chapter discusses how many of these exchange strategies are inspired by their exchange relations and experiences in their rancho (village) in rural west-central Mexico. Mary Beth also received an honorable mention from the

Center for Engaged Scholarship’s Dissertation Fellowship and a UK Anthropology Excellence Dissertation Writing Fellowship.

Mauri Systo won an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the College of Arts and Sciences and the department’s William Y. Adams Award for Teaching for 2018. She successfully defended her proposal in January 2018.

Daniel Vallejo-Cáliz was the recipient of a 2018 Robert O’Dear Award.

Kaitlin Zapel was awarded a Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Program Travel Grant for Research to support her summer research activity and a 2018 Robert O’Dear Award.

Undergraduate News

Congratulations to the following students, who were awarded Bachelor's of Arts in Anthropology in 2017–18:

Maryann Kristen Bandy
Louise Einin Beach
Vincent Gage Brocato
Craig William Davis, Jr.
Jonathan Davis
Holly M. Holland
Nicole Isabelle Karem
Taylor Ann Kincaid
Sarah Yvonne Knox

Weston Lewis
Erin Maricle
Elise Noelle McConnell
Hannah Elaine Nickell
Margaret Catherine O'Daniel
Moriah Raleigh
Sidney Paige Sallengs
Dua H. Sheikh
Jordan A. Shuck

Samuel R. Smalley
William Marrett Sowders
Audrey Cristin Sullivan
Phoebe Carter Wallace-Smith
Abigail F. Weber
Kelsey West
Ethan Lane Williams

Craig Davis Presents at Southern Anthropological Society Conference

Non-traditional Appalachian identities and issues have become a topic of ongoing research for non-traditional Anthropology student—and class of 2018 graduate—Craig Davis. While working on a literature review for an independent study with Dr. Mary Anglin, Craig found himself investigating how nativist sentiments are connected to (anti)immigration legislation and how the immigration debate results in health inequalities in Southern Appalachia. Craig presented a poster of his initial findings at the Graduate Appalachian Research Community symposium in March of this year, then took his research on the road in order to present at the Southern Anthropological Society Conference in Chattanooga, TN. With his Bachelor's degree under his belt, Craig now plans to study Public Health or Medical Anthropology in graduate school.

Please Support the Anthropology Department with a Gift Today

The Department of Anthropology offers students opportunities to learn about the diverse people of today's world, as well as about their biological and cultural origins. We train students to become professional anthropologists who can engage in both academic and non-academic settings, with strong foundations in theoretical and substantive areas. **Your donation today is an investment in the future of the Department and the next generation of scholars. You can also make your gift to honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or faculty member.** Please designate your donation to an area of your choice, or you can direct your gift to the Department's greatest needs:

- The **Anthropology Development Fund** provides critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provides innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.
- The **Anthropology Legacy Fund**, founded by William Schweri '69 (see pp. 13–15), offers students a wide-range of experiences in real-world settings that enrich what is learned in the classroom. Funds support but are not limited to student internships, travel to academic conferences, travel abroad, and research opportunities.

A gift to the Anthropology Development Fund can be made online at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas and click on the Anthropology Development Fund button. To make a gift to the Anthropology Legacy Fund, please use the search box in the upper right of that page and type the name of the Fund.

By mail, please sent to:

University of Kentucky Gift Receiving
210 Malabu Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40502

For questions please contact Laura Sutton (lsutton@uky.edu) or (859) 257-3551.

We are grateful for your continued support!

Alumni News

Thomas Arcury (Anthropology PhD '83, MA '78) and his wife, Sara Quandt, PhD, were awarded the prestigious Alice Hamilton Award from the American Public Health Association for their longtime efforts to protect the occupational, health, and safety (OHS) rights of immigrant workers. The award is named for Alice Hamilton (1869–1970), who is considered the founder of occupational health in the U.S. and was a tireless activist and physician who dedicated her life to improving the health and safety of workers. This award recognizes the life-long contributions of individuals who have distinguished themselves through a career of hard work and dedication to improve the lives of workers.

Dr. Allison Harnish—an Anthropology alumna—briefly returned to UK in February to participate in this year's Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference. Now an



Dr. Thomas Arcury and Dr. Sara Quandt with their APHA Alice Hamilton Awards (photo: thepumhandle.org)

assistant professor at Albion College in Michigan, Dr. Harnish was part of an invited plenary panel for DoPE 2018, joining a powerful panel of woman scholars, including Drs. Flora Lu, Sharlene Mollett, and Ingrid Nelson. Dr. Harnish answered questions about her journey through graduate school to teaching, and regaled the audience with her stories of bringing activism into her classroom in Albion through integrating local partners and students' interests.

Dr. Harnish received her PhD from the UK Department of Anthropology in 2013. Working with Dr. Lisa Cliggett, her dissertation involved investigating age and gender dimensions surrounding issues of conservation, environmental change, and development in Zambia. During

her time here she was involved in the developmental years of the UK Political Ecology Working Group and was a co-organizer of the second annual DoPE conference in 2012. She continues to maintain her connections to UK through collaboration with both professors and current graduate students. Dr. Harnish is currently working on two co-authored papers, one with Dr. Lisa Cliggett, current department chair and her past PhD advisor, and another with **Chelsea Cutright**, current PhD candidate and one of her previous students at Albion College.



Doctoral student Chelsea Cutright and Dr. Allison Harnish conducting fieldwork in Zambia (photo: Chelsea Cutright)

Emily Halmi has been accepted to New York Law School. She plans to pursue a career focused on missing persons and forensics. Emily graduated from our undergraduate program in 2017.

Congratulations to **Dr. Megan Maurer**, who earned her PhD in 2017; she has accepted an exciting post-doctoral position at Columbia University's Earth Institute. Dr. Maurer, who will be working under Dr. Patricia Culligan and Dr. Ben Orlove, will be conducting ethnographic research on green infrastructure projects (mostly green grooves) in New York City.

Congratulations to **Dr. Julie Shepherd-Powell**, who earned her PhD in 2017. She has accepted a three-year appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University.

Alumni Spotlight:

Bill Schweri: Rainmaker for UK's Research Enterprise

By Julie Wrinn

From 1965 when he enrolled as a freshman at the University of Kentucky until 2015 when he retired as UK's Director of Federal Relations, Bill Schweri (B.A. '69, M.A. '78 Anthropology) evolved from a young man who never met a stranger to one of the university's most successful rainmakers for its research enterprise. "I was really good at ferreting out money," he said. "I could find it, and I could go get it."



Bill Schweri in 1967 (credit: Bill Schweri)

Schweri hesitates to admit it, but his early impressions of UK were overwhelmingly positive due to one factor: the party scene. As a high school student he was often invited by older friends to join their convivial weekends in Lexington, and the outgoing young man from Louisville was enthusiastic about that aspect of college life. As for academics, Schweri was accepted into UK's rigorous engineering program thanks to his strengths in math and science, but it didn't take him long to realize that engineering was not his calling.

After taking a few courses in Anthropology, he was invited to dinner by Prof. Bill Adams and his wife, Nettie, at their home in Lexington. "You ought to major in Anthro," Schweri recalls Adams saying to him at that dinner. This advice was reinforced by then director of the Webb Museum, Martha Rolingson, who offered him a position as a student assistant. That opportunity was critical, because he was working his way through school. "My mom loaned me the

money for my tuition and books—I had to pay for everything else," he explained.

Schweri reels off the names of all the great professors he had in the Anthropology Department, as if he had graduated five years ago instead of fifty: in addition to Bill Adams, Phil Drucker, Art Gallaher, Frank Essen, Louise Robbins, and Hank Dobyns, who allowed Schweri to sit in on a graduate seminar in community development. "Hank had done some really interesting work, some would say controversial work, on community development in Peru," said Schweri. "I found his seminar to be really, really interesting, and I became very interested in different cultures and how people lived."

As he neared graduation in 1969, Schweri received some crucial advice from Prof. Phil Drucker, who urged him to join the Peace Corps for a true immersion experience in another culture. "And maybe you'll actually learn some Spanish," Schweri recalls Drucker saying. Schweri had taken Spanish as his language requirement but had struggled with the class. "The mother of languages is necessity," Schweri now realizes. "I went to Guatemala, and within eight months I was dreaming in Spanish. Any linguist will tell you, once you start dreaming in a language, you know it."

Inspired by his own experience living in Mexico and running his own cattle farm, Prof. Drucker encouraged Schweri



Congressman Hal Rogers presenting Bill Schweri with a tribute he read on the floor of the US House of Representatives to commemorate Schweri's work on behalf of UK and the Commonwealth (credit: Bill Schweri)

to request a posting in Central or South America, and so Schweri took a Peace Corp appointment as an extension agent for the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture. Schweri and his Peace Corp peers would earn a subsistence salary to live on the south coast of Guatemala near the Pacific Ocean, 50 miles from the nearest electricity and even farther from potable water. They worked with farmers who had medium-sized holdings of 100–120 acres, where the predominant crops were sesame and corn.

“Our job was to help them increase production, expand and diversify the crops, and develop cattle,” he said. In contrast to the typical Peace Corp training period of eight weeks, the Ag Extension agents had to train in Puerto Rico for four months. “They wanted us functioning at a very high level of Spanish and Ag,” he remembers, which meant an intense schedule of five hours of Spanish and five hours of Agriculture every day. Drawing upon his childhood summers spent on farms with cousins, aunts, and uncles in Whitley County, Kentucky, where his mother is from, Schweri hit the ground running. “I had to show the two trainers how to hitch up a horse to pull a plow. They had him hitched upside down, which would have choked him to death.”

Schweri explained that many of these farmers did well because the topsoil was a remarkable 5–6 feet deep and very organic and loamy, with lots of aeration. With such rich soil and a long growing season, farmers could grow two crops per year. “These guys were feeding the country, not just themselves,” said Schweri. His team also helped rid their cows of parasites, which dramatically increased milk production. But the project he remembers most fondly was digging wells so that tomatoes could be grown in the dry season, when prices skyrocketed. “I had two guys who doubled their annual income just growing tomatoes,” he remembers. Their team did have some failures as well, such as the realization that introducing fertilizer into such rich soil had a negligible cost/benefit effect on crop yield.

Schweri credits his anthropology degree and prior knowledge of farming for the tremendous impact he had on this community of farmers. His innate gregariousness also played a role, along with some pointers from Profs. Drucker and Gallaher, who advised him to spend time in the central market or tienda. “I had no real trouble integrating into the community and making friends with the farmers,” Schweri remembers. “I’d go make visits to them in the mornings, and then in the late afternoons I’d go to the tienda and hang out. Farmers would show up. It only took about five weeks before I met everyone in the area.”

Upon returning from Guatemala in 1972, Schweri became involved with various research projects at UK through the Center for Developmental Change (CDC), a multidisciplinary social science research operation that no longer exists. “I learned how to do things like mail surveys, face-to-face surveys, interview techniques. I’d never met a stranger in my lifetime, so I was a natural at meeting and engaging people in conversation.” He also began learning how to identify funding sources and write research proposals,

working with mentors such as Howard Beers, Tom Ford, and Sue Johnson.

The following year, Schweri began his M.A. in Anthropology and applied these skills to his own research, writing a proposal to the Kentucky Water Resources Institute that got funded. “I worked with a resistance group that was fighting an Army Corps of Engineers dam project in Paintsville,” he said. Guided by a thesis committee of department chair John van Willigen, Arts & Sciences dean Art Gallaher, and longtime mentor Phil Drucker, Schweri spent the next five years completing his M.A.

At the same time, he continued to hone his skills in proposal development. While at CDC Schweri met and worked with Wes Leach and Fred Mesler of the UK Research Foundation (UKRF), and these colleagues recommended Schweri to UKRF director Jim McDonnell. At the time it was rare for universities to have their own research foundation, and UKRF was fairly unique among just a handful of others such as Ohio State and the University of Wisconsin.

Schweri fondly remembers one of his earliest assignments at UKRF. Wimberly Royster, then Vice President for Research, called and directed him to work with engineering professor Lee Todd, who later became president of UK, on crafting a proposal for the Kentucky EPSCoR project. EPSCoR, which stands for Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, was established by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1979 to remedy uneven distribution of federal research and development grants. The program had been funneling awards to a few states and institutions that had historically benefitted, and it was time for outstanding regional institutions like the University of Kentucky to compete on a level playing field for a share of federal research dollars. “I remember going out to Lee’s house at night, and we’d be at his kitchen table writing the proposal,” said Schweri. They were successful, and EPSCoR subsequently brought hundreds of millions of NSF dollars to the state of Kentucky in the ensuing years, not just to UK.

UKRF director Jim McDonnell recognized Schweri’s many talents in building rapport and encouraged him to become involved in a national society, the Society of Research Administrators (SRA) in 1978. With SRA Schweri held a series of elected positions, and in 1997 he became its president and began moving the organization towards a greater international focus. Later he collaborated with professionals from other American universities to obtain funding from the MacArthur Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation to perform international research management training. “We worked in East African and West African universities. We worked with a number of Nigerian Schools, University of Dar es Salam, Makerere University and others,” said Schweri. He and a handful of colleagues taught foreign administrators the best practices for research management, running the gamut from identifying sources, to writing competitive proposals, to managing the awarded money.

At this point in Schweri's career, building a strong international research infrastructure crosses over into international diplomacy and nuclear nonproliferation. He began spending a lot of time in Russia around 1997–98 assisting the Civilian Research Development Foundation (CRDF) with a U.S. State Department–funded project for research in high energy physics. If the most talented scientists could prosper in their own countries, they would be less likely to be lured away to countries that are developing nuclear weapons. "We would prefer to have them well funded and continuing to do their research there and not do high energy practical applications in places like Iran or North Korea. We wanted to keep them where they were." Schweri feels that most scientists who did emigrate to Iran or North Korea were Chinese, not Russian, due in part to his work there.

By that time Schweri had become Director of Program Development at UKRF, where he spearheaded another landmark project for UK, the establishment of ASTeCC, the Applied Science and Technology Commercialization Center (pronounced "Aztec"). Royster and Associate VP for Research Len Peters tapped Schweri and two of his colleagues to develop a proposal for ASTeCC. UK also hired an outside lobbying firm, Cassidy and Associates, with experience in direct appropriations. "Earmarks, if you will," jokes Schweri, "Also known as pork." Together they succeeded in obtaining almost \$18 million in a direct appropriation to establish the commercialization center and build the ASTeCC building, which sits next to McVey Hall.

Their success with ASTeCC led to the realization that UK was under-utilizing its federal contacts. "UK had a very strong congressional delegation, and we had zero presence in Washington, D.C. to take advantage of it," explained Schweri. Nearly every phase of his professional career had added to Schweri's federal rolodex, and it quickly became clear that he was the perfect person to launch a D.C. presence for the university. Schweri became UK's point person for working with both the legislative and executive branches to further the university's goals, whether in research funding, budget, student loans,

taxes, even NCAA issues. "Over a ten-year period, about 2000–2010, we brought in over \$170 million dollars. Frankly, it was all thanks to the really hard work of our congressional delegation, particularly Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers and their staff. Their staff are really bright people who worked very, very hard for almost no pay, and they were always looking for ways to help UK and Kentucky. Just really terrific people." Schweri was ultimately responsible for over \$200 million dollars awarded to UK through the direct appropriations process.

While training in anthropology may seem like an unusual background for this type of work, Schweri views it as "applying anthropological skills and techniques to the lobbying effort." He credits his training in the Master's program at UK with the deep understanding he gained of voluntary associations. "I learned a lot about voluntary associations, how they work, and how they evolve, and how they operate. And that really helped me engage with national organizations and helped me accomplish UK's larger goals that I couldn't achieve just by myself." He became active in the APLU (Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities) and leveraged those relationships in Washington. "I would walk in the door on a policy issue and it wouldn't just be me. It would be a group of land grant university folks. On any given day, I would be with my colleagues from MIT, Michigan, Ohio State, UCLA, Illinois, NC State, UC Davis, and the University of Louisville's Charlie Grizzle ('73 English) making the rounds on Capitol Hill.

Upon retiring from UK in 2015, Bill Schweri established the Anthropology Legacy Fund to support academic enrichment in the department, such as research funds, travel to conferences, scholarships and internships. The fund welcomes contributions from other donors (see p. 11). Explains Schweri, "I owe a lot to the department for preparing me to be as successful in my career as I have been, at a lot of different levels. I want to help the department to ensure that other undergraduate and graduate students have the same opportunity that I had. It's that simple."



Doug Day, Jim Cobb, Bill Marquardt, and Bill Schweri in a field at Cave Run, 1969 (credit: Bill Schweri)



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Upcoming Events

30th Annual Living Archeology Weekend

The Department of Anthropology is once again excited to be a sponsor for the Living Archaeology Weekend, which is celebrating its 30th year. This year's event will take place on September 21 and 22 in the Red River Gorge. This two-day public archaeology outreach event provides free STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)-based educational experiences for underserved Eastern Kentucky school districts on Friday and is open to the general public on Saturday. Over the years, LAW has grown to serve approximately 1,300 students and teachers, and over 1,000 visitors from the general public each year. It has reached well over 35,000 students and visitors in its 29-year history!

Living Archaeology Weekend is more than an event, though. It continues all year round through its free online curriculum resources (<https://www.livingarchaeologyweekend.org/resources-by-topic>).

With increasing pressure on State and Federal budgets, LAW is working to raise money to keep the event going—so be on the lookout for fundraising efforts.

As the event draws nearer, the Living Archaeology Weekend steering committee will also be recruiting volunteers. Whether you volunteer or attend, we hope to see you this fall!

Jim Stansbury Lecture

Jim Stansbury, the present Assistant Director for Health Economics and Outcomes Research at Covenance, will give a lecture on September 28. Jim earned his PhD in Medical Anthropology at the University of Kentucky in 1996. We're looking forward to welcoming him back.

More Faculty News

Hsain Lahiane's insight into the Berber (Amazigh) protests in Algeria led to two interviews with high-profile international news sources over the winter period. In January of this year, BBC World sought his knowledge on the Berber (Amazigh) protests and on language rights and politics in both Algeria and North Africa. His interview with Aljazeera English, which took place in December 2017, can be found here: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/algeria-berbers-protest-tamazight-language-rights-171213185709684.html>

Richard Jefferies and Mark Williams (University of Georgia) recently published a seminal article on the 17th century Spanish mission of Santo Domingo de Talaje that once stood on the banks of Georgia's Altamaha River. The paper, entitled "Santo Domingo de Talaje: Resurrecting a Seventeenth-Century Spanish Mission at Darien Bluff, Georgia," will be published in the Summer issue of *Southeastern Archaeology*, the journal of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

The paper discusses more than 75 years of archaeological investigations conducted at Darien Bluff, McIntosh County, Georgia. The recent discovery of missing excavation records and draft reports, along with the creation of new site maps showing artifact distributions and 17th century mission structures, helped Jefferies and Williams to piece together an overview of Spanish Mission period activity at the site. Included in the paper are archaeological and historical perspectives of the researchers who excavated the site starting in the early 1940s and new interpretations by the authors that draw on the recently relocated artifacts and excavation records.

Dr. Jefferies also continues to co-direct The Sapelo Island Mission Period Archaeological Project (SIMPAP) with Dr. Christopher Moore (University of Indianapolis), continuing the archaeological investigations of the site of the 17th century Spanish mission, San Joseph de Sapala, on Sapelo Island, Georgia. The 2017 field season focused on excavating several of the many Late Prehistoric and Spanish Mission period circular shell middens that dot the site and continued our ongoing ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the site. To date, the GPR survey, under the direction of UK PhD student Tyler Stumpf, has covered more than 4,000 m² of the site and located numerous potential Mission period anomalies. The GPR survey will be expanded in 2018 and several of the anomalies identified in 2017 will be tested to evaluate their cultural significance.

Ann Kingsolver has edited several forthcoming books. With Simon Coleman and Susan Hyatt, she co-edited *The Routledge Companion to Contemporary Anthropology* (2017). Her co-edited collection with Dwight Billings, *Appalachia in Regional Context: Place Matters* (2018), has just been published by the University Press of Kentucky. And her co-edited volume with Sasikumar Balasundaram,



The department welcomes Dr. Julia Ravenscroft, who will join the faculty as assistant professor in fall 2018.

Global Mountain Regions: Conversations Toward the Future (2018), will be released this fall by Indiana University Press.

Carmen Martinez Novo has given two important lectures this spring. In February, at the Center of Mexican American Studies at UT-Arlington she gave a lecture titled "Race and Racism in the Frontiers of Natural Resource Extraction/Extractivism." In April, she gave her lecture "Discrimination and Coloniality in Rafael Correa's Ecuador, 2007-2017" at the San Martín National University in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Juliana McDonald has recently been appointed at the Chair of the Society for Applied Anthropology Nominations and Elections Committee.

Chris Pool presented "It's Complicated: Gulf Olmec Participation in Interregional Networks" at The Rise of Civilization in Mesoamerica Conference, sponsored by the University of California.

The Department of Anthropology is delighted to announce that **Julia Ravenscroft** will be joining the faculty this fall, specializing in biological/biocultural anthropology. Dr. Ravenscroft earned her PhD at the University of Albany (SUNY); for the past two years she has held a position as postdoctoral associate at the University of Buffalo. Her research considers the human/biological intersections with health inequalities and environmental justice. She also brings a demonstrated and serious commitment to community-engaged research, including with Mohawk Native American populations, as well as a vibrant research agenda that compliments many of our existing strengths in the anthropology department and across campus. This fall, Dr. Ravenscroft will teach our First-Year Seminar on the topic of Culture, Health, and Development, and a Special Topics in Biological/Physical Anthropology course: Nutritional Anthropology. Dr. Ravenscroft will be a wonderful addition to our department, to the College of Arts and Sciences, and to the University of Kentucky.

Mark Whitaker received a Global Religion Research International Collaboration Grant from the Center for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Notre Dame in order to continue his research on multi-religious sites in post-conflict Sri Lanka.

Heather Worne's article, "Temporal Trends in Violence during the Mississippi Period in the Middle Cumberland Region of Tennessee," was the lead article in the Fall 2017 issue of *Southeastern Archaeology*. In March, Dr. Worne gave her timely and topical lecture "Does Race Exist? Insights from Biological Anthropology for Understanding Contemporary Debates on 'Race' and Racism" to a packed audience of students and faculty.

CUT this page and highlight these faculty in future UK Now pieces.

David Bottom History Preservation Project Earns SAA Award for Excellence in Public Education

By Lindsey Piercy

Innovative efforts to preserve an historic Lexington neighborhood earned the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and the David Bottom History Preservation Project a top honor in the field of archaeology. They have been named the 2018 recipients of the Society for American Archeology (SAA) Award for Excellence in Public Education. The award is designed to recognize and encourage outstanding achievements by individuals or institutions in the sharing of archaeological knowledge with the public.

Davis Bottom was a residential community located west of downtown Lexington. Established for free blacks after the Civil War, Davis Bottom was home to several generations of African-American, European and Appalachian families who moved to the area in search of jobs and education. In 2010, the neighborhood was impacted by the construction of a new road—the Newtown Pike Extension. The project is a collaborative effort between scholars, educators and residents to document the history of this tight-knit community.

Gwynn Henderson, education coordinator at the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology, is one of several UK employees who embarked on a mission to ensure the Davis Bottom neighborhood would not be forgotten.

“All of us involved in the Davis Bottom History Preservation Project look forward to a time when the project’s website is used routinely by teachers all over the United States and the world,” Henderson said. “The Davis Bottom History Preservation Project takes seriously public archaeologists’ responsibility to share with American citizens the results of the archaeological research we do.”

Components of the Davis Bottom History Preservation Project were developed by archaeologists and educators with the Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS) and the Department of Anthropology in cooperation with the Kentucky Heritage Council. Funding for the development of the webpage, lesson plans and artwork was provided by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Newtown Pike Extension Project. Additional funding was provided by the Nashville District, Army Corps of Engineers.

The full Davis Bottom History Preservation Project features several integrated components:

- An hour-long public television documentary titled “Davis Bottom: Rare History, Valuable Lives”;
- its companion website, the Davis Bottom History Preservation Project Website;
- “Teaching Through Documentary Art: Lessons for Elementary and Middle School Social Studies Teachers,” a series of humanities and social studies lessons linked to two murals commissioned for the documentary;
- “Investigating A Shotgun House,” Case Study 12 in the “Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter” curriculum, a national science and social studies unit for grades three through five; and
- the Davis Bottom Digital Media Archive.

Mimi Becker taught the curriculum to students in her seventh-grade history class at Burgin Independent School in Burgin, Kentucky.

“‘Investigating A Shotgun House’ offered excellent material by using the processes of archaeological study to understand the culture of Davis Bottom,” Becker said. “However, the most rewarding and effective outcomes were the appreciation the students gained for the significance of the actual people in the neighborhood. They would even get their parents to drive to the area when in Lexington. Students recognized from their studies that something special had existed there.”

The project employed several fields of study with one goal in mind, to bring the compelling story of one of Kentucky’s first integrated communities to millions of teachers and students through a variety of educational mediums.

“They have produced an outstanding body of work on Davis Bottom. This award recognizes the long-term service to the discipline by the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and their contributions to the field of public archaeology. Their work and dedication to advocacy and education is an admirable model for all archaeologists and organizations to follow,” said the Award for Excellence in Public Education Committee.

The award was presented at the 83rd Annual SAA meeting in Washington, D.C., on Friday, April 13.



A drawing from the Davis Bottom History Preservation Project.





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The Department of Anthropology offers students opportunities to learn about the diverse people of today's world, as well as about their biological and cultural origins. We train students to become professional anthropologists who can engage in both academic and non-academic settings, with strong foundations in theoretical and substantive areas. **Your donation today is an investment in the future of the Department and the next generation of scholars. You can also make your gift to honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or faculty member.** Please designate your donation to an area of your choice, or you can direct your gift to the Department's greatest needs:

- The **Anthropology Development Fund** provides critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provides innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.
- The **Anthropology Legacy Fund**, founded by William Schweri '69 (see pp. 13-15), offers students a wide-range of experiences in real-world settings that enrich what is learned in the classroom. Funds support but are not limited to student internships, travel to academic conferences, travel abroad, and research opportunities.

A gift to the Anthropology Development Fund can be made online at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas and click on the Anthropology Development Fund button. To make a gift to the Anthropology Legacy Fund, please use the search box in the upper right of that page and type the name of the Fund.

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We are grateful for your continued support!



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